

## ALTERNATIVES TO OHIO'S INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

The invasive plants in the left-hand column have been identified as problematic in Ohio's natural areas; many of these species are commercially available. The plants in the right-hand column are recommended alternatives to these invasive species, most of which are native to Ohio or the midwest region.

**PURPOSES FOR THE SALE OR INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE PLANTS:**  
 1 wildlife food, 2 wildlife habitat, 3 aesthetic, 4 screening/windbreak, 5 erosion control, 6 fast growth,  
 7 low maintenance, 8 ground cover, 9 green manure, 10 forage crop

<b>Invasive Species</b>	<b>(Woody)</b>	<b>Alternatives</b>
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> (Russian-olive)		<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (serviceberry) <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> (serviceberry) <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (chokeberry)
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> (autumn-olive)		<i>Asimina triloba</i> (paw-paw) <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> (Carolina allspice) *
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> (European or common buckthorn)		<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> (buttonbush) <i>Cornus ammomun</i> (silky dogwood) <i>Cornus racemosa</i> (grey dogwood)
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> (glossy buckthorn)	<b>1, 2, 4, 6, 7</b>	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> (Crusader/ Inermis hawthorn) <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> (Washington hawthorn) * <i>Crataegus viridis</i> (Winterking hawthorn) * <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (witch-hazel) <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (wild hydrangea) <i>Ilex verticillata</i> (winterberry) <i>Lindera benzoin</i> (spicebush) <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark) <i>Prunus americana</i> (American plum) <i>Prunus virginiana</i> (choke-cherry) <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> (Carolina buckthorn/Indian cherry) <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> (common elder) <i>Sambucus pubens</i> (red-berried elder) <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> (bladder nut) <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (arrow-wood) <i>Viburnum lentago</i> (nannyberry) <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (black haw)
<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (Amur honeysuckle)		<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (serviceberry) <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> (serviceberry)
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> (Morrow honeysuckle)		<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (chokeberry) <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> (summersweet) *
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> (Tatarian honeysuckle)		<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (alternate-leaf dogwood) <i>Corylus americana</i> (American hazelnut)
<i>Lonicera Xbella</i> (showy pink honeysuckle)	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> (Crusader/ Inermis hawthorn) <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> (Washington hawthorn) * <i>Crataegus viridis</i> (Winterking hawthorn) * <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (witch-hazel) <i>Lindera benzoin</i> (spicebush) <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark) <i>Rhus copallina</i> (shining or winged sumac) <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (black haw)

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Invasive Species (Woody)	Alternatives
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (Japanese barberry)	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> (false indigo) *
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (winged euonymus)	<i>Cornus racemosa</i> (grey dogwood)
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> (border privet)	<i>Cornus sericea</i> (red osier dogwood)
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> (common privet)	<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> (wahoo)
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> var. <i>opulus</i> (European cranberry-bush)	<i>Euonymus obovatus</i> (strawberry bush)
	<i>Ilex glabra</i> (inkberry) *
	<i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia sweetspire, 'Henry's garnet') *
	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> (shrubby cinquefoil)
	<i>Rhus aromatica</i> (fragrant sumac)
	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (highbush blueberry)
	<i>Vaccinium stamineum</i> (deerberry)
	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> (maple-leaf viburnum)
	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (arrow-wood)
	<i>Viburnum lentago</i> (nannyberry)
	<i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i> (withe-rod)
	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (black haw)

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

<i>Rosa canina</i> (dog rose)	<i>Rosa carolina</i> (pasture rose)
<i>Rosa multiflora</i> (multiflora rose)	<i>Rosa setigera</i> (prairie rose)
	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> (hardhack or steeple-bush)
	<i>Spiraea alba</i> (meadowsweet)

1, 2, 3, 4

Invasive Species (Vines)	Alternatives
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> (porcelain berry)	<i>Ampelopsis cordata</i> (heartleaf ampelopsis)
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> (Asian bittersweet)	<i>Clematis virginiana</i> (virgin's bower)
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> (wintercreeper)	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (trumpet honeysuckle)
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Japanese honeysuckle)	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (Virginia creeper)

