

# Keep A Lookout!



## 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.\*

Not present in County    
  Present in WNY PRISM County    
  Present in FL-PRISM County    
 \*Updated July 2023

**BLACK AND PALE SWALLOW-WORT**

**GOATSRUE**

**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID**

**MILE-A-MINUTE**

**ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET**

**PORCELAIN BERRY**

**SCOTCH BROOM**

**SLENDER FALSE BROME**

**JAPANESE STILTGRASS**

To report a sighting, please login to [www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org)



# Terrestrial Invasive Species Priorities in Western New York

**BLACK & PALE SWALLOW-WORT** (*Cynanchum* spp.)  
**Perennial**, herbaceous vine that twines 3 to 8 feet high. **Leaves** are opposite, 2 to 5 inches long, narrowly to broadly oval with pointed tips and a smooth margin, dark green and shiny. **Flowers** are tiny, dark purple (black) or maroon to pink (pale) with 5, pointed, hairless, triangular petals. **Seed pods** are milkweed-like, slender and tapered, 1.3 to 3 inches long. Threatens forests and grasslands, outcompetes native plants and may impact monarchs.

**GOATSRUE** (*Galega officinalis*)  
**Perennial** legume that grows between 2 and 6 feet in height. **Leaves** are alternate and pinnately compound with 6 to 10 pairs of leaflets. Each leaflet has a small hair-like appendage on its tip. **Flowers** are white to blue or purple, pea-like, arranged in terminal or axillary racemes and are present from June to October. Each flower produces a seed pod, containing 1 to 9 seeds and each plant can produce up to 15,000 pods. **Seeds** are bean-shaped with a dull yellow color. Threatens moist, disturbed areas including streambanks, ditches, pastures, forest edges and marshy areas.

**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID** (*Adelges tsugae*)  
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 2 years. Threatens hemlocks and associated habitats.

**MILE-A-MINUTE** (*Persicaria perfoliata*)  
**Annual**, herbaceous, barbed vine that climbs up to 15 feet. **Leaves** are alternate, triangular with barbs on the undersides. Circular, cup-shaped, leafy structures, called ocreas, are present around the stem at nodes. **Flowers** are small, white and inconspicuous. **Fruit** are fleshy, pea-sized berries that turn from green to blue. Threatens woodlands, wetlands, open fields and riparian areas.

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

**PORCELAIN BERRY** (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)  
**Perennial**, deciduous vine that can grow up to 20 feet long. **Leaves** are alternate, simple, variably shaped (from heart-shaped to deeply lobed) with toothed margins and shiny undersides with hairs only along the veins. **Flowers** are small and greenish-yellow. **Fruit** are berries in shades of white, yellow, lilac, teal or green that mature into bright blue with a white pith. Threatens streambanks and forest edges.

**SCOTCH BROOM** (*Cytisus scoparius*)  
**Perennial** shrub that grows up to 10 feet in height. **Leaves** are small, alternately arranged, oblong and occur in groups of 3. **Stems** are hairy in young plants and hairless in mature plants. **Flowers** are yellow, small and pea-like, located along the stem. **Seed pods** are blackish-brown with hairs along the seams that explode when mature. Threatens a wide range of habitats including forest edges, river banks and fields.

**SLENDER FALSE BROME** (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)  
**Perennial** bunch grass. **Leaves** are flat, 0.2 to 0.5 inch wide, bright green and hairy on both sides. **Stems** and nodes have many tiny hairs. **Inflorescence** are slightly elevated above the rest of the plant with spikelets with no stalk and flowers with long awns. Leaves and inflorescence are drooping. Threatens wide variety of habitats including forests and grasslands, creates monocultures.

**JAPANESE STILTGRASS** (*Microstegium vimineum*)  
**Annual**, sprawling grass, 12 to 24 inches tall, resembling miniature bamboo. **Leaves** are alternate, lance-shaped, 2 to 3 inches long, pale green 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.



PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN NEW YORK



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

Special thanks to the Midwest Invasive Plant Network ([www.MIPN.org](http://www.MIPN.org)). PHOTO CREDITS: Goatsrue infestation - McKean County Soil and Water Conservation District; HWA adult - Kelly Oten, North Carolina State University, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org); Scotch broom shrub - Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org); Scotch broom flower - Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org); all others - WNY PRISM. Taxonomy based on USDA PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>), NY Flora Atlas ([www.nyflora.org](http://www.nyflora.org)), The University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (<http://www.bugwood.org>), Sylvan Ramsey and Wallace Kaufman, *Invasive Plants*. 2nd ed. N.p.: Stakhole, n.d. Print.