Terrestrial Invasive Species in Western New York

These species may be spreading in your area. Early Detection and Management can help prevent invasions and reduce the harmful impacts of these species. Maps show current reported distribution of species in WNY and surrounding counties.*

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<th>Not present in County</th>
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To report a sighting, please login to www.nyimapinvasives.org
**Terrestrial Priorities in Western New York**

**CANADA THISTLE (Cirsium arvense)**
Perennial broadleafed herb with creeping rhizomes. Grows 2 to 5 feet. **Leaves** are alternate and oblong with spiny, crinkled edges terminating in a spine. The upper side of the leaf is dark green; the lower side is light green and slightly hairy. **Stems** are slightly hairy when young and grows hairier with age. **Flowers** are purple. Threatens grasslands, pastures and riparian areas.

**COMMON BUCKTHORN (Rhamnus cathartica)**
M. Small shrub or tree that can grow to up to 25 feet. Bark is dark gray. **Leaves** are sub-opposite, dark green, oval, 1.5-3 inches long and slightly serrate with 3 to 4 pairs of curving veins. **Flowers** are yellow-green, 4-petaled and in clusters of 2 to 6 near the base. Threatens forests and grasslands.

**GIANT HOGWEED (Heracleum mantegazzianum)**
Perennial herb, flowers once, then dies. **Leaves** start as single basal leaf and grows into a larger rosette each year. Leaves 3-part compound, 1-4 feet wide, incised and pointed. **Stems** are hollow with coarse hairs and red-purple spotting. **Flowers** are white in multiple domed umbels. In 4th or 5th year, plant produces a 7-15 foot flower stalk. Threatens rivers and woodland edges. Human health impacts include photophotodermatitis.

**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELDIG (Adelges tsugae)**
M. Small aphid-like insect. Eggs are brownish-orange and later darken. Adults are tiny (1/32 inch), oval and reddish-purple. Nymphs produce white cottony tufts which cover their bodies. White masses are 1/10 inch or more in diameter. Symptoms include needle yellowing and dieback. Limb dieback may occur within two years. Threatens hemlocks and associated habitats.

**JAPANESE KNOTWEED (Reynoutria japonica)**
M. Perennial herbaceous shrub reaching heights of 10 feet. **Leaves** are alternate, 6 inches long, 3-4 inches wide and broadly-ovate. Leaf tips taper abruptly, and bases are truncate. **Stems** are bamboo-like and hollow. **Flowers** are greenish-white and develop in a cascade in the axils of the leaves. Threatens riparian areas, floodplains and infrastructure. Similar species include giant and bohemian/hybrid knotweeds.

**JAPANESE STILTGRASS (Microstegium vimineum)**
ED Annual sprawling grass, 12-24 inches tall, resembling miniature bamboo. **Leaves** are wide, alternate, pale green and 2-3 inches long with an off-center silver stripe of reflective hairs on the upper surface. **Inflorescence** nodding with paired spikelets, 13 inches long. Blooms late summer into early fall. Threatens riparian areas, floodplains and forests.

**GOUTWEEED (Aegopodium podagraria)**
Perennial herb. **Leaves** have 3 groups of 3 ovate leaflets that taper abruptly. **Leaves** are medium green in color, but can be a variegated variety with cream edges. **Flowers** are arranged in an umbel 3 inches wide and held 3 feet above the ground. **Fruits** are small, elongate and brown in color. Threatens forests.

**MILE-A-MINUTE VINE (Persicaria perfoliata)**
ED Annual herbaceous vine that climbs to 15 feet. **Leaves** are alternate, shaped like a triangle with barbs on the undersides. Circular, cup-shaped leafy structures around the stem. **Flowers** are small, white and inconspicuous. **Fruit** is a fleshy, green turning to blue, pea-sized berry. Threatens woodlands, wetlands, open fields and riparian areas.

**MULTI-FLORA ROSE (Rosa multiflora)**
M. Perennial thorny shrub with arching stems, leaves divided into 5-11 sharply toothed leaflets. Grows up to 15 feet. **Stems** have long, curved thorns. Base of each leaf stalk bears a pair of fringed wings. **Flowers** are clusters of showy, fragrant, white to pink flowers each about an inch across. Threatens forests and grasslands.

**ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET (Celastrus orbiculatus)**
Perennial woody vine grows to 60 feet and up to 4 inches in diameter. Bark is striated and dark brown. **Leaves** are alternate, 2-5 inches long, elliptical to circular and are light green in color. **Flowers** are small, inconspicuous, and greenish-white. **Fruit** is green or yellow then ripens into scarlet berries. Threatens woodlands and grasslands. Often mistaken for native American Bittersweet.

**REED CANARY GRASS (Phalaris arundinacea)**
M. Perennial grass that grows to 6 feet and forms clumps before spreading into large mats through rhizomes. **Leaves** are 1-4 feet long, up to 0.75 inches wide, sturdy, smooth and taper gradually. **Ligule** is transparent and prominent. **Inflorescence** rises from stems and can be green, purple, or brown in color and is usually 3-6 inches in length. Threatens wetlands, riparian areas and grasslands.

**SLENDER FALSE BROME (Brachypodium sylvaticum)**
ED Perennial bunch grass. **Leaves** are 0.2-0.5 inches wide and bright green. **Leaves** and flowering stalks droop at their tips. **Inflorescence** have densely hairy nodes and are slightly elevated above the rest of the plant. There are 4-12 clusters on each stem. **Roots** have wintergreen aroma. Threatens wide variety of habitats including forests and grasslands.

**PALE SWALLOW-WORT (Cynanchum rossicum)**
M. Perennial herbaceous vine twines 3-6 feet high. **Leaves** are opposite (similar to black swallow-wort). **Flowers** are maroon to pink with 5 pointed, hairless, triangular petals that are twice as long as wide. Seed pods milkweed-like and similar to black swallow-wort. Threatens forests and grasslands.

**WILD CHERVIL (Anthriscus sylvestris)**
Biennial herb that grows up to 3.5 feet. **Leaves** form a basal rosette at the ground. **Leaves** are compound, fern-like, measure 0.5-2 inches long and are alternately arranged on the stem the second year. **Stems** are hollow and hairy. **Flowers** are an umbrella-shaped cluster with white 4 notched petals. Threatens woodlands and grasslands.

For more information and management options for these and other invasive species, please visit: [www.wnyprism.org](http://www.wnyprism.org)