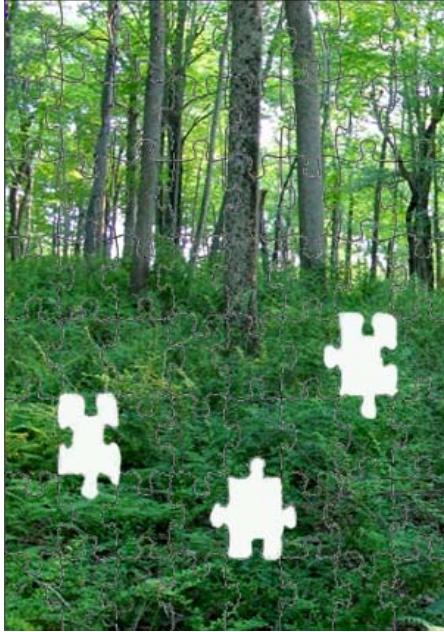


# Invasive Plants and Maine's Ecological Puzzle



What do plants like 'Crimson King' Norway maple, burning bush and Japanese barberry have in common? They are long-standing favorites in urban and suburban landscapes; they grow easily and they provide beautiful red or purple foliage all year long or in the fall. Those are their positive attributes. Unfortunately they all have become invaders in our forests, on our farms and in our natural areas. Each has now been classified as "invasive."

Invasive plants are like pieces that just don't fit right in Maine's ecological puzzle. By crowding out native plants they leave holes in the food web and can exclude other pieces of the puzzle which create even larger gaps. These gaps in the food web can cascade and eliminate the food source for other species like caterpillars; an essential food for baby birds. Maine's chickadees depend upon caterpillars to provide their nestlings with protein to grow and develop into adulthood.

Yes, all this can happen just because we decide to plant an invasive species into our landscape.

In some of Maine's forested areas the entire forest floor is covered with plants like Japanese barberry with its many needle-like spines. Although white-tailed deer seem to eat almost any plant, they do not like Japanese barberry. The barberries create a food desert for deer and open large holes in the ecological puzzle.

So what is a gardener to do?

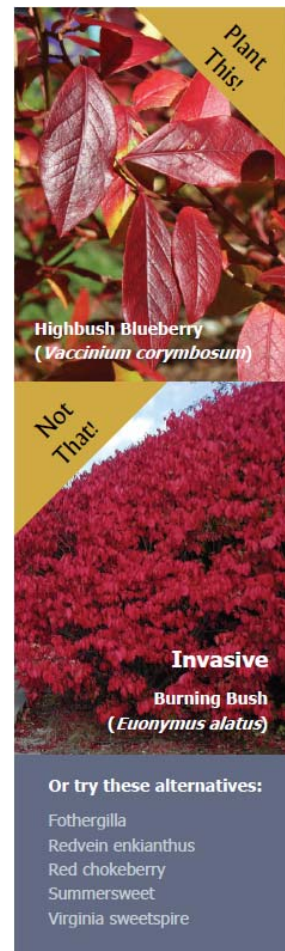
There are many alternative plants that provide equal or better aesthetic characteristics in our landscapes. Some are Maine natives that fit perfectly in our ecological puzzle. Others are non-natives that stay put and don't wreak havoc on the ecosystem like "invasive" plants can.

- Forgo planting a 'Crimson King' Norway maple. Instead, appreciate the brilliant fall color of an 'Autumn Blaze' Freeman's maple or the stately character of a European copper beech; or
- Enjoy the fruitful antioxidant rewards of a highbush blueberry or a red chokeberry in place of the food desert created by Japanese barberry; or
- Make wreaths from winterberry instead of the tree choking Asiatic bittersweet whose berries can be picked off wreaths and planted elsewhere by birds and mice.

Planting well behaved non-native and native plants helps keep Maine's ecological puzzle together. This complete picture is essential to the survival of many species we love and depend upon. Help keep the puzzle whole and choose to exclude invasive plants from your garden.

Starting January 1, 2018 Maine prohibited the sale of 33 invasive terrestrial plants. For the complete list of prohibited plants and more information on great alternatives, go to [maine.gov/hort](http://maine.gov/hort).

Gary Fish, Maine State Horticulturist



# 33 Invasive Plants Prohibited from Sale or Import in Maine What you need to Know



In January 2017 changes were adopted to CMR 01-001 Chapter 273: Criteria for Listing Invasive Terrestrial Plants. These changes make it illegal to sell, import, export, buy or intentionally propagate for sale the 33 plant species listed below.

<i>Acer ginnala</i> (amur maple)	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> (dame's rocket)
<i>Acer platanoides</i> (Norway maple)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> (ornamental jewelweed)
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> (bishop's weed)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (yellow iris)
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (tree of heaven)	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> (common privet)
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (garlic mustard)	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Japanese honeysuckle)
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> (false indigo bush)	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (amur or bush honeysuckle)
<i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i> (porcelain berry)	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> (Morrow's honeysuckle)
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> (common mugwort)	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> (Tatarian honeysuckle)
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (Japanese barberry)	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> (purple loosestrife)
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> (common barberry)	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Japanese stilt grass)
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> (Asiatic bittersweet)	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> (paulownia, princess tree)
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> (Autumn olive)	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i> (mile-a-minute)
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (winged euonymus)	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (amur cork tree)
<i>Euphorbia cyparissas</i> (cypress spurge)	<i>Populus alba</i> (white cottonwood)
<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i> (Chinese bindweed)	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (black locust)
<i>Fallopia japonica</i> (Japanese knotweed)	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> (multiflora rose)
<i>Frangula alnus</i> (glossy buckthorn)	

## Quick Facts

- The sale/import ban includes the listed species and all cultivars, varieties and hybrids.
- Variances may be applied for and granted for scientific research and for varieties, cultivars or hybrids that have been shown to not be invasive through peer reviewed scientific research.
- The invasive plant rule and included prohibited plant list will be reviewed every 5 years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY  
DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH  
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