Did You Know...?

$100 Billion
Cost per year of invasive plant damage and associated control efforts.

99%
Of U.S. invasive woody plants were introduced either for ornamental and landscaping or agricultural purposes.

3 Million
Acres of land—nearly twice the size of Delaware—are lost to invasive plants each year.

Purchasing Plants
- Although CT prohibits the sale of most invasive plants, it is still possible to find nurseries selling them. Check online for a complete list of invasive plants in CT.
- If unfamiliar with a plant, before purchasing ask, “How aggressively does this plant spread?” If a plant is known to spread aggressively, it may not be a good choice.

Invasive Plant Examples

**Tree of Heaven** is an aggressive plant that originated in China and is now found in 40 U.S. states. It is allelopathic, meaning it releases chemical compounds into the soil to make the site more suitable for itself and less suitable for native plants.

For more information about invasive plants, please follow the links below:

- [https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/](https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/)
- [https://www.invasive.org/species.cfm](https://www.invasive.org/species.cfm)
Examples of Invasive Plants in Connecticut

**Invasive Plants**

Invasive plants are plants that have the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside of their native ranges.

They pose a long-term threat to biodiversity, or the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem. Many organisms, including important pollinators, rely on environments with high biodiversity to survive.

At first glance, invasive species may seem like the “perfect plants” for landscaping or gardening—many invasives are ornamental, tolerate a wide variety of conditions, and grow rapidly. However, the plants can quickly grow out of control, suffocating native plants as well as the surrounding greenery.

**Invasive Plant Removal**

It is often difficult to successfully and completely remove an invasive plant.

The method of removal depends on the species of plant.

Digging up plants: some plants only need to have the main crown removed, while others require removal of the whole root in order to prevent future growth.

It is best to remove plants when they are not fruiting, as most are good at spreading the seeds from fruit.

Fill spaces that you have opened up with native plants that can compete fairly well.

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**Burning Bush** is a deciduous shrub whose leaves turn a bright crimson color in the fall. It was originally introduced as an ornamental plant, and is still planted and sold for ornamental purposes.

**Japanese Knotweed** is a large, dense growing plant found around the country. It spreads by both roots and seeds, making it difficult to eradicate. As communities look to find ways to combat the plant, some chefs are incorporating parts of it into their dishes.

**Oriental bittersweet** is a woody vine brought to the U.S. as an ornamental plant around 1860. The vine kills native plants by blocking sunlight, encircling the plants, and weighing them down.

**Japanese Barberry** is a small, deciduous shrub still widely used for landscaping, with bright red berries and thorns. Forests with the plant have been found to have up to 12 times more ticks per acre than those without.

**Mugwort** is a perennial herb native to Europe and Eastern Asia, where it was used for traditional medicinal purposes. Due to a dense system of roots, it is difficult to control.

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