

Japanese barberry is a hardy, thorny bush with bright red berries. It makes forest soil inhospitable to our native plants and forms impenetrable thickets that foster ticks.

Please help manage Japanese Barberry to protect our natural environment.

- Type: perennial, deciduous shrub, highly branched.
- Height: up to 6 feet tall (and wide).
- Growth: seeds; branches can root at the tips.
- Habitat: prefers full sun but adapts to shade.
- Leaves: 1-inch teardrops turning red in fall; sharp spines accompany each leaf.
- Flowers: small, pale yellow blooms in May.
- Fruit: oblong red berries along the branches.
- Status: on Vermont's Noxious Weed Quarantine list and a prohibited species across New England.



Japanese barberry was introduced for hedgerow and other plantings in 1875. Having escaped from many gardens, it is now found in fields and woodlands.

What to Do:

- Wear gloves and pull up small plants (up to 2') and seedlings by the roots. Pack down loosened soil and cover with leaf litter.
- Cut large plants then mow repeatedly.
- Revisit all sites frequently year after year.

More information:

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/berberis.htm
<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/berberis/thunbergii/>



Tell Us:

Was this information helpful?

Need more? Email

LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or

LesleyPollitt@gmail.com or call

Laurel at (802) 368-2439.



Asiatic Bittersweet is an aggressive vine that is strangling and smothering our oaks and maples. It was brought from Asia to America as an ornamental plant. Please help manage Asiatic Bittersweet to protect our trees, other plants, and soil.



- Type: woody vine.
- Height: over 50 feet long.
- Growth: can exceed 10 feet / year.
- Habitat: open woodlands, roadsides, fencerows, grasslands.
- Leaves: light green, oval or circular, 2-5 inches long, alternate along the stem.
- Flowers: small, greenish-white flowers (May to early June); scattered along entire stem.
- Fruit: small, round; green when young; ripen to yellow; then split to reveal showy, scarlet berries that persist into winter.
- Status: its sale and distribution are banned in the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, among others.

Photos: Maine Natural Areas Program, DACF

Asiatic Bittersweet can grow rapidly, sometimes more than 10 feet per year! On trees, it tightens its grip like a boa constrictor, ultimately killing the tree. ➔

What to Do:

- Cut plants 3+ times/year at 1-2 feet above the ground.
- Cut berries into a bag; let them rot. **Do not compost!**
- Small plants – hand pull entire plants, including all roots and runners. Dispose in sealed plastic bag. **Do not compost.**
- Every tiny fragment of the root can resprout.
- Bag all plants and root fragments. Do not compost.
- Revisit all sites annually for 5 years.



More information:

https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/invasive_plants_asiatic_bittersweet/
<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/bittersweet-asiatic>

Tell Us:

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Invasive Buckthorn is not native to this area. Invasive plants do great damage to field, forest, and wild animal environments, pushing out our native plants. They cannot be eaten by our wild animals. They degrade healthy forests that we need for sugaring, logging, hunting, and recreation. Invasives are very hard to get rid of but can be kept at bay. We are asking you to help manage them in Halifax, especially on your own property.

We have two invasive buckthorn species, Common Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn. They were brought to America as ornamental plants. Then they escaped.

- Type: deciduous, shedding leaves in late fall.
- Height: 6 to 25 feet tall.
- Bark: dark grey to blackish-brown with white lenticels (bumpy pores) and bright orange or lemon-yellow inner bark (see this when you cut the tree).
- Leaves: dark green, oval, 1.5 to 3 inches long, slightly sawtoothed; veins curve toward a folded tip.

Photo: Glossy Buckthorn compared to Common Buckthorn (<https://buckthornproject.org>).

- Fruit: small, black berries about 1/4 inch in diameter. They persist in winter.

In spring, buckthorn leafs out early, so it's easy to spot.



What to Do:

- Pull young plants out by hand; cut large plants and cover stumps with black plastic or tin cans (nailed down on stump).
- Girdle the trunk and let it die.
- Bag and dispose of fruits to prevent seed dispersal.
- Leave cut plants on site in a manner that allows roots to dry out and decompose.
- Remember that digging and pulling can disturb soil and encourage buried seeds to grow.
- Treatments are most effective before the plants go to seed.
- Revisit all sites annually for 5 years.



More information:

<https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/spotlight-common-buckthorn>

<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/buckthorn-glossy>

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Invasive Japanese Knotweed is not native to Vermont. Yet it is spreading quickly along our streams, rivers, and roadsides. As it grows, knotweed forms dense mats of roots and stems, killing off native vegetation. It degrades trout spawning habitat and clogs drainage ditches. Knotweed can crack pavement and damage retaining walls and building foundations.

