

# Replacing Invasive Plants with Native Plants



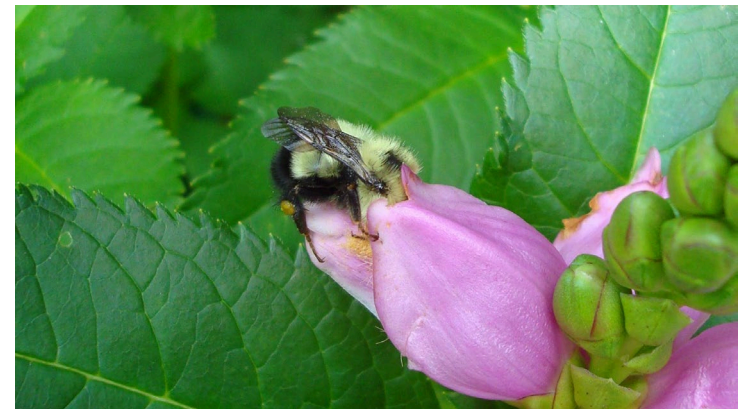
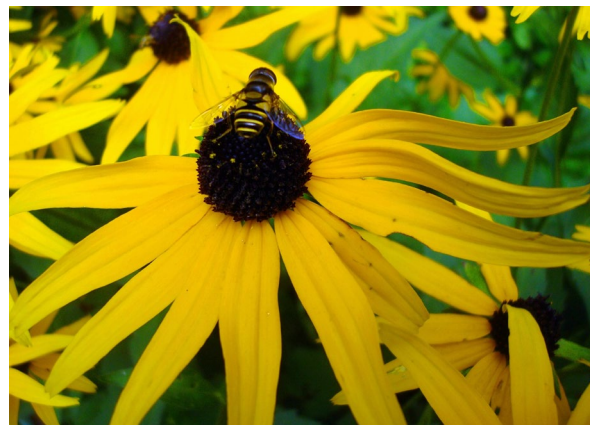
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# Terrestrial invasive plants

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Why we regulate them and early detection resources

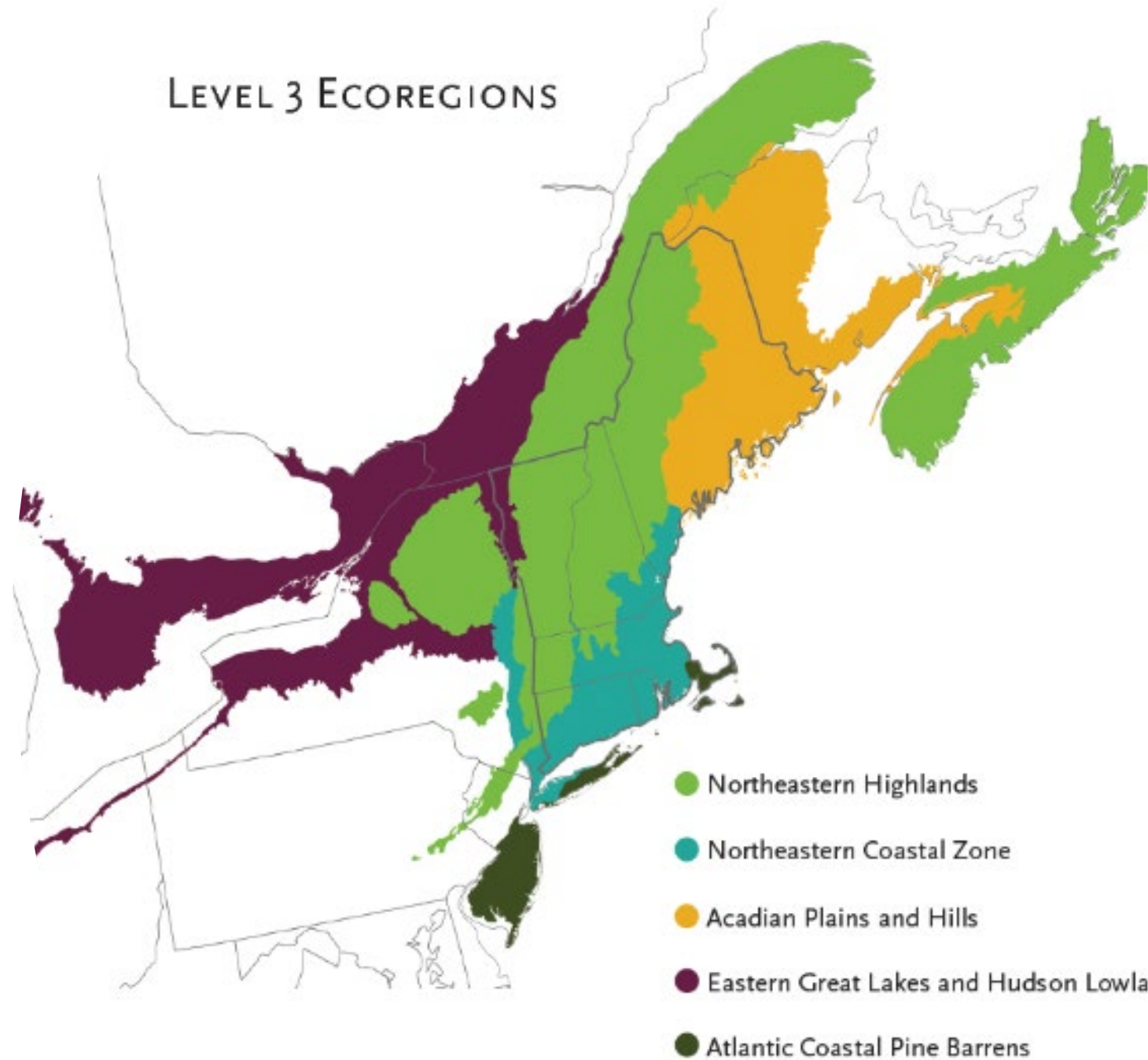
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# Definition

