

Invasive Species Reference

Terrestrial Invasive Plants

Invasives Strike Force:

Standard Species

2018



**LOWER
HUDSON
PRISM**

Look-alikes

Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●



1.



2.

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. Leaves | Leaf margin entire, smooth. Basal lobes small, while upper lobes are larger and have deeply rounded notches. |
| 2. Fruits | Globular paired samaras with 60-120° spread |
| 3. Bark (not shown) | Mature trees: deep furrows and narrow ridges |

Robert Tatina. USDA SCS. 1989. Courtesy of USDA NRCS Wetland Science

MDC Staff, Missouri Department of Conservation Bugwood.org

Red Maple

Acer rubrum

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●

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|-----------|---|
| 1. Leaves | 3-5 broad lobes with broad, shallow sinuses. With 5 lobes, terminal ones are larger than basal. |
| 2. Fruits | Wings form a very narrow angle, 50-60°. Light brown-reddish. |



1.



2.

Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Silver Maple

Acer saccharinum

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●

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|-----------|--|
| 1. Leaves | Deeply five-lobed with narrow sinuses. Angular notches between the 5 lobes. Downy-silver underside |
| 2. Fruits | Largest of native maples, narrow divergence of wings. |



1.



2.

Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Look-alikes



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Sumac

Rhus spp.

Flowers: June–July

Fruits: July

Native Range: North America

Quick ID:

- 1. Fruit** Fruit is pyramidal cluster of berries, often seen from summer through winter.
- 2. Leaves** Leaves have toothed edge with no lobe visible on the leaflet.



John Cardina, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Jason Sharman, Vitalitree, Bugwood.org

Black Walnut

Juglans nigra

Flowers: June–July

Fruits: July

Native Range: Eastern North America

Quick ID:

- 1. Bark and Leaf** Bark is rough, even when young. Leaf has many leaflets but no lobes on leaflets
- 2. Fruit** Fruit vaguely resembles green apples from mid-summer until they fall in late September/October



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

ALT

Tree 10'
☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Invasive

Autumn Olive

Elaeagnus umbellata

Flowers: April-June

Fruits: Sept-Nov

Native Range: Eastern Asia, Korea, China, Japan

Distribution and Habitat: This shrub invades prairies and fields and can also grow in forests. It can grow well in a wide range of soils and can withstand drought, but not exceptionally wet soils.

How To ID: Look for an deciduous shrub or small tree, typically up to 3.5 m. tall with a dense crown. Sharp thorns tend to be present, in form of spur branches. The white to yellow flowers are fragrant and are seen in small clusters.



1.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



2.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



3.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



4.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



5.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

1. Fruit	Produces clusters of small vibrant red berries during the fall. A small red, round, drupe, and if unripe are yellow in color.
2. Growth	It can be seen as either a dense shrub or a small tree, with a dense crown.
3. Flowers	They are in axillary clusters up to seven. They are stalked, white to light yellow in color, and have a densely scaled perianth.
4. Bark	Dark brown; ridged or plated.
5. Leaves	Covered with small silvery scales when they emerge, and turn greener as the scales wear off. Underside is intensely covered in silvery scales.

Ecological Impacts: High seed production, rapid growth and widely disseminated by birds aid in quick spread and competition over native plants. Autumn olive may adversely influence the nitrogen cycle in the soil, negatively affecting native plant species.

Look-alikes

Russian Olive

Elaeagnus angustifolia

Flowers: May-Jun

Fruits: Sep-Nov

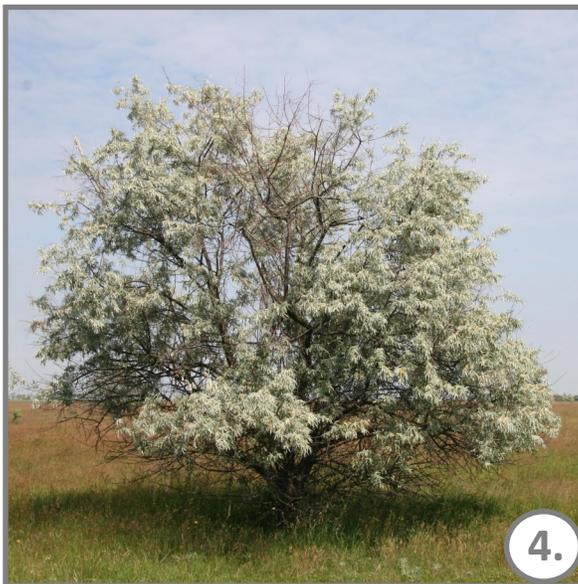
Native Range: Southern Europe and Western Asia

Distribution and Habitat: Invades disturbed areas, especially where there is adequate sunlight

How To ID: Young branches are silvery while the older branches are brown. They are occasionally thorny and covered with scales.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

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|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Fruit | Produces 6 or more green fruits in mid summer at end of stem. Fruit capsules turn orange in the fall, eventually revealing orange-red fruit. |
| 2. | Leaves | Simple, alternate and lanceate to oblong-lanceolate. They are 1-4 in. long and have silvery scales on both sides. |
| 3. | Flowers | Fragrant flowers are .5 in. wide, silvery outside and yellow within. |
| 4. | Growth | A dense shrub or tree up to 10 m. tall |



Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

Look-alikes

Toothache Tree, Common Prickly Ash



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

Quick ID:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. Thorns | Thorns grow in pairs along stem and leaf axils. |
| 2. Leaves | Leaves singly compound like ash or walnut. |

Devil's Walkingstick



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org

Aralia spinosa

Quick ID:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. Leaves | Leaf veins diminish in size and branch out before reaching tips of teeth. |
| 2. Flower | Flower clusters 1-1.2 meters in width. Flowers radiate from a central stem in each cluster. |

Black Locust



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Richard Webb, Bugwood.org

Robinia pseudoacacia

Quick ID:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. Leaves | Compound leaves with rounded leaflets and no thorns in leaf axils. |
| 2. Growth | Large tree which grows in colonies. Rough bark distinctive from other thorny trees. |

ALT

Shrub 5'



Invasive

Japanese Barberry •••••

Berberis thunbergii

Flowers: May-June

Fruits: July-October

Native Range: Japan

Habitat and Distribution: It occurs in disturbed areas, early successional forest, edge, floodplain forest, forest wetland, and other habitats. It is associated with closed-canopy forests, woodlands and wetlands

How to ID: Look for a compact, spiny, shrub between 1-5 feet tall. Smooth edged leaves range from oval to spatulate and are clustered in tight bunches close to the branches. Single spines bear small leaves in their axils. Yellow flowers are present individually or in small clusters.



1.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



2.

John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



3.

John Ruter, University of Geor-



4.

Barry Rice, sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org

Quick ID: •••••

1. Leaves	Small, spoon-shaped leaves with a smooth edge. Each leaf cluster contains a single needle-like thorn
2. Growth	Dense bush may be either red or green in color. Scraping the bark reveals a yellow twig.
3. Flowers	Small white to yellow flowers grow along the branches May-June.
4. Fruit	Red berries persist through the winter.
5. Behavior	Forms dense thickets of arching branches in forest understory. Shades out nearly all other plants.



5.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Look-alikes

Carolina Rose

Rosa carolina



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service,



John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University,

- 1. Leaves** Compound and lacking the fringed stipule.
- 2. Flower** Flower is pink and grows individually, not in clusters.

Virginia Rose

Rosa virginiana

- 1. Leaves** Compound and lacking the fringed stipule.
- 2. Flower** Flower is pink and grows individually, not in clusters.



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service,



University of Connecticut Plant Database, <http://hort.uconn.edu/plants>, Mark H. Brand, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, Storrs, CT 06269

Swamp Rose

Rosa palustris



Missouri Botanical Garden



Will Cook, USDA Forest Service

- 1. Leaves** Compound and lacking the fringed stipule.
- 2. Flower** Flower is pink and grows individually, not in clusters.

Look-alikes

Blackberries

Rubus spp.



Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Fruit | Aggregate berries which stick to the stem, even when mature. |
| 2. Leaf | Young leaves may have 3 leaflets but mature leaves have 5. All leaves have a green underside. |
| 3. Stem | Stems are green to reddish with sharp thorns and no hairs. |

Black Raspberries

Rubus occidentalis

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|------------------|--|
| 1. Leaves | Compound leaves range from 3-5 leaflets with green underside |
| 2. Stem | Stem is pale green/blue with thorns and without hairs. |
| 3. Fruit | Berries smaller than other aggregate fruits. |



D. Cameron, from Go Botany website: <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org>



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut,

Red Raspberries

Rubus idaeus



Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut,

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Leaves | Compound with a lighter green underside |
| 2. Stem | Stem can be green or red with very short hairs |

OPP

Shrub  10'
  

Invasive

Burning Bush, Winged Euonymous ●●●●●●

Euonymus alatus

Detailed ID Notes:

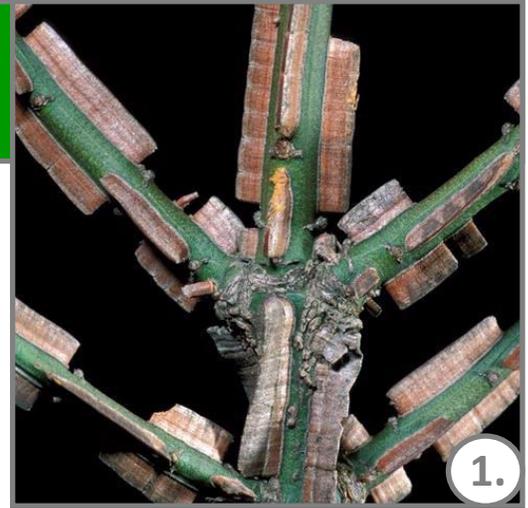
Flowers: Late April to June

Fruits: Sept.-Oct.

Native Range: Northeastern Asia

Distribution and Habitat: Variety of disturbed areas as well as undisturbed forests

How to ID: Look for dense stands of deciduous shrubs that have four corky wings or ridges along stems. It grows multi-stemmed and significantly branched. Small and obovate green leaves become bright scarlet, to purple, in the fall.



Barry Rice, sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Ser-



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

1.	Twig	Twigs and branches have papery "wings" which wear off as branches grow larger
2.	Leaf	Leaves are oppositely arranged on the twig and turn bright red in fall leading to the common name "Burning Bush". Leaf edge is finely serrate.
3.	Leaf	Twigs have a pair of leaves at the tip that resemble "bunny ears."
3.	Growth	Grows as a tall understory shrub which leafs out in spring before many other shrubs and trees
4.	Flower	Flowers small and non-descript with 4 petals



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Look-alikes

Climbing False-Buckwheat

Fallopia scandens

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●



1.



2.

1. Leaves	Climbing false buckwheat has no prickles on stem and heart-shaped leaf
2. Fruit	Fall fruit is green with whitish wings.

Robert Tatina. USDA SCS. 1989. Courtesy of USDA NRCS Wetland Science

MDC Staff, Missouri Department of Conservation Bugwood.org

Hog Peanut

Amphicarpaea bracteata

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●

1. Leaves	Light colored green leaf has 3 separate leaflets
2. Flower	Pale, pink flower present July-September



1.



2.

R. A. Nonenmacher, Amphicarpaea bracteata - hog peanut -at the Skaneateles Conservation Area, Onondaga County, New York. 26 August 2015. Wikimedia. Web. Retrieved 29 June, 2016.

Smith, R.W. , Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Arrow-Leaved Tearthumb

Persicaria sagittata

Quick ID: ●●●●●●●●●●



1.

1. Leaves	Leaf is longer and rounder than mile-a-minute vine
2. Growth	Prefers moist to wetland soils. Has similar prickles to mile-a-minute wine.

Robert H. Mohlenbrock. USDA SCS. 1989. Courtesy of USDA

OPP

Vines



Invasive

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Flowers: May-July

Fruits: Sept-Oct

Native Range: Japan, Korea, Eastern China

Distribution and Habitat: Wood edges, old fields, ditch banks, thickets, and roadsides throughout the region

How To ID: Look for climbing vines that have entire, sometimes lobed leaves. Native honeysuckles have only entire leaves. Young stems are finely hairy, where natives are glaucous and hairless. The flowers are white to yellow in color.



1.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut,



2.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



3.

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



4.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

1.	Flowers	Flower clusters are axillary, produced in the axils of leaf pairs along the stem.
2.	Leaves	Leaves are opposite and distinct from each other.
3.	Fruit	Spherical black berries are 3-4mm in size.
4.	Growth	Perennial woody, twining vine, growing up to 10 m. in height.

Look-alikes



David Gent, Bugwood.org

Trumpet Honeysuckle

Lonicera sempervipens

Growth: Vine

Flowers: May-July

Fruits: June-Oct.

Native Range: North America. Rarely seen in New York or New Jersey outside of planted locations.



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

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|----|----------------|--|
| 1. | Flowers | Flower clusters terminal, produced only at the end of stems. Varying shades of red in color on the outside, yellow inside. |
| 2. | Leaves | Smooth, glossy, paired evergreen leaves. Ovate to oblong in shape. |



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Twining Honeysuckle

Lonicera dioica

Growth: Vine

Flowers: May-July

Fruits: June-Oct

Native Range: North America



John Cardina, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Flowers | Red, tubular flowers with yellow stamens are arranged in whorls at the end of branches. |
| 2. | Leaves | Leaves are opposite, with uppermost pair being fused. |

Look-alikes



David Gent,

Giant Knotweed

Fallopia sachalinensis

Growth: Vine

Native Range: Northern Japan and far-eastern Russia



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Quick ID:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Flowers | Similar structure, but greener than Japanese knotweed |
| 2. | Leaves | More rounded at the bases |



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Bohemian Knotweed

Polygonum x bohemicum

Growth: Vine

Native Range: Eastern Asia

Quick ID:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--|
| 1. | Flowers | Left to right: Giant, Bohemian, Japanese |
| 2. | Leaves | Darker green, crinkled edges. Lobes at base, heart-shaped leaf. Left to right: Giant, Bohemian, Japanese |



John Cardina, The Ohio State University,