3, 4, 7, 8

Invasive Species (Groundcover)	Alternatives
<i>Coronilla varia</i> (crown-vetch)	<i>Asarum canadensis</i> (wild ginger)
<i>Euphorbia esula</i> (leafy spurge)	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i> (Muskingum sedge)
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> (moneywort)	<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i> (Pennsylvania sedge)
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> (Japanese knotweed) ( <i>P. Reynoutria</i> or <i>Fallopia japonica</i> )	<i>Euonymus obovatus</i> (strawberry bush)
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> (lesser celandine)	<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i> (St. Andrew's cross)
<i>Vinca minor</i> (periwinkle or myrtle)	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i> (great St. John's wort)
	<i>Mitchella repens</i> (partridgeberry, twinberry)
	<i>Oenothera missouriensis</i> (Missouri primrose) *
	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i> (creeping phlox)
	<i>Phlox subulata</i> (moss-pink)
	<i>Rhus aromatica</i> (fragrant sumac, cultivar gro-low)
	<i>Sedum ternatum</i> (wild stonecrop)
	<i>Solidago sphacelata</i> (golden fleece)
	<i>Viola sororia</i> (common blue violet)
	<i>Viola striata</i> (creamy violet)

3, 6, 7, 8

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Invasive Species	(Wildflowers)	Alternatives**
<i>Daucus carota</i> (Queen Anne's lace)		<i>Aster ericoides</i> (heath aster) <i>Aster lateriflorus</i> (calico aster) <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> (New England aster) <i>Aster pilosus</i> (common white aster) <i>Aster puniceus</i> (purple-stemmed aster) <i>Eupatorium altissimum</i> (tall boneset) <i>Eupatorium rugosa</i> (white snakeroot)
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> (day-lily)		Hybrid lilies <b>Non-native, but non-invasive</b>
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> (dame's rocket)		<i>Lilium canadense</i> (Canada lily) <i>Lilium michiganense</i> (Michigan lily) <i>Oenothera missouriensis</i> (Missouri primrose) * <i>Phlox divaricata</i> (wild blue phlox) <i>Phlox paniculata</i> (garden phlox) <i>Phlox pilosa</i> (downy phlox) <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> (yellow coneflower) <i>Sedum ternatum</i> (wild stonecrop) <i>Solidago rigida</i> (stiff goldenrod) <i>Solidago rugosa</i> (fireworks cultivar) <i>Solidago speciosa</i> (showy golden rod)
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i> (bouncing bet)		
	<b>1, 2, 3, 7</b>	
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> (Star-of-Bethlehem)		<b>No alternative recommended</b>

Invasive Species	(Agricultural)	Alternatives
<i>Melilotus alba</i> (white sweet-clover)		<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> (buckwheat) <i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> <b>Non-native, but non-invasive</b>
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> (yellow sweet-clover)		
	<b>9</b>	

Invasive Species	(Grasses)	Alternatives
<i>Agropyron repens</i> (quack-grass)		<u>Dry Habitats:</u> <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (side oats) <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> (wild oats) <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> (purple lovegrass) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (switchgrass) <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (little bluestem) <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (Indian grass)
<i>Bromus inermis</i> (smooth brome)		
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> - Kentucky 31 (meadow fescue)		
<i>Festuca pratensis</i> (meadow fescue)		
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Nepalgrass)		<u>Mesic to Wet Habitats:</u> <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> (big bluestem) <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> (reed-grass) <i>Elymus canadensis</i> (Canada rye) <i>Elymus hystrix</i> (bottlebrush-grass) <i>Elymus virginicus</i> (Virginia rye) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (switchgrass) <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (Indian grass) <i>Spartina pectinata</i> (prairie cord grass) <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i> (gama grass)
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> (Chinese silvergrass)		
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> (reed canary grass)***		
<i>Phragmites australis</i> (common reed grass)***		
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (Johnson grass)		
	<b>2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10</b>	

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<b>Invasive Species</b>	<b>(Wetland)</b>	<b>Alternatives**</b>
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i> (flowering-rush)		<i>Chelone glabra</i> (turtlehead)
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (yellow flag)		<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> (joe-pye-weed)
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> (purple loosestrife)		<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> (spotted joe-pye weed)
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> (water-cress)		<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> (sweet-scented joe-pye weed)
		<i>Hibiscus laevis</i> (smooth rose mallow)
		<i>Hibiscus moschuetos</i> (swamp rose mallow)
		<i>Iris versicolor</i> (larger blue flag)
		<i>Iris virginica</i> (blue flag)
	<b>1, 3, 7</b>	<i>Liatris aspera</i> (rough blazing star)
		<i>Liatris scariosa</i> (eastern blazing star)
		<i>Liatris spicata</i> (dense or spiked blazingstar)
		<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> (cardinal flower)
		<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> (great blue lobelia)
		<i>Monarda didyma</i> (bee-balm)
		<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> (wild bergamot)
		<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> (obedient plant)
		<i>Rosa palustris</i> (swamp rose)
		<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> (common arrowhead)
		<i>Saururus cernuus</i> (lizard's tail)
		<i>Sium suave</i> (water parsnip)
		<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i> (Ohio spiderwort)
		<i>Verbena hastata</i> (blue vervain)
		<i>Vernonia altissima</i> (tall ironweed)
		<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> (Culver's root)
<i>Typha angustifolia</i> (narrow-leaved cattail)		<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i> (giant cane)
<i>Typha Xglauca</i> (hybrid cattail)		<i>Carex lacustris</i> (lake sedge)
		<i>Carex muskingumensis</i> (Muskingum sedge)
		<i>Carex stricta</i> (tussock sedge)
		<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> (fox sedge)
		<i>Juncus effusus</i> (common rush)
		<i>Juncus torreyi</i> (Torrey's rush)
		<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i> (river bulrush)
		<i>Scirpus validus</i> (softstem bulrush)
		<i>Sparganium americanum</i> (bur-reed)
		<i>Spartina pectinata</i> (prairie cord grass)
	<b>1, 2, 7</b>	

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### Invasive Species Not Sold

*Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven)  
*Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard)  
*Carduus nutans* (nodding thistle)  
*Centaurea maculosa* (spotted knapweed)  
*Cirsium arvense* (Canada thistle)  
*Conium maculatum* (poison hemlock)  
*Convulvulus arvensis* (field bindweed)  
*Dioscorea batatas* (air-potato, cinnamon-vine)  
*Dipsacus fullonum* (*sylvestris*) (common teasel)  
*Dipsacus laciniatus* (cut-leaved teasel)  
*Epilobium hirsutum* (hairy willow-herb)  
*Epilobium parviflorum* (small-flowered hairy willow herb)  
*Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian water-milfoil)  
*Najas minor* (lesser naiad)  
*Polygonum perfoliatum* (mile-a-minute vine)  
*Polygonum sachalinense* (giant knotweed)  
*Potamogeton crispus* (curly pondweed)  
*Pueraria lobata* (kudzu)  
*Vincetoxicum nigrum* (black swallow-wort)

### Alternatives

No recommendations as these species are generally not commercially available.

\* indicates native to region, but not Ohio

\*\* see additional recommendations in other native wildflower garden or wetland literature

\*\*\* these species may have native and non-native strains in Ohio

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This list was developed in September 2001 by the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves, The Nature Conservancy, and the Columbus & Franklin County Metro Park District in cooperation with The Holden Arboretum, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Akron Garden Club, The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Miami University (Dr. Michael Vincent), and the Ohio Prairie Association (John Blakeman).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ohio Division of Wildlife  
Wildlife Management & Research Section  
1840 Belcher Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43224  
614/265-6309

