

Protect our Upper Midwest Forests from these invasive plants



These invasive plants are commonly found in the Upper Midwest. Invasive plants can reduce habitat for native plants and wildlife, impede recreation, and/or cause economic harm. Do not plant these species and control their spread for a more resilient ecosystem. State abbreviations, highlighted in yellow, indicate which Midwest states currently regulate these plants. The Midwest Invasive Plant Network maintains a [full list of Midwest invasive plants](#).

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Shrub that drops its seed close to the parent plant, resulting in impenetrable thickets. Also spreads by rhizomes. Outcompetes native plants and provides habitat for pests such as rodents and ticks.

Regulated in IN, MN, WI

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

Grows in dense stands as tall shrubs or small trees. Twigs often end in sharp thorns. Mature bark has dark pores. Birds eat the pea-sized black fruits and spread the seed. Alters habitat to favor its own growth. Hosts crop pests.

Regulated in IL, IN, MN, OH, WI, ON

Non-native bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.)



Amur honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii)
Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Medium-large, multi-stemmed shrubs have white or pink flowers, orange or red berries, and hollow stems. Birds and wildlife eat the fruit and spread the seed, though it has poor nutritional value. Seeds also spread via moving water.

Regulated in IL, IN, MN, OH, WI

Roundleaf bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Vines grow up and over native plants, restricting light and girdling trees. Seed is spread by birds. Humans contribute to spread by using fruiting branches in flower arrangements or wreaths that are displayed and/or composted outside.

Regulated in IL, IN, MN, OH, WI

Autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*)



Pennsylvania DCNR, bugwood.org

UGA

Large shrub with white flowers. Branches and fruits have silver and rust colored-scales. Leaf undersides are silvery-green. Birds and wildlife eat the fruit and spread the seed. Forms dense thickets & outcompetes native plants.

Regulated in IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)



John Zaborsky, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Multi-stemmed thorny shrub with showy white flowers. Birds and wildlife eat the fruit and spread the seed. Forms thickets that impede recreation and movement of livestock and wildlife. Displaces native vegetation.

Regulated in IL, IN, IA, MN, MO, OH, WI

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Prevent & Report

These plants are a priority for early detection and rapid response due to their potential to expand their range and invade upper Midwest forests. Practice prevention! Clean gear and equipment and brush off footwear, clothing, and pets. Do this before entering and leaving forested areas. Report sightings to EDDMapS or the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network. See QR codes and web links below.

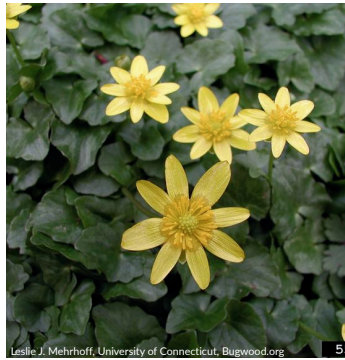
Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)



Annual grass with aerial “stilted” roots and short, wide leaves. May have a white or silvery mid-vein. Prefers moist forests. Shade tolerant. Alters nutrient cycling and soil biota and changes fire behavior.

Regulated in IL, IN, MN, OH, WI

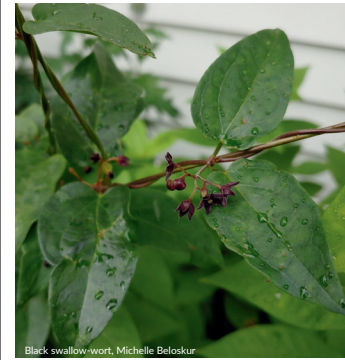
Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*)



Groundcover with glossy leaves and small, yellow flowers, each with 8-15 petals. Spreads by bulbils and root tubers. Emerges early and outcompetes native spring wildflowers. Prefers moist habitats, such as floodplains.

Regulated in IL, MN, OH, WI

Black & pale swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum* spp.)



Vine with glossy, dark green leaves and small pinkish brown or purplish black star-shaped flowers. In the milkweed family and attracts monarchs, but leaves are toxic to the caterpillars. Also toxic to pets and livestock.

Regulated in IL, IN, MN, OH, ON, WI

Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)



Spreads via fruit when different varieties are cross-pollinated. Creates dense, thorny thickets that shade out understory plants and impede access. Showy white flowers have purple anthers and unpleasant smell.

Regulated in IL*, MN*, MO*, OH

Amur corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*)



Mature trees have deeply furrowed, corky bark. Inner bark is bright yellow. Birds eat the fruit and spread the seed, creating dense stands of young trees. Dense stands can shade and limit the growth of native understory plants.

Regulated in IL, IN, MN, WI

Porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)



Fast growing vine found in moist, sunny areas. Can grow 25' in a season and smother native plants. Appears similar to native grapes, but bark does not peel. Fruits are purple, violet, and turquoise with white flecks.

Regulated in MN, OH WI

*See [Midwest Invasive Plant List](#) for effective date



Report sightings to [EDDMapS](#)
[eddmappings.org](#)



Report sightings to the [Midwest Invasive Species Information Network](#)
[misin.msu.edu](#)