Please help manage Japanese knotweed! Knotweed was brought to America as an ornamental plant for gardens. It's pretty. But it is bad.

- Type: perennial.
- Height: over 10 feet tall.
- Stems: red; hollow. Stems grow 3 to 4 inches per day in summer!
- Leaves: dark green, spade- or heart-shaped, up to 6 inches long, squared base, pointed tip.
- Flowers: sprays of tiny white flowers sprouting all along the stem.
- Reproduction: new plants form from pieces of rhizomes and stems.
- Status: On the [Vermont Noxious Weed Quarantine List](#)



© Elaine Haug

Flowers (above): USDA. Young shoots (left): VtInvasives.org, UVM and State of Vermont.



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Japanese knotweed along a Maine road

Photo: Town of Groton Massachusetts Invasive Species Committee; 2017.

What to Do:

- Mow or cut down knotweed 3-4 times every year to discourage spread.
- Dig out its root system. Get all of it! Each little piece can generate a new plant.
- Lay wire mesh (1/2-inch by 1/2-inch openings) on cleared patches; new knotweed will grow through the little holes and eventually girdle itself.
- Bag all plants and roots and let them rot.
- Revisit all sites annually for 5 years.

More information:

- <https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/a-new-way-to-treat-knotweed>
- <https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/knotweed-japanese>

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Invasive phragmites reeds are not native to this area. These wetland plants shade out native species, deny fish and wildlife nutrients and space, and pose a fire hazard.

Invasives are very hard to get rid of but can be contained. Please help manage them in Halifax!

All the reeds you see in Halifax and most of Vermont are invasive phragmites. There is a very rare, native reed (*Phragmites americanus*) up in Addison county; native reeds have reddish-brown stems that are smooth and shiny and grow interspersed with other wetland plants.

- Invader: Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).
- Type: perennial.
- Height: 6 to 15 feet tall.
- Stems: stiff, green to tan in color, dull, and hollow.
- Leaves: sheath-like leaves grow 2 feet long, are about 1 inch wide, and taper to a point.
- Flowers: purplish turning to tan/whitish, feather-like plumes, 1-2 feet long.
- Roots: knobby rhizomes and runners spread the reeds underground.



Phragmites australis plume – photo credit Vijai Pandian & Mark Renz, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.



New shoots form at each node along *Phragmites* rhizomes. Photo courtesy of Roger Wolfe.

Phragmites australis rhizome – Wetland Restoration/Mosquito Management, CT Wildlife Div.

What to Do:

- Cut plants at 45-degree angle with a spade (4-6” below surface) or pull out by hand; late July-August is best.
- Bag seed heads and roots in black trash bags and leave in the sun to rot for 3-4 weeks.
- Let stems dry before composting or burning.
- Revisit all sites annually.

More information:

https://vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/fact-sheets/PhragmitesFactSheet_2019.pdf

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/habitat/PhragControlpdf.pdf

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Poison Parsnip came from Eurasia as a food crop but has spread throughout New England in the past 15 years. It outcompetes native plants and is hazard to hikers, gardeners, and children.

Cut or broken plants release a sap that causes blistering burns on your skin when exposed to sunlight. If you are exposed, shield the area from sun until washing with soap and water. Wash off as soon as possible. Keep covered for 48 hours to prevent a reaction.

- Type: perennial weed.
- Height: 2-5 feet tall.
- Habitat: roadsides, fencerows, fields.
- Stems: hollow, hairless, grooved stems.
- Flowers: yellow umbrels at the top of each plant (like yellow Queen Anne's Lace).
- Leaves: resemble large celery leaves – compound and branched with jagged teeth.



Please help manage Wild / Poison Parsnip.

What to Do:

- Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirt, pants, boots, and eye goggles. Work on cloudy days.
- Do not burn or compost these plants!
- Cut, pull, or mow plants before seeds mature in July-August.
- Cut the root 1" below the ground using a tool such as a spaded shovel or remove plants by hand pulling, gripping the stalk just above the ground.
- Mow when flowers first appear and before seeds enlarge.
- Cut off seed heads and bag them; close bag securely before disposal.
- Revisit all sites annually until none appear.

More information:

https://nyis.info/invasive_species/wild-parsnip/
<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/wild-parsnip>



Photo credit:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/environmental-chemicals-pollutants/wild-poison-parsnip>

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