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An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is non-native to the ecoregion; and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.





Native species are NOT invasive species



Why be concerned about  
invasive species?

Because we  
love Maine!



Invasive  
species don't  
fit into Maine's  
ecological  
puzzle

# What is an Invasive Plant?

A non-native species whose introduction causes economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health, and which can establish and spread in minimally managed habitats.



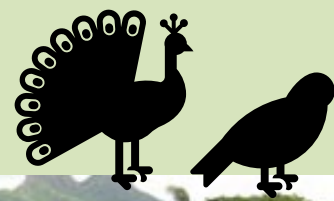
# What makes them invasive?

- **Opportunistic,**
- **Fast growing,**
- **Reproduce abundantly,**
- **Tolerate wide range of conditions,**
- **Seeds can remain viable in the soil for years.**



**Mile-a-minute**  
(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

# How do they spread?



Seeds or fragments  
We can prevent these!



## GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BRUSH OFF.

Clean Your Gear Before Entering  
And Before Leaving The Recreation Site.



Help Prevent The Spread  
Of Invasive Plants And Animals.

- REMOVE plants, animals & mud from boots, gear, pets & vehicle.
- CLEAN your gear before entering & leaving the recreation site.
- STAY on designated roads & trails.
- USE CERTIFIED or local firewood & hay



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.  
[PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org)



Also: manure, mulch

# Conservation plants pushed in the late 70s



**conservation plantings for the Northeast**

**GRAY-STEMMED DOGWOOD**  
*Cornus paniculata*

*Bird use:* 16 species  
*Ornamental values:* Thicket-forming medium shrubs—small, flat, white flower clusters; white berries on pink stems.

*Adaptations:* Well-drained to dry soil; sun.  
*In bloom:* June  
*In fruit:* August–November  
*Source:* Wilding transplants and cuttings.

**AMERICAN CRANBERRYBUSH**  
*Viburnum trilobum*

*Bird use:* 54 species  
*Ornamental values:* Upright tall shrub with maplelike foliage—showy, white, flat clusters of flowers; glossy scarlet fruit clusters.

*Adaptations:* Deep, wet to well-drained soil; sun to light shade.  
*In bloom:* May–June  
*In fruit:* September–May  
*Source:* Commercial nurseries, some State nurseries, wilding transplants or cuttings.

**BITTERSWEET**  
*Celastrus scandens*

*Bird use:* 10 species  
*Ornamental values:* Twining vine with pale-green foliage—greenish flowers; bright-red berries in yellow or orange husks.

*Adaptations:* Well-drained to dry soil; sun to light shade.  
*In bloom:* May–June  
*In fruit:* September–December.

