

## *Lythrum salicaria*: Purple Loosestrife



**Origin:**  
Native to Eurasia.

**Profile:**  
Erect herbaceous perennial with a purplish spike inflorescence, a square stem and opposite or whorled leaves. Can grow from 4' to 10' high and flowers from June through September.

**Habitat/Distribution:**  
Wetlands and wet areas such as stream and river banks and ditches throughout temperate regions of U.S. & Canada.

**Problems:**  
Forms large, monotypic stands that displace native species and eliminates open water habitat. Eliminates sources of food and shelter for wildlife. Has a vigorous rootstock, mature plant produces >2.5 million seeds annually which remain viable after 20 months of submergence in water.

**Controls/Management:**  
Hand pulling in small stands of younger plants before seed set, bag and remove from site. Apply glyphosate based herbicide prior to or when in flower on medium sized stands. Biocontrols-Release leaf-feeding beetle, *Galerucella* sp. This is the best control method for large stands of loosestrife.

## *Polygonum cuspidatum*: Japanese Knotweed

**Origin:**  
Native to Eastern Asia.

**Profile:**  
Shrub-like herbaceous perennial with a bamboo-like stem. Has a broad, triangular to oval shaped leaf with pointed tips and tiny greenish-white flowers in clusters that bloom in late summer and can grow up to 15' tall.

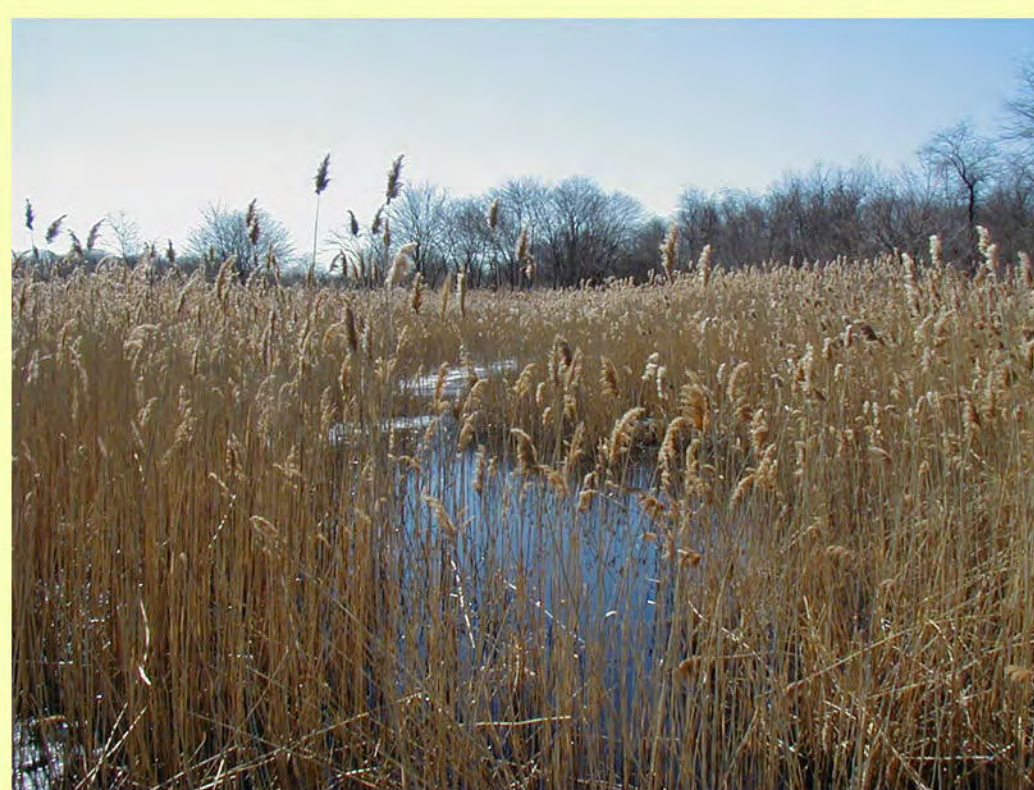
**Habitat/Distribution:**  
Found in disturbed open spaces, wetland borders and riparian areas, and wet ditches along roadsides throughout the Northeast; also scattered throughout the Mid-West and Western States, including Alaska.

