

Checklist of Common Invasive Plant Species

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

Also see this document online at: www.rwmwd.org

Invasive plants are weeds that take over open spaces, lake and wetland edges, and borders of lawn spaces. These weeds crowd out desirable native plants and are usually poor sources of food and cover for local wildlife. Controlling weeds on your property has many benefits -- plant diversity increases, habitat quality gets a boost, and the aesthetic look of your natural area improves. Also, eliminating these invasive plants on your property will stop the spread of weed seeds to your neighbors and to natural areas!

Getting to know the weeds is your first step. This *Checklist of Common Invasive Plant Species* identifies the most common weeds in our area. With this checklist and a quick review of the suggested resources you will be able to identify many of the invasive plants on your property.

Also included on this list are native plants that work well in place of weeds that are eliminated. The natives listed are good replacements, however, there are numerous equally suitable choices when it comes to planning your native plant garden or buffer area. The native plant guides and websites provide more detailed lists of native plants along with preferred growing conditions (e.g., soils, sun, and moisture).

Invasive Species:



Common Buckthorn



Garlic Mustard



Birdsfoot Trefoil



Reed Canary Grass



Banner Grass



Replace with this Native Species:



Red-osier Dogwood

Wild Geranium

Brown-eyed Susan

Lake Sedge
(wet area)

Indian Grass

* A DNR permit may be required to remove cattails and other aquatic emergent plant species – please check with the Watershed District.

Checklist of Common Invasive Plant Species

Invasive plant species checked below were found on your site. It is recommended that these plants be removed and replaced with a native plant - suggestions are listed across from it.

COMMON INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES		NATIVE PLANTS TO USE AS REPLACEMENTS
✓	Shrubs / Trees	
	Amur Maple (<i>Acer ginnala</i>)	Pin Cherry (<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>)
	Black Locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)
	Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> & <i>R. frangula</i>)	Red-osier Dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)
	Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>)	High Bush Cranberry (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>)
	Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)	Black Cherry (<i>Prunus serotina</i>)
	Siberian Elm (<i>Ulmus pumila</i>)	Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)
	Siberian Peashrub (<i>Caragana arborescens</i>)	American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>)
	White or Silver Poplar (<i>Populus alba</i>)	Quaking Aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>)
✓	Flowers	
	Birdsfoot Trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>)	Brown-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>)
	Bittersweet Nightshade (<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>)	Lead Plant (<i>Amorpha canescens</i>)
	Burdock (<i>Arctium minus</i>)	Wild Bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>)
	Canada Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	New England Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>)
	Common Mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	Stiff Goldenrod (<i>Solidago rigida</i>)
	Common Ragweed (<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>)	Black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>)
	Common Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	Pale Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea pallida</i>)
	Crown Vetch (<i>Coronilla varia</i>)	Wild Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)
	Dame's Rocket (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)	Anise Hyssop (<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>)
	European Bellflower (<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>)	Large Beardtongue (<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>)
	Garlic Mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>)	Canada Anemone (<i>Anemone canadensis</i>)
	Hoary Alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>)	Mountain Mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>)
	Perennial Sow Thistle (<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>)	Grey Headed Coneflower (<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>)
	Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	Obedient Plant (<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>)
	Queen Anne's Lace (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	Golden Alexanders (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)
	Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)	Prairie Smoke (<i>Geum triflorum</i>)
	Spotted Knapweed (<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i>)	Purple Prairie Clover (<i>Dalea purpurea</i>)
	Sweet Clover (<i>Melilotus alba</i> & <i>M. officinalis</i>)	Culver's Root (<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>)
	White Champion (<i>Silene latifolia</i>)	Heath Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>)
✓	Grasses & Grass-like species	
	Banner & Amur Silver Grass (<i>Miscanthus</i> spp.)	Indian Grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)
	Narrow Leaf, Hybrid Cattail (<i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>T. x glauca</i>)	Giant Burreed (<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>)
	Reed Canary & Ribbon Grass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>)	Lake Sedge (<i>Carex lacustris</i>) wet area
	Smooth Brome (<i>Bromus inermis</i>)	Indian Grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>) dry area
	Yellow Nut Sedge (<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>)	Little Bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>)
		Blue Grama (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)

Resources

Below are resources that are useful in identifying invasive and native plant species and planning native landscaping projects. Certain resources also provide guidance for how to remove invasive species and where to purchase native plants.