**INVITE BIRDS TO YOUR HOME**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE



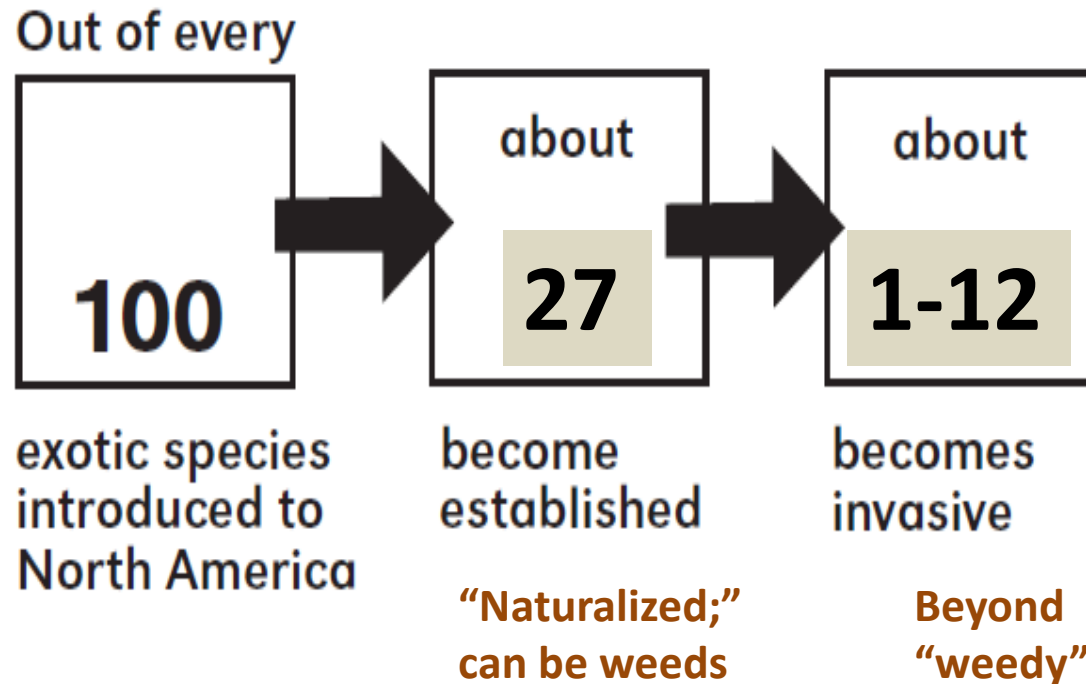
## Plant Materials for Conservation



# Most non-native species are not invasive

**FIGURE 1.1**

Number of Exotic Species That Become Invasive



# Why are they so successful?


- Thrive on disturbance
- Competitive advantages:
  - Not usually eaten (lack enemies)
  - Early and late leaves
  - Abundant reproduction



# Why are invasive plants bad?

- **Ruin wildlife habitat**
- **Prevent forest regeneration**
- **Disrupt recreational activities**
- **Change soil chemistry**
- **Cost billions of dollars to control**

**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 will prohibit 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) or scan the QR code below.

# What harm do invasive plants cause?



**Out-compete native plant species, overrun habitats**



**Damage or kill plants  
directly or indirectly**



**Displace native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers**

**Alter wildlife  
habitat &  
prevent forest  
regeneration**



# Harm food webs that depend on native plants

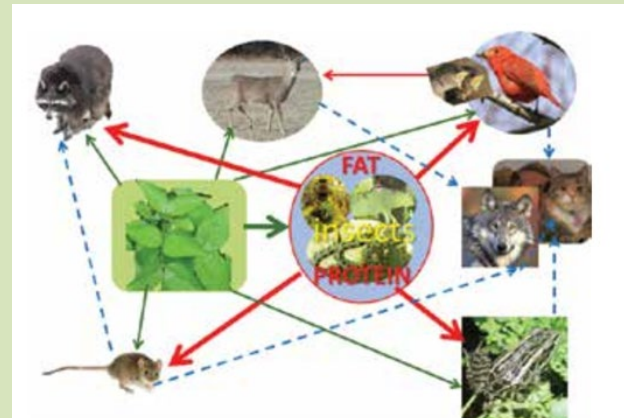
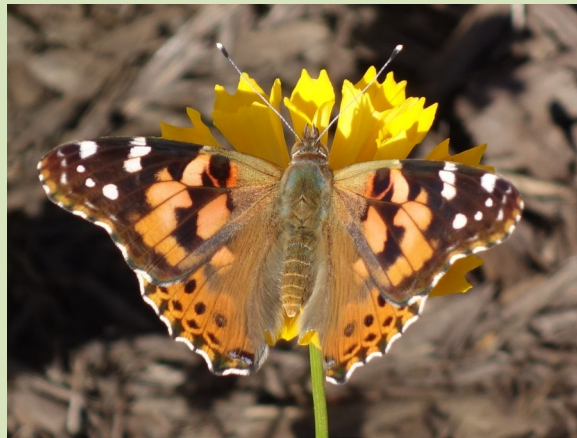


Figure 4. A simple food web showing the importance of insects in transforming plant material into food for many other animals.



Figure from Jordan 2014, Novel ecosystems, invasion and the forgotten food web, Quarterly Newsletter of the Long Island Botanical Society, Spring edition.

# Preventing invasive plants

- **Don't plant them!**
- **Clean off equipment, clothing and footwear**
- **Minimize soil movement and disturbances**