**Problems:**  
Spreads rapidly via rhizomes, becoming very persistent and difficult to eradicate. Large, dense thickets shade out native vegetation, decreasing species diversity and degrading wildlife habitats.

**Controls/Management:**  
Digging in small populations where the entire plant can be removed. Repeated cutting of small, isolated populations and environmentally sensitive areas at least three times a year, bag all plant parts and remove from site. Foliar application of glyphosate herbicide on large populations, new seedlings and resprouts. Herbicide application on recently cut stems of larger plants. Large diameter stems can also be injected with herbicide in late summer/early fall.



## *Phragmites australis*: Common Reed Grass



**Origin:**  
Native to Europe and Africa.

**Profile:**  
Tall, perennial grass growing from 3' to 15' in height. Purple/brown feathery plume inflorescence turning to tan/grey from July to September. Flat, green leaf blades turn gold/brown through fall and winter.

**Habitat/Distribution:**  
Is found in sunny wetland habitats, marshes, river edges, shorelines, roadsides and disturbed areas in the majority of the Eastern United States and Southern Canada.

**Problems:**  
Aggressively reproduces by vegetative spread via rhizomes and seed dispersal. Form dense stands that take over marsh communities by crowding out native plants, changing marsh hydrology, altering wildlife habitat and increasing fire potential resulting in decreased biodiversity and disrupted ecosystems.

**Controls/Management:**  
Digging or pulling young plants and small populations. Annual cutting and removal of seed heads; remove material from site and compost. Apply glyphosate based herbicide via foliar treatments after the flowering tassel stage for shorter plants or apply directly to cut stems of larger plants.

## *Heracleum mantegazzianum*: Giant Hogweed

**Origin:**  
Native to Central Eurasia.

**Profile:**  
Very large, erect herbaceous biennial or perennial. Small white flowers appear in late summer, forming a large, flat-topped umbel up to 2.5' across. Hollow, rigid stems grow 2-4" in diameter and 8-14' tall and have purple blotches and coarse hairs. Leaves can be 5' across, are lobed and deeply incised.

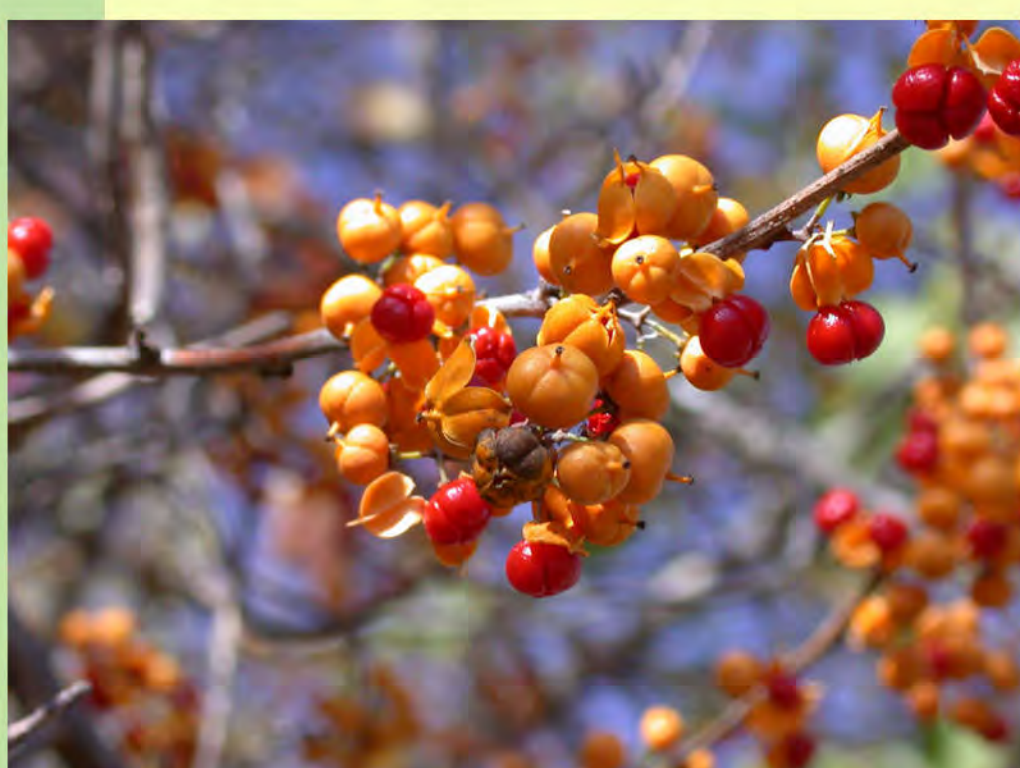
**Habitat/Distribution:**  
Found in rich, moist soils in open fields, wooded areas, along tree lines, roadsides, ditches and riparian corridors. Present in much of the Eastern U.S. from Michigan to Virginia, as well as the Northwest in Oregon and Montana.

**Problems:**  
Giant Hogweed is a public health hazard due to its potential to cause severe skin irritation in sensitive people. The sap causes skin to be sensitive to sunlight and can produce painful, burning blisters within 24 to 48 hours after contact as well as red blotches that can develop into scars that persist for several years. Giant Hogweed has been declared a Federal Noxious Weed, meaning it is illegal to propagate, sell or transport this plant in the United States.

**Controls/Management:**  
Extreme care must be taken when removing or managing populations of Giant Hogweed. Herbicides application is the best method of control while cutting, digging or even touching this plant is strongly discouraged.



## *Celastrus orbiculatus*: Oriental Bittersweet



**Origin:**  
Native to Eastern Asia.

**Profile:**  
Climbing deciduous woody vine or trailing shrub. Has a glossy green, rounded leaf with toothed margins turning yellow in autumn. Prolific fleshy red berries enclosed in yellow capsules persist through late fall/early winter. Inconspicuous greenish-white flowers bloom in spring.

**Habitat/Distribution:**  
Forms tangles and thickets in open areas, successional forests, along roadsides, forest edges, and uncultivated areas throughout the Northeastern U.S.; south to Virginia and west to Illinois.

**Problems:**  
Strangles shrubs and small trees by girdling stems and trunks. Increased weight can also lead to uprooting and blow-over during high winds and heavy snowfalls. It is displacing its native relative, *Celastrus scandens*, American Bittersweet.

**Controls/Management:**  
Smaller populations can be hand-pulled. All plant material should be bagged and disposed of properly. Cutting stems and applying herbicide to cut stem surfaces is particularly effective in areas where vines have grown into the canopy or have grown within and around non-target plants. Foliar herbicide applications are appropriate for very large, dense stands of bittersweet.

## *Polygonum perfoliatum*: Mile-A-Minute Weed

**Origin:**  
Native from India to Eastern Asia.

**Profile:**  
Annual climbing vine with prickly stems and distinct saucer-shaped bracts that encircle the stem at each node. Leaves are triangular and 1-3" wide. Iridescent blueberry-like fruits appear in late summer/fall.

**Habitat/Distribution:**  
Found in open and disturbed sunny areas, throughout the Eastern United States, such as road shoulders, forest edges, fields, wetlands and stream banks.

**Problems:**  
Rapid growth of up to 6" per day develops dense, tangled mats over other plants, shading out the sun and choking out underlying vegetation. It is a prolific seeder and can reproduce by the germination of over wintering seeds. Populations are widespread due to dispersal of seeds and berries by birds and water sources.

**Controls/Management:**  
Hand-pulling is the best method and should be done twice per season before seed sets and gloves should be worn to protect hands from spiny stems. Mowing and cutting can also be effective to stop fruit and seed production. Plant material should be bagged and disposed of properly.

