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**Massachusetts Invasive Plants Advisory Group (MIPAG)**

**Info Compiled by Dot Anthony-Odgren, President of Wachusett Garden Club**

“In 1995, the Massachusetts Invasive Plants Advisory Group (MIPAG) (<https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/>) was established to define invasive plants and recommend strategic guidelines to prevent, control and, where possible, eradicate invasive plant species in the Commonwealth.”

**Contacts:**

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[Current MIPAG members](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/members.htm)

**Know Your Plants!**

**If you don't know it, don't grow it.** Get to know the plants you garden with or that are in your garden or yard... “Find out if they are native or non-native. Learn about their history and growing characteristics. Emphasize natives in your planting for the health of our common ecosystem. And if you decide to plant a non-native, be sure it isn’t already classified as invasive, or suspected of becoming invasive. You will love the results—more songbirds, butterflies, and lots of beauty all around.”

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**Definition of Invasive Plant**

**A Non-native species that spreads into native plant systems in MA.**

**They cause environmental or economic harm.**

 **Note: Condensed definition from the Evaluation of Non-Native Plant Species for Invasiveness in MA pg. 7**

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**MIPAG Publications—You Can Download to PDF Files**

* **Massachusetts Prohibited Plant Species for Importation or Sale**

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/farm-products/plants/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list.html>

* [**The Evaluation of Non-Native Plant Species for Invasiveness in Massachusetts**](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/docs/MIPAG_FINDINGS_FINAL_042005.pdf)

“Lists which plants are threatening or may soon threaten the Commonwealth's natural heritage. The criteria used to evaluate the plants, definitions, and description of this procedure” is presented. The are 3 categories:

* [**Invasive (35 plants)**](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/invasive.htm)
* [**Likely Invasive (31 plants)**](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/linvasive.htm)
* [**Potentially Invasive (3 plants)**](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/pinvasive.htm) **1**

### **MA Invasive Plants List - 35 plants (Last Updated 6/2021)**

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| **Latin Name** | **Common Name** |
| *Acer platanoides* | Norway maple |
| *Acer pseudoplatanus* | Sycamore maple |
| *Aegopodium podagraria* | Bishop’s goutweed, bishop’s weed; goutweed |
| *Ailanthus altissima* | Tree of heaven |
| *Alliaria petiolata* | Garlic mustard |
| *Berberis thunbergia* | Japanese barberry |
| *Cabomba caroliniana* | Carolina fanwort; fanwort |
| *Celastrus orbiculatus* | Oriental bittersweet; Asian or Asiatic bittersweet |
| *Cynanchum louiseae* | Black swallow-wort; Louise’s swallow-wort |
| *Elaeagnus umbellata* | Autumn olive |
| *Euonymus alatus* | Winged euonymus, burning bush |
| *Euphorbia esula* | Leafy spurge; wolf's milk |
| *Frangula alnus/Rhamnus frangula* | European buckthorn, glossy buckthorn |
| *Glaucium flavum* | Sea or horned poppy, yellow hornpoppy |
| *Hesperis matronalis* | Dame’s rocket |
| *Iris pseudacorus* | Yellow iris |
| *Lepidium latifolium* | Broad-leaved pepperweed, tall pepperweed |
| *Lonicera japonica* | Japanese honeysuckle |
| *Lonicera morrowii* | Morrow’s honeysuckle |
| *Lonicera x bella [morrowii x tatarica]* | Bell’s honeysuckle |
| *Lysimachia nummularia* | Creeping jenny, moneywort |
| *Lythrum salicaria* | Purple loosestrife |
| *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* | Variable water-milfoil; two-leaved water-milfoil |
| *Myriophyllum spicatum* | Eurasian or European water-milfoil; spike water- milfoil |
| *Phalaris arundinacea* | Reed canary-grass |
| *Phragmites australis* | Common reed |
| *Polygonum cuspidatum / Fallopia japonica* | Japanese knotweed; Japanese or Mexican bamboo |
| *Polygonum perfoliatum* | Mile-a-minute vine or weed; Asiatic tearthumb |
| *Potamogeton crispus* | Crisped pondweed, curly pondweed |
| *Ranunculus ficaria/Ficaria verna* | Lesser celandine; fig buttercup |
| *Rhamnus cathartica* | Common buckthorn |
| *Robinia pseudoacacia* | Black locust |
| *Rosa multiflora* | Multiflora rose |
| *Salix atrocinerea/Salix cinerea* | Rusty Willow/Large Gray Willow complex |
| *Trapa natans* | Water-chestnut |

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**MIPAG Publications—You Can Download to PDF Files (con’t)**

* [**Strategic Recommendations for Managing Invasive Plants in Massachusetts**](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/publications.htm#strategic)

:”Key points include the development of an "early detection and rapid response system," extensive education and outreach, prohibition of state agencies planting or intentionally introducing invasive plants, voluntary adoption of the St. Louis Declaration's "Codes of Conduct" for government, nursery professionals and the gardening public, and the permanent adoption of MIPAG standards, practices, and recommendations for evaluating and managing invasive plants in the Commonwealth.”

* [**Massachusetts Invasive Plant Species: Early Detection Priorities**](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/publications.htm#edlist)

“A subcommittee of its members to develop a list of Early Detection (ED) plant species. Tasks included establishment of criteria for selecting plants and compiling the Early Detection species list.”

* **[Guidance for the Effective Management of Invasive Plants](https://www.massnrc.org/MIPAG/docs/GuidanceInvPlantMgmtMIPAG.pdf)**

“A documentr to “provide step-by-step guidance for landowners and land managers in developing specific plans for the effective management of invasive plants. The guidance is intended to work at any scale, from a small parcel of land to statewide. The main focus of the document is invasive plant control for ecological health, although other goals of invasive plant management (such as human health and aesthetics) are compatible with this methodology. The document also provides a management case study as well as links to other relevant resources.”

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**Additional Resources**

Lists of Invasive Plant Management Companies

 (*These lists are provided for informational purposes only, and do not imply endorsement of any of the listed companies by MIPAG or any of its members*)

* [List of Contractors Offering Invasive Species Removal Services](https://cisma-suasco.org/take-action/) from the SuAsCo CISMA
* [Find an Eco-Pro](https://www.ecolandscaping.org/member-directory/) from the Ecological Landscape Alliance (Select "Invasives Removal" from the Specialties field)
* [List of Landscape Professionals](https://grownativemass.org/Great-Resources/landscape-professionals) from Grow Native Massachusetts

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