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



CMR 01-001 Chapter 273: Criteria for Listing Invasive Terrestrial Plants makes 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>Impatiens glandulifera</i> (ornamental jewelweed)
<i>Acer platanoides</i> (Norway maple)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> (yellow iris)
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> (bishop's weed)	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> (common privet)
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (tree of heaven)	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Japanese honeysuckle)
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (garlic mustard)	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (amur or bush honeysuckle)
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> (false indigo bush)	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> (Morrow's honeysuckle)
<i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i> (porcelain berry)	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> (Tatarian honeysuckle)
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> (common mugwort)	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> (purple loosestrife)
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (Japanese barberry)	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Japanese stilt grass)
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> (common barberry)	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> (paulownia, princess tree)
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> (Asiatic bittersweet)	<i>Pericaria perfoliata</i> (mile-a-minute)
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> (Autumn olive)	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (amur cork tree)
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (winged euonymus)	<i>Populus alba</i> (white cottonwood)
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> (cypress spurge)	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (black locust)
<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i> (Chinese bindweed)	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> (multiflora rose)
<i>Fallopia japonica</i> (Japanese knotweed)	
<i>Frangula alnus</i> (glossy buckthorn)	
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> (dame's rocket)	

## Quick Facts

- The sale/import ban includes the listed species and all cultivars, varieties and hybrids.
- Variations 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.
- Recent changes to the rule will prohibit the sale of an additional 30 species starting January 1, 2024 (see back).
- Find more information at [www.maine.gov/dacf/plphorticulture/ma-sic-plants.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/plphorticulture/ma-sic-plants.shtml)



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY  
DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH  
28 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
207-287-3891  
[HORTICULTURE@MAINE.GOV](mailto:HORTICULTURE@MAINE.GOV)  
[WWW.MAINE.GOV/HORT](http://WWW.MAINE.GOV/HORT)

Scientific name	Common name	Effective Date
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European alder	1/1/2024
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Woodland angelica	1/1/2024
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Wild chervil, raven's wing	1/1/2024
<i>Aralia elata</i>	Japanese angelica tree	1/1/2024
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush	1/1/2024
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	1/1/2024
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper, climbing spindle tree	1/1/2024
<i>Festuca filiformis</i>	Fine-leaved sheep fescue	1/1/2024
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser celandine	1/1/2024
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow hornpoppy	1/1/2024
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy, creeping charlie	1/1/2024
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Great manna grass, reed manna grass	1/1/2024
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea buckthorn	1/1/2024
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Border privet	1/1/2024
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Dwarf honeysuckle	1/1/2024
<i>Lythrum virgatum</i>	European wand loosestrife	1/1/2024
<i>Miscanthus sacchariflorus</i>	Amur silvergrass	1/1/2024
<i>Petasites japonicus</i>	Fuki, butterbur, giant butterbur	1/1/2024
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass, variegated ribbon grass	1/1/2024
<i>Photinia villosa</i>	Photinia, Christmas berry	1/1/2024
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	1/1/2024
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden bamboo	1/1/2024
<i>Phyllostachys aureosulcata</i>	Yellow groove bamboo	1/1/2024
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery ("Bradford") pear	1/1/2024
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	1/1/2024
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry	1/1/2024
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup plant	1/1/2024
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European mountain-ash	1/1/2024
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	1/1/2024
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common valerian	1/1/2024

## Invasive Terrestrial Plant Species of Special Concern

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Rugosa rose, beach rose

# Rosa rugosa - invasive species of special concern starting 1/1/2024



1. Must provide signage or plant tags (next slide)
  - A. The plant vendor must provide species specific guidance at the time of sale to notify the purchaser about the invasive potential of the species and what habitat types to avoid when installing the plant.
  - B. No person selling or offering for sale an invasive terrestrial plant species of special concern shall conceal, detach, alter, deface, or destroy any label, sign, or notice required under this section.

New requirements for *Rosa rugosa*

*Rosa rugosa*  
**Invasive Species—Harmful to the Environment**  
Do not plant in coastal environments, especially on or near sand dunes.  
**Alternatives:** Virginia rose, bayberry, sweet fern, red chokeberry, beach plum and sand cherry.

*Rosa rugosa*  
**Invasive Species – Harmful to the Environment**  
**Ask About Alternative Plants**  
**Follow Species Specific Instructions Provided by the Vendor**  
Protect native species; do not plant in coastal areas, especially on or near sand dunes.  
**Alternative plants include:** virginia rose and other roses, bayberry, sweet fern, red chokeberry, beach plum and sand cherry.

*Rosa rugosa*  
**Invasive Species—Harmful to the Environment**  
Do not plant in coastal environments, especially on or near sand dunes.  
**Alternatives:** Virginia rose, bayberry, sweet fern, red chokeberry, beach plum and sand cherry.