Internet Resources on Specific Invasive Plants

Shrubs & Trees

Amur Maple - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/amurmaple.html>

Black Locust - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/rops1.htm>

Buckthorn - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>

Exotic Honeysuckles - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/loni1.htm>

Siberian Elm - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ulpu1.htm>

Siberian Peashrub -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/siberianpeashrub.html>

White or Silver Poplar - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/poal1.htm>

Flowers

Birdsfoot Trefoil -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/birdsfoottrefoil.html>

Bittersweet Nightshade - http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/bittersweet-nightshade.pdf

Burdock - http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/common-burdock.pdf

Canada Thistle - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ciar1.htm>

Common Mullein - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/veth1.htm>

Common Ragweed - <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/plntguid/species/ambrarte.htm>

Common Tansy -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/commontansy.html>

Crown Vetch - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/crownvetch.html>

Dame's Rocket - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/hema.htm>

European Bellflower - <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3924-05.pdf>

Garlic Mustard - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm>

Hoary Alyssum - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/hoaryalyssum.html>

Purple Loosestrife - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/purpleloosestrife/index.html>

Queen Anne's Lace - http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/queen-annes-lace.pdf

Red Clover - http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/trfpr.htm

Sow Thistle -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/perennialssowthistle.html>

Spotted Knapweed - <http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/cest1.htm>

Sweet Clover -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/whitesweetclover.html>

White Champion - <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/singlerecord.asp?id=300>

Grasses & Grass-like species

Cattail - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/CattailHybrid.html>

Silver Grass (Amur, Banner, Chinese) - <http://miscanthus.cfans.umn.edu/>

Reed Canary Grass -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/grasses/reedcanarygrass.html>

Smooth Brome -

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/grasses/smoothbromegrass.html>

Text Resources

- Elvecrog, H & Bartodziej, B. 2008 *Lake Phalen Shoreland Restoration: Walking Tour & Plant Guide* 2nd Edition, RWMWD, Little Canada, MN
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Revised 2003. *Minnesota invasive non-native terrestrial plants*. Trails and Waterways Division, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Moyle, J.B. & E.W. Moyle. 2001. *Northland Wildflowers: The Comprehensive Guide to the Minnesota Region*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Tekiela, S. 2001. *Trees of Minnesota: Field Guide*. Adventure Publications, Cambridge, Minnesota.
- Tekiela, S. 1999. *Wildflowers of Minnesota: Field Guide*. Adventure Publications, Cambridge, Minnesota.
- Thieret, J.W., W.A. Niering, N.C. Olmstead. Revised 2001. *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers: Eastern Region: Revised Edition*. Knopf, New York, New York.

General Internet Resources

1. Landscaping with Native Plants - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html>
2. Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water - <http://bluethumb.org/>
3. General Plant Identification and Information - <http://plants.usda.gov/>
4. Midwest Wetland Flora & Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses of North Dakota – Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center - http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/taxa_p.htm
5. Invasive Plants of Minnesota – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>
6. Minnesota Wildflower - <http://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>
7. Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health – Invasipedia <http://wiki.bugwood.org/Invasipedia>
8. Native Plant Suppliers and Landscapers <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html>
9. Minnesota Native Plant Society – (includes suppliers) - <http://www.mnnp.org/links/links.html>
10. Wild Ones Natural Landscapes Minnesota Chapter - <http://www.wildonestwincities.org/p/about.html>



Ramsey-Washington Metro



The RWMWD is a grouping of six smaller urban watersheds (Phalen Chain of Lakes, Beaver Lake, Battle Creek, Fish Creek, Grass Lake and East St. Paul) that drain to the Mississippi River just downstream of downtown St. Paul. We are a special purpose local unit of government with a mission to protect and improve water resources and water related environments within our jurisdiction. For more information, you can visit our website at www.rwmwd.org, or call our office at 651-792-7950.