

An invasive plant is an alien (non-native) species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.



The West Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network is a diverse group of private and public organizations dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and management of Michigan's natural land and water. The West Michigan Cluster's goal is to teach people how to be better stewards of the land, whatever their level of expertise.

Join us for one of our workshops to learn more on Early Detection Rapid Response.

www.stewardshipnetwork.org

Brochure printing sponsored by:
The Thomas Wanty Family
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Graphic Design courtesy of:
Rainstick Studio

Common Reed photo: Karan A. Rawlins,
University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

All photos courtesy of www.forestryimages.org

What you can do to help:

- I** Identify and remove invasive plants to stop economic and ecologic damage in West Michigan
- N** Never include invasive plants in your landscape
- V** Vigilance against transporting non-native invasives from one site to another
- A** Awareness of the harmful effects of invasive plants
- S** Spread the word—NOT the plant
- I** Initiate control efforts in your community
- V** Volunteer to help within your local community to help control and remove these species
- E** Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)

To learn more ...

National Park Service
www.nps.gov/plants/alien

Michigan Invasive Species Information Network
Early Detection Rapid Response
www.misin.msu.edu

Midwest Invasive Plant Network
www.mipn.org

Michigan Invasive Plant Council
www.invasiveplantsmi.org

To download a pdf of this brochure visit www.naturenearby.org
West Michigan Cluster liason



**STAMP OUT
INVASIVE
PLANTS!**



West Michigan Cluster of
The Stewardship Network
Pulling together for nature

Garlic Mustard photo: Chris Evans,
River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org

MICHIGAN'S TOP THREE ESTABLISHED INVADERS!



Photo: Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Photo: Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org

Garlic Mustard

Impacts

- 1) Out-competes or displaces native plants and trees by controlling light, water, and nutrient resources.
- 2) Seeds can remain viable in soil for ten years or more.
- 3) Releases chemicals that hinder the growth of other plant species.



Photo: John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy, Bugwood.org



Photo: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Phragmites or Common Reed

Impacts

- 1) Rapid growth rate chokes out other vegetation.
- 2) High biomass increases fire danger.
- 3) Eliminates habitat for waterfowl and other animal species.



Photo: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Photo: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive, Bugwood.org

Autumn Olive

Impacts

- 1) This shrub exhibits prolific growth and creates nearly impenetrable thickets.
- 2) Late fruiting season may alter bird migration patterns.
- 3) Fixes nitrogen and alters soil chemistry.

HELP PREVENT THE NEXT INVASION!

Report these three plants to **EARLY DETECTION RAPID RESPONSE (EDRR)** online at www.misin.msu.edu.

EDRR is a system to find and report new, aggressive plants before they become established and cause harm to the environment. Removal will help prevent their spread.



Photo: Max Williamson, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Photo: Jill M. Swearingen, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

Oriental Bittersweet

Impacts

- 1) This vigorous and aggressive vine reproduces quickly.
- 2) Smothers and chokes out other vegetation including mature trees.
- 3) Displaces native American bittersweet through competition and hybridization.



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Black or Pale Swallow-wort

Impacts

- 1) This vine fools monarch butterflies into laying eggs but larva do not survive.
- 2) Forms extensive patches that crowd out native vegetation such as grasses and goldenrod.
- 3) Seeds can disperse over great distances.



Photo: Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia, Bugwood.org



Photo: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Japanese Knotweed

Impacts

- 1) This shrub grows at an alarming rate in any type of soil.
- 2) Very small fragments of either stem or rhizome (underground stems) can produce fresh new plants.
- 3) Serious threat to construction because it creates a huge rhizome network underground.