# Common Invasive Garden Plants to Avoid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invasive Plant</th>
<th>Form Growth</th>
<th>Why Used in Landscape</th>
<th>Ecological Threat</th>
<th>Native Plant Alternatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Norway Maple**  
(Acer platanoides)  
Origin: Europe, West Asia | Tree  
To 90 feet | Shade tree; fall color, tolerant of many growing conditions | Dominates forests by creating canopy of dense shade that prevents regeneration of native seedlings. Spread by numerous winged seeds. | Sugar Maple (Acer saccharinum)  
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)  
Oak (Quercus ssp)  
Sassafras (Sassafras albidum) |
| **Callery Pear**  
Includes ‘Bradford’ cultivar  
(Pyrus calleryana)  
Origin: China, Vietnam | Tree  
16-20 feet | Landscape ornamental; showy flowers, autumn color | Forms dense thickets of shade that crowd out native species in forests and woodland borders. Spreads rapidly by seed and vegetative means. Seeds dispersed by birds. | Allegheny Serviceberry (Amelanchier laevis)  
Common Serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis)  
Cockspur Hawthorne (Crataegus crus-galli)  
Flowering Dogwood (Benthamidia florida Cornus)  
Crabapple (Malus ssp.)  
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharinum)  
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)  
Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera)  
Fringe Tree (Chionanthus virginicus) |
| **Black Locust**  
(Robinia pseudoacacia)  
Origin: Southern Appalachians and Ozarks. | Tree  
50+ feet | Drooping clusters of showy fragrant flowers in spring | A fast grower that shades and chokes out native plants. A serious threat to native vegetation in sand prairies, oak savannas and upland forest edges outside its native range. | Box elder (Acer negundo)  
Bitternut Hickory (Carya cordiformus)  
Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata)  
Sassafras (Sassafras albidum) |
| **Japanese Barberry**  
(Berberis thunbergii)  
Origin: Japan | Shrub  
5-10+ feet | Used as hedge border; drought tolerant, red foliage and berries | Displaces native herbaceous and woody plants. Leaf litter changes soil chemistry making it more basic. Seeds spread by birds and other wildlife, root creepers and tip rooting. Harbors disease-carrying ticks. | Northern Bayberry (Morella caroliniensis Myrica)  
Inkberry (Ilex glabra) |
| **Winged Burning Bush**  
(Euonymous alatus)  
Origin: Northeast Asia to Central China | Shrub  
9-10 feet | Used as border plant, hedge, mass planting; red fall color, tolerant of many growing conditions | Forms dense thickets or monocultures displacing native woody and herbaceous species in forests, woodland borders and coastal shrublands. Produces hundred of seedlings spread by wildlife. | Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum)  
Northern Bayberry (Morella caroliniensis Myrica)  
Red Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia)  
American Cranberry (Viburnum opulus trilobum)  
Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia)  
Arrowwood Viburnum (Viburnum dentatum)  
Smooth Sumac (Rhus glabra)  
Gray Dogwood (Swida racemosa Cornus)  
Witchhazel (Hamamelis virginica) |

* These plants have been shown to be invasive by scientific evaluation. They are invading our landscapes, displacing our native plant species that support all wildlife species including birds and pollinators. Invasive plants destroy ecological diversity and the balance of nature that is important to our well-being.*
| **Ragusa Rose**  
(Rosa Ragusa) | Shrub  
4-8 feet | Hardy, disease resistant, fragrant flowers | Displaces native vegetation in unmanaged areas. Creates monotypic stands in coastal areas. | Carolina Rose (Rosa carolina)  
Virginia Rose (Rosa virginiana)  
Beach Plum (Prunus maritima)  
Northern Bayberry (Morella caroliniensis Myrica)  
Fragrant Sumac (Rhus aromatica)  
Bush Cinquefoil (Dasiphora floribunda Potentilla)  
New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **“California” Privet**  
(Ligustrum ovalifolium)  
Origin: Japan, S. Korea | Shrub  
To 16 feet | Hedgerows and borders | Forms dense thickets displacing native shrubs and herbaceous plants; leaves are toxic to insects and herbivores; spread by seeds and root sprouting. | Inkberry (Ilex glabra)  
American Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis) |
| **European Privet**  
(Ligustrum vulgare)  
Origin: Europe, Morocco, W. Asia | Shrub  
To 20 feet | Hedgerows and borders | Forms dense thickets displacing native shrubs and herbaceous plants; leaves are toxic to insects and herbivores; spread by seeds and root sprouting. | Inkberry (Ilex glabra)  
American Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis)  
Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginica) |
| **Japanese Wisteria**  
(Wisteria floribunda)  
Origin: Japan | Vine  
30 feet | Ornamental appeal of flowers | Woody vines twine tightly around tree trunks and branches, cutting bark and killing tree. Dense thickets smother plants. Seeds transported by water; vegetative spread by above ground stolons. | Fox Grape (Vitis labrusca)  
Summer Grape (Vitis aestivalis) |
| **Chinese Wisteria**  
(Wisteria sinensis)  
Origin: China | Vine  
20-30 feet | Ornamental appeal of flowers | Woody vines twine tightly around tree trunks and branches, cutting bark and killing tree. Dense thickets smother plants. Seed transported by water; vegetative spread by above ground stolons. | Fox Grape (Vitis labrusca)  
Summer Grape (Vitis aestivalis) |
| **Porcelainberry**  
(Ampelopsis brevipedunculata)  
Origin: China, Korea, Japan, Eastern Russia | Vine  
15-20 feet | Ornamental appeal; colorful fruit in fall | Vigorous invader that climbs over and smothers native shrubs and young trees. Seeds spread by birds and other wildlife. | Trumpet Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)  
Wild Honeysuckle (Lonicera dioica)  
American Fly Honeysuckle (Lonicera canadensis)  
Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia) |
| **Chinese or Japanese Silver Grass**  
(Miscanthus sinensis) | Grass  
12 feet | Ornamentally attractive fan-shaped flowerheads | Forms clumps in disturbed areas displacing native vegetation, spread by rhizomes. Extremely flammable creating a fire hazard. | Big Bluestem (Andropogon gerardii)  
Switch Grass (Panicum virgatum)  
Indian Grass (Sorghastrum nutans)  
Purple-top Tridens (Tridens flavus) |
| **Running Bamboo**  
(species Phyllostachys) | Grass  
10+ feet | Ornamental appeal, privacy screen | Aggressive spreader by rhizomes that penetrate structures such as wells, septic systems and foundations. | S22a-381b - CT Legislative Council requires proper containment when such planting is within 100 feet of abutting properties or public right of ways. |

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