



Invasive Plants in Your Garden

Invasive Plants versus Aggressive Plants

Invasive plants fall into two main categories:

1/ Non-native plants that arrived accidentally via human transportation or wildlife.

2/ Non-native plants that were deliberately imported for their ornamental or other specific purposes. Many of these are still sold in nurseries.

Not all non-native plants are invasive. To be considered invasive, and therefore detrimental to our local ecosystems, invasive plants:

- May carry disease or hybridize with native species, reducing genetic diversity
- Lack natural predators
- Have high reproductive rates
- Outcompete native species for space, displacing the native plants that support wildlife
- Provide little to no nutritional benefit to native bees, butterflies, moths and other animals

Native plants such as Canada Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, Blue Vervain, and Green-Headed Coneflower may be considered aggressive, but they cannot be called invasive because they are native to this region and provide important ecological support for bees, butterflies and other wildlife either as food sources or as larval host plants.

For more information on creating native plant gardens, go to <https://gwbutterflyway.ca/>



Top Ten Most Common Invasive Plants in Toronto Gardens, Parks and Ravines

1. Dog-Strangling Vine
2. European Buckthorn
3. Garlic Mustard
4. Goutweed
5. Periwinkle
6. English Ivy
7. Multiflora Rose
8. Honeysuckle (4 non-native species)
9. Siberian Squill
10. Creeping Bellflower

Other Invasives To Watch Out For

1. Burdock
2. Japanese Knotweed
3. Phragmites
4. Tree of Heaven
5. Norway Maple



Resources

The list of invasive plants that you might find in your garden is VERY long. For a complete list of these and more information, please consult the following websites:

Invasive Species Centre (Canada)

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-plants/>



Ontario Invasive Plants Council

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/>



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

<https://trca.ca/conservation/environmental-monitoring/invasive-species/>

