

Are garden "thugs" lurking in your yard?

Many home gardens contain invasive plant thugs. Unfortunately these plants are still sold in garden centers. These garden thugs spread rapidly into natural areas displacing vital native plants. Most invasive plants offer inferior food for birds and insects. To create a bird friendly habitat, remove these garden thugs and replace them with bird friendly, native plants.

<i>Invasive Plants</i>	<i>Replacement Native plants</i>	<i>Problem</i>
Flowers		
<i>lesser celandine</i> <i>Ficaria verna</i>	marsh marigold, blood root, heptaica, bluebells, toothwort, spring beauty	Emerges in early March, spreads rampantly forming a thick carpet smothering native spring flowers and lawn grass.
Vines		
english ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>	allegheny spurge, green and gold, foamflower, wild ginger, creeping phlox, barren strawberry	Grows rapidly, kills small trees and saplings by girdling. Dense tangles block sunlight, killing understory plants. The sheer weight of the vines topples trees, especially in high winds and heavy snow. The root systems are extensive and difficult to kill. The colorful berries of porcelian berry and oriental bittersweet are consumed by birds further
oriental bittersweet <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	coral honeysuckle, trumpet vine, virginia creeper, virgin's bower	
japanese honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i>		
porcelain berry <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>		
chinese wisteria <i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	american wisteria, coral honeysuckle	
Shrubs		
chinese privet <i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	bayberry, inkberry	Spreads rapidly from the garden through suckers, extensive root systems and prolific seed production. Forms dense thickets displacing native plants. Chemicals produced in the leaves of butterfly bush and privet prevent caterpillars from consuming plants. Japanese barberry harbors ticks that carry Lyme disease. Berries produced by autumn olive are nutrient poor for birds.
winged burning bush <i>Euonymus alatus</i>	strawberry-bush, winterberry	
autumn olive <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	oakleaf hydrangea, arrowwood, bottlebrush buckeye	
butterfly bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i>	culver's root, buttonbush, arrowwood	
japanese barberry <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	wild hydrangea, ninebark, dwarf fothergillia, inkberry	
Trees		
callery pear (bradford pear) <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, serviceberry	Spreads rapidly, producing dense stands that outcompete native vegetation. Bamboo is one of the most difficult invasives to control.
bamboo <i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	eastern red cedar, american holly	

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