

## Invasive Plants

by Deb McNelly

What are invasive plants? They are non-native plants which cause harm to native plants, animals, humans, forests, farmland, or habitats. They spread easily and take over light, water, space, and nutrients, which native plants need. New Hampshire has 27 plants on the prohibited plant list. Some of the classic examples of invasive plants are bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, Japanese honeysuckle, and garlic mustard.

Let me tell you about one invasive plant. When I moved to Raymond, I discovered a plant which grew about 1 ½ to 2 feet tall that produced clumps of small white flowers during May. I had never seen the plant before. I either mowed it or pulled it out of the ground. I still have this plant in my yard and have finally learned what it is.....garlic mustard.

Garlic mustard can rob other plants of light, nutrients, and water. Their roots and decaying leaves release a chemical into the soil that hinders the growth of other plants. This chemical also harms fungi in the soil needed by hardwoods. The plant is toxic to butterfly eggs laid on its leaves or stems. Therefore, these plants harm other plants, butterflies, and trees. Who knew?

**Resources for Invasive Plant Species Management** is a website with a list of resources about invasive plants. A good link from this site to start with is "Invasive Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Herbaceous Plants." When you click on this title, you'll be directed to a page with photographs of 23 of the prohibited invasive plants. If you click on the name of the plant under its photo, you'll be directed to information about the plant, which includes lots of photos, descriptions of the plant, the harm it causes, and how to control it.

**New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food Recommended Alternatives for Invasive Plants** is a chart listing alternative plants for invasive trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and vines.

**Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines with Wildlife Value** is a web page which names plants that are **important** to wildlife, tells the fruiting period, ways wildlife uses the plant, and which wildlife uses it. These are valuable substitutes for invasive species which help wildlife in some way.

Places to order native plants are:

New Hampshire State Forest <https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/>

Native Plant Trust <http://www.nativeplanttrust.org/for-your-garden/buy-native-plants/>

United Plant Savers <https://unitedplantsavers.org/>

Wild Seed Project <https://wildseedproject.net>

Rolling Green Nursery in Greenland, NH <https://rollinggreennursery.com/>

Want to help control Garlic Mustard? Join the Garlic Mustard Challenge!

[https://naturegroupie.org/sites/default/files/documents/StewTrainingGuide\\_InvasivePlants\\_GarlicMustardFactSheet\\_2018.pdf](https://naturegroupie.org/sites/default/files/documents/StewTrainingGuide_InvasivePlants_GarlicMustardFactSheet_2018.pdf)



Garlic Mustard