



Invasive Giant Hogweed  
(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

# THE INVASIVE PLANT PROBLEM

**SOME PLANTS MAY LOOK BEAUTIFUL,** but they can have a devastating effect.

Invasive plants are non-native, grow quickly and rapidly reproduce. They cause major changes to the areas where they become established. They can harm the environment, economy and even human health. Many of today's worst invasive plants arrived as ornamental additions that escaped our gardens and landscapes. If we want to keep invasive plants out of our natural areas, we need to place non-invasive plants into our gardens. The good news – and an outcome that few other areas can claim – is that within New York State, opportunities still exist to prevent invasive plants from becoming widespread. You can help.

**INVASIVE SPECIES** are the number one threat to native plants and animals on protected lands.

**INVASIVE PLANTS** are spreading over one million acres of wildlife habitat per year in the U.S.

**SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE** that invasive plants cost our economy \$35 billion in damages and treatment each year.



Invasive Swallowwort  
(*Cynanchum* spp.)

## The New York Statewide Invasive Species Program

- Protecting New York's natural and agricultural resources, human and animal health, and economy from invasive species
- Using science to educate New Yorkers on the impacts of invasive species
- Helping New Yorkers detect, prevent, and manage invasive species

**For more information on invasive species and Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) in New York visit: [www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)**



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# PLANT WISE NY

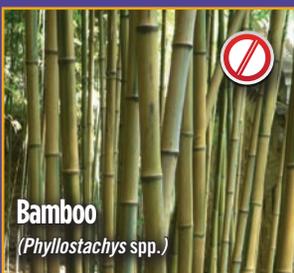
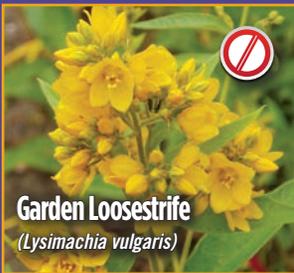


## KNOW BEFORE YOU GROW

NEW YORK GARDENERS' TIPSHEET

Native Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

## DON'T PLANT



## DO PLANT



# HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO

**LEARN** about which invasive plants are a problem in your area. If you see invasive plants in the wild, report them to: [nyimapinvasives.org/report-an-invasive](http://nyimapinvasives.org/report-an-invasive).

**USE** non-invasive plants in your garden and landscaping. A short list is provided here; more can be found in the brochure "Alternatives to Ornamental Invasive Plants - A Sustainable Solution for NYS" at [www.NYIS.INFO](http://www.NYIS.INFO).

**WATCH** out for invasive plant "hitchhikers" that might be growing in the pot of a desirable plant at the nursery.

**SHARE** native and non-invasive plants during plant swaps with neighbors and friends.

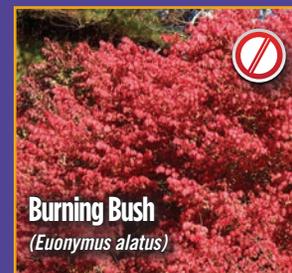
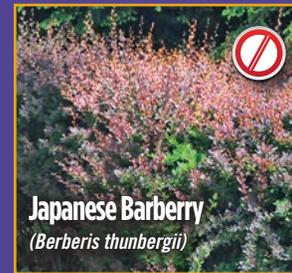
**CHECK** the ingredients of seed mixes and use only those that are free of invasive plants.

**CONTROL** invasive plants on your property using best management practices.

**LEAD** by example—ask your friends and neighbors to be plant wise.

**GET** involved with regional efforts to prevent and manage invasive species.

## DON'T PLANT



## DO PLANT

