



*I'm so pretty...*

*but...scary!*

coming to a yard near you

# INVASIVES!

- they're creeping in from the highways...
- they're strangling your trees...
- they're crowding out your shrubbery...

what to do...what to do...



what to do...what to do...

Falmouth says, "get outta here!"

Invasive plants reproduce easily and spread fast; are non-native and crowd out our native plants, causing environmental and economic harm.

### Why Worry?

Many of these exotic plants caught a free ride to Falmouth. Here, they are away from natural enemies that existed in their home range (insects, diseases, etc.) and so outgrow and crush Falmouth's native plants.

- These invasive plants can escape from our cultivated backyards and overrun sensitive natural habitats.
- Invasive plants outgrow native species and agricultural crops, causing billions of dollars of damage each year. They affect forests, wetlands, lakes, streams, croplands, and pastures.
- After loss of habitat, invasive species are the second greatest threat to global biodiversity. Invading plants out-compete native species for sunlight, nutrients, and space. They change animal habitat by eliminating native foods that animals and migrating birds need for survival, altering cover, and destroying nesting opportunities.
- Invasive plants threaten Maine's natural and working landscapes. Their aggressive growth degrades our recreational experiences, our agriculture, and our forestry.



- Certain invasive plants (barberry and honeysuckle) are associated with increased levels of Lyme disease. They can harbor up to eight times as many deer tick larvae as native species.

**BARBERRY**



**HONEYSUCKLE**

what to do...what to do...what to do...

## Learn how to IDENTIFY...CONTROL...SUBSTITUTE

- For most invasives, control may require several years of catching the plant as it shows itself and treating by hand-pulling, mowing, and/or using an approved herbicide.
- For information about controlling specific invasive plants, we recommend starting here: <http://tinyurl.com/cso6gc>



### ASIATIC BITTERSWEET

A deciduous vine that aggressively entwines itself around other plants; outer surface of roots is bright orange; flowers small and greenish-yellow; fruits pea-sized capsules that change to bright yellow and split open when ripe, revealing a bright orange-red berry within.

- **CONTROL:** Hand pull small patches, attempting to remove roots; cut all vines and treat re-growth in the same manner or with an approved herbicide. <http://umaine.edu/publications/2506e>



### JAPANESE BARBERRY

Dense, woody shrub with many arching spine-bearing branches; small yellow flowers appear in May; fruits red, oblong berries; leaves turn shades of red and orange in the fall.

- **CONTROL:** Cut and dig out roots. Spray leaves with an approved herbicide. <http://umaine.edu/publications/2504e>



### COMMON and GLOSSY BUCKTHORN



Deciduous shrubs or small trees, grow up to 20'; leaves are dull green; twigs with sharp, stout thorns; produce berries.

- **CONTROL:** Hand pull seedlings or remove with grub hoe; mow after removing; saw grooves at base. <http://umaine.edu/publications/2505e>



### HONEYSUCKLE

The shrubby variety forms dense layers up to 16'; flowers tubular and occur in pairs; fruit is red, orange, or yellow berries; non-native has hollow pith stem.

- **CONTROL:** Shovel or hoe, remove roots; use combination of hand-pulling, burning, or approved herbicides. <http://umaine.edu/publications/2507e>



### JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Grows 3-9' tall in dense thickets. Large hollow stems resemble bamboo. Tiny greenish-white flowers bloom August-September; new shoots develop from extensive underground rhizomes.

- **CONTROL:** Cut stalks 3 or more times; do not dig up roots. <http://umaine.edu/publications/2511e>



### MULTIFLORA ROSE

Shrub with thorny, arching stems; large clusters of fragrant white or pink flowers that bloom June-July. It can be distinguished from native roses by its long arching stems and numerous white flowers or hips.

- **CONTROL:** Cut to ground and mow repeatedly, at least 6 times a year; apply approved herbicides in combination with mechanical removal. <http://umaine.edu/publications/2509e>



what to do...what to do...what to do...

Learn how to IDENTIFY...CONTROL...SUBSTITUTE

# PREVENTION is the KEY

- Consult a local nursery or landscaper for information and suggestions about native and/or non-invasive plants.
- Eliminate invasive non-natives from your yard and garden before they go to seed. Discard them in household trash. (DON'T COMPOST!)
- Volunteer to help remove invasive plants in your area.
- Visit the Arboretum at Fort Williams Park in Cape Elizabeth or the demonstration YardScaping Gardens at Back Cove in Portland to see native plants in an ornamental setting.
- Visit the Falmouth Conservation Commission's experimental plot beside the fire barn on Bucknam Road to see preventive techniques in action.



For specific invasive plant information about control and native plant replacements, we recommend: <http://umaine.edu/publications/2500e>

*The mission of the Falmouth Conservation Commission is to promote  
(a) community understanding of important environmental issues facing the Town and  
(b) protection of Falmouth's diverse natural resources*