## Plants on the “Watch List”

- ▶ Hardy kiwi
- ▶ Chocolate vine
- ▶ Italian arum
- ▶ Paper mulberry
- ▶ Butterfly bush
- ▶ Sweet autumn
- ▶ Indian yam
- ▶ Chinese yam
- ▶ Weeping lovegrass
- ▶ Queen of the meadow
- ▶ Two-colored bush clover
- ▶ California privet
- ▶ Honeyberry
- ▶ Ragged robin
- ▶ White mulberry
- ▶ Sawtooth oak

# Plants on the “Watch List”

- ▶ Rosa rugosa
- ▶ Hardy pampas grass
- ▶ Sticky sage
- ▶ Milk thistle
- ▶ Japanese spiraea
- ▶ Sapphire-berry
- ▶ Japanese tree lilac
- ▶ Chinese cedar
- ▶ Siberian elm
- ▶ Linden arrowwood
- ▶ Siebold viburnum
- ▶ Japanese wisteria
- ▶ Chinese wisteria

## STILTGRASS (*MICROSTEGIUM VIMINIUM*)

- Found at a York County nursery, two Georgetown properties, and a Springvale property
- Be on the lookout for dense patches of unfamiliar grass
- Built-up thatch is a fire risk
- Crowds out natives



# Invasive Stiltgrass

*Microstegium vimineum*



# Stiltgrass



- 5 Known Sites
- Found in Forests



# Have you seen this plant?



Invasive stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is a highly invasive annual weed that causes ecological and economic harm by forming a thick thatch layer that makes it difficult for native trees, shrubs and wildflower seeds to establish and grow. The presence of invasive stiltgrass in a forest may also increase fire risk.

Please help us find this Early Detection, Rapid Response plant in Maine. **You can help!** If you suspect invasive stiltgrass, **note the location** and **send a photo** to [invasives.mnap@maine.gov](mailto:invasives.mnap@maine.gov). Look for these characteristics:

1. 2-4" long leaves that are ½" wide and alternate along the stem.
2. Upper leaf surface has a stripe of reflective hairs along the mid-rib.
3. Leaf edges that feel smooth to the touch. Unlike some native grasses that have stiff hairs that make the leaf edges feel rough or sticky.
4. Plants that flower and set seed late in the season (September-October), much later than many other grasses. Seed spikes are similar to crabgrass.
5. Stems may develop a reddish tint late in the season.



# MILE-A-MINUTE VINE (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

- Not yet established in Maine
- Several reports/interceptions in 2023
- Climbing/sprawling annual vine
- Can grow 6" in one day
- Produces seeds June-Sept
  - Be vigilant in cutting back
- Seeds viable up to 6yrs
- Lots of look-a-likes

Photo credit: Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

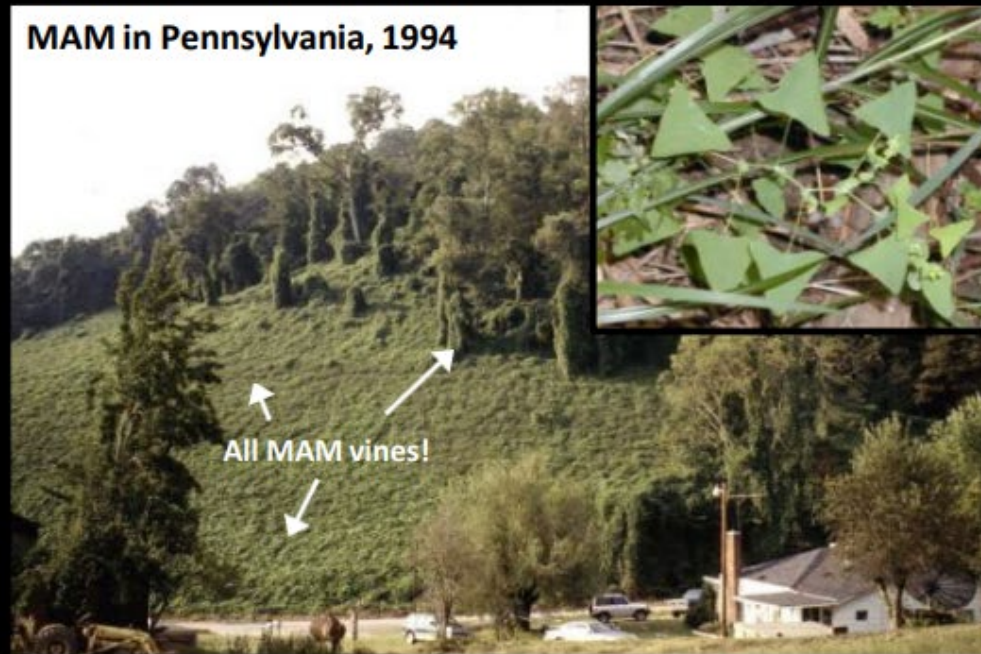
# Mile-a-minute Vine (MAM)

*Persicaria perfoliata*

1. Triangular leaves- no lobes or indentations



MAM in Pennsylvania, 1994



2. Small barbs along stems



3. Saucer-shaped leaves (called ocrea) at nodes

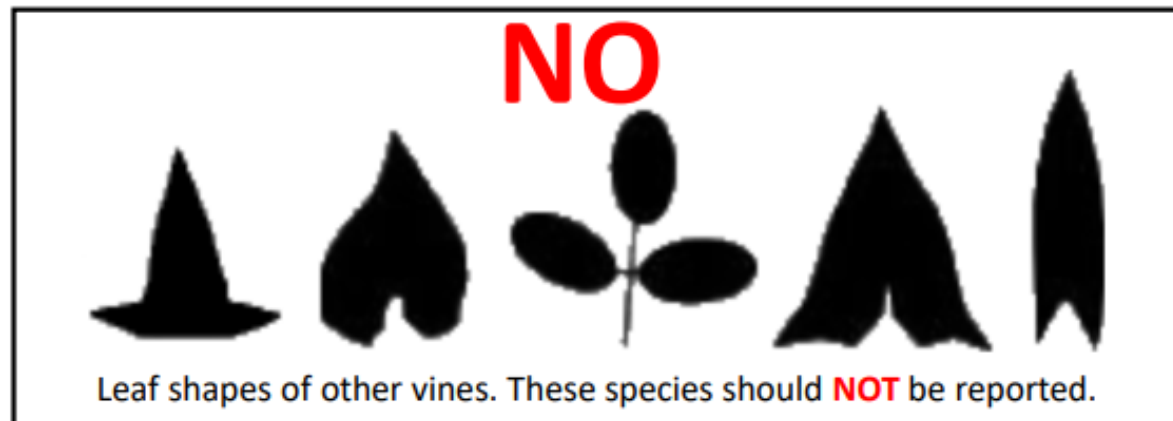


# Have you seen this plant?



Mile-a-minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is a highly invasive annual weed that causes ecological and economic harm by out competing and overgrowing native species. A single mile-a-minute vine can grow up to 6 inches per day and will climb trees and posts and scramble over other vegetation.

Please help us find this Early Detection, Rapid Response plant in Maine. **You can help!** If you see a vine with **all three** of these characteristics (1) very triangular leaves, (2) very sharp barbs on the stem, and (3) clasping ocrea, **note the location** and **send a photo** to [invasives.mnap@maine.gov](mailto:invasives.mnap@maine.gov).



*Photos & thanks to Todd Mervosh, Les Mehrhoff, Hope Leeson, Judy Hough-Goldstein, Renee Sullivan & the CT Invasive Plant Working Group*

# MILE-A-MINUTE LOOK-A-LIKES

**Tearthumbs** are closely related to Mile-a-Minute vine. Many have prickles on the stem, but their leaves are longer, less triangular, and often lobed at the base. There are many species, most lack the clasping bract. Top photos of **Halberd-leaved Tearthumb**, bottom photos of **Arrow-leaved Tearthumb**.



Photos: Bruce Patterson | Glen Mittelhauser | Arthur Haines | Arieh Tal



[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/mile-a-minute.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/mile-a-minute.pdf)

**Fringed Bindweed**, **Climbing Bindweed**, and **Black Bindweed** are similar vining plants in the genus *Fallopia*. The first two are native, though Black Bindweed is non-native and weedy. These three species have nodes along their stems and superficially resemble each other. The nodes are fringed in Fringed Bindweed but not the other two. Keels on flower petals and fruit texture distinguish the other two species.



Fringed Bindweed (left and right above): Don Cameron | Frank Bramley

# The most popular invasive plants

- \* Barberry
- \* Bittersweet
- \* Norway maple (including Crimson king)
- \* Burning bush
- \* Wintercreeper
- \* Variegated ribbon grass
- \* European mountain ash
- \* Callery pear





# Report of Invasive Plants Offered for Sale

<https://forms.office.com/g/c8ptxksAwg>

Please use this form to notify Plant Health Program staff about plants on Maine's do-not-sell list that are found for sale. <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/documents/InvasivePlantListHandoutUpdated2024.pdf>

2024 is the first year that plant sellers must stop selling 30 of the 63 plant species on the Do Not Sell List and also the first year that signs (or tags) must be displayed in plain sight near *Rosa rugosa* (Rugosa rose, Beach rose, etc.) which is considered an invasive plant of special concern. It may take some time for all plant sellers to become familiar with the new Do Not Sell List and come into compliance.

We will follow up with the plant sales outlet you report on this form as time allows to inform them of the concern and determine what action should be taken.

Please do not try to enforce the rules on your own. We need to work with these businesses to continue a trusting relationship and gain their compliance with the rules.

Thank you for reporting to us.

Gary Fish, State Horticulturist, Sarah Scally and Carole Neil Assistant State Horticulturists

# Why Native Plants?

Native plants can provide beneficial insects with nectar and pollen.

May also help minimize reliance on pesticides and increase pollination.



# Beneficial Insect Requirements

Alternate host/prey

Shelter

Moderated microclimates

In-season refuges

Overwintering sites

Nesting sites

Food

Nectar

Pollen



# Native Plants

## Benefits

- Enhance native biodiversity
- Re-create imperiled habitats
- Not invasive
- Adapted to local climate
- Habitat permanency

## Disadvantages

- Greater initial cost
- May have longer establishment times



# Bloom Timing of Native Plants Attractive to Beneficial Insects

Native plant	Natural enemies	Bees	Bloom Period						
			May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	
wild strawberry	★★	★	█						
golden Alexanders	★★★	★★	█	█					
Canada anemone	★★★	★		█	█				
penstemon	★★	★★		█	█				
angelica	★★★	★		█	█				
cow-parsnip	★★★	★		█	█				
sand coreopsis	★★★	★		█	█	█	█		
shrubby cinquefoil	★★★	★		█	█	█	█	█	
hemp dogbane	★★★	★		█	█	█	█		
Lance-leaved figwort	★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
swamp milkweed	★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
Culver's root	★★	★★★			█	█	█	█	
cutleaf coneflower	★★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
meadow garlic	★	★★			█	█	█	█	
meadowsweet	★★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
yellow giant hyssop	★★	★★★			█	█	█	█	
horsemint	★★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
New York ironweed	★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
woodland sunflower	★★★	★★★			█	█	█	█	
false Indian plantain	★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
common boneset	★★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
blue lobelia	★★★	★★★			█	█	█	█	
thin-leaved sunflower	★★★	★★			█	█	█	█	
showy goldenrod	★★	★★★					█	█	█
New England aster	★★★	★★					█	█	█
smooth aster	★★	★★						█	█

**KEY**

★ good

★★ better

★★★ best

# Alternatives to barberry



Bohemian waxwing



**Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)**



Mining bee & green sweat bee



**Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*)**

# Alternative to Asiatic bittersweet, NATIVE Look-A-Like American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)



Terminal Inflorescence/Fruit

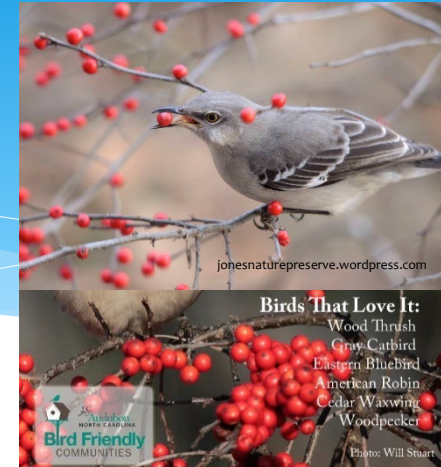
# Other alternatives to bittersweet



**Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)**

Cape May Warbler

Northern Mockingbird



**Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)**

# Alternatives to Norway maple



Lesser Maple Spanworm



Amy Ferriter-www.forestryimages.org

**Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)**



Cecropia Caterpillar



Paul Wray-Iowa State U

UGA0008379

**Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)**

# Burning bush aka winged euonymus *Euonymus alatus*

- Branching shrub can grow to over 10' tall
- Tolerates sun and full shade
- Opposite leaves
- Moist to wet soils
- Winged twigs



# Alternatives to burning bush

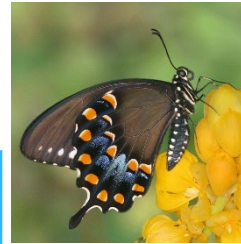


Yellow-necked caterpillar

NC State - HJB



Cheryl Matt



Spicebush Swallowtail



Chris Evans - UGA

**Highbush blueberry**  
(*Vaccinium corymbosum*)



Hort.uconn.edu

**Northern spicebush** (*Lindera benzoin*)

# Alternatives to wintercreeper

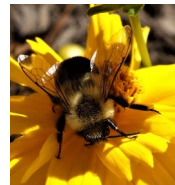


NCSU-Kathleen Moore

**Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)**



Cape May Warbler



Both are great for many bee species



Ruffed grouse



Phish Photography

**Partridge berry (*Mitchella repens*)**

# Alternatives ribbongrass



Silver spotted skipper

Photo by R.M. Gobeil.



Paradoxical grass moth

Copyright © 2011 [Richard Wolfert](#)



Cheryl Lowe. Copyright © 2024 New England Wild Flower Society.

**Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)**

Both are  
great for  
bird nest  
material



Phish Photography

**Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)**

# Alternatives to European mountain ash



Phish Photography

Bohemian waxwings



Red-banded hairstreak



Phish Photography.

**American mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*)**

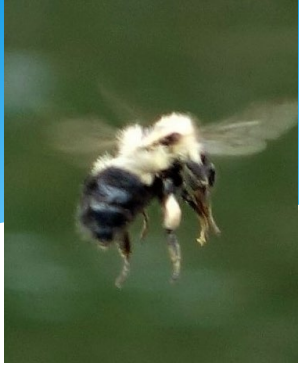
Both feed  
many  
birds and  
small  
mammals



Phish Photography

**Cockspur hawthorn (*Crataegus crus-galli*)**

# Alternatives to callery pear



Bumble bee



Spring azure



Phish Photography

**Canada serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)**

Both feed  
many  
birds and  
small  
mammals



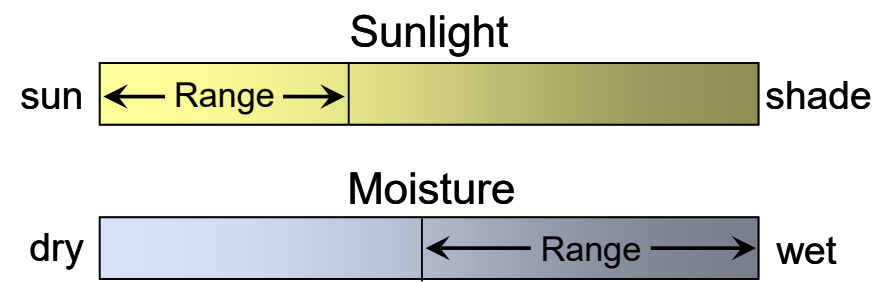
Phish Photography

**Pagoda dogwood (*Swida alternifolia*)**

# Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)



- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
chalcid wasps
- Bees: ★☆☆☆  
sweat bees and small carpenter bees
- Bloom: mid-late May



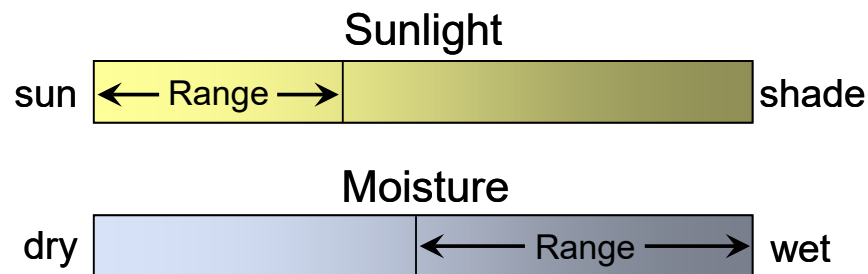
# Golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
chalcid wasps, robber flies

- Bees: ★★ ★  
yellow-faced bees, digger bees, sweat bees, and cuckoo bees

- Bloom: late May - mid June



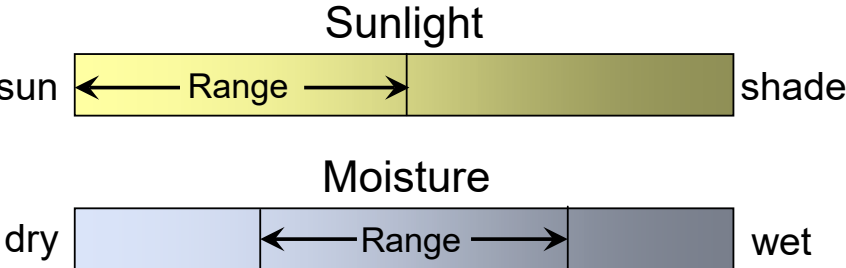
# Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
minute pirate bug, dance flies,  
chalcid wasps

- Bees: ★ ☆ ☆  
sweat bees

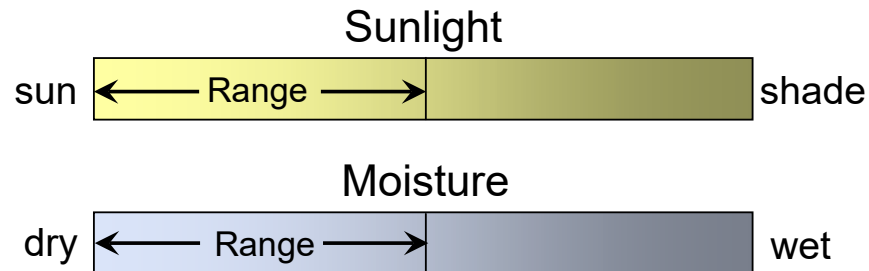
- Bloom: throughout June



# Penstemon (*Penstemon hirsutus*)



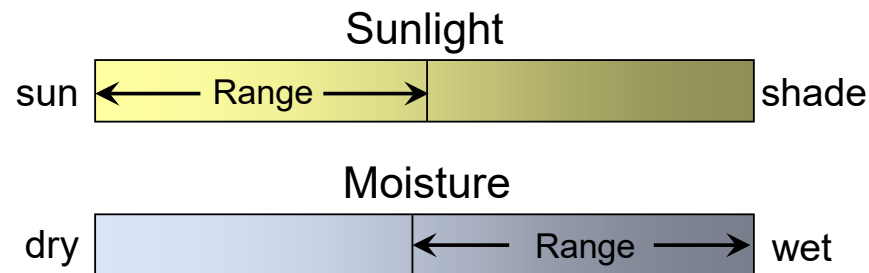
- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
chalcid wasps and minute pirate bug
- Bees: ★★☆☆  
large carpenter bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees
- Bloom: late May - mid June



# Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
bald-faced hornet, dance flies,  
minute pirate bug
- Bees: ★ ☆ ☆  
sweat bees
- Bloom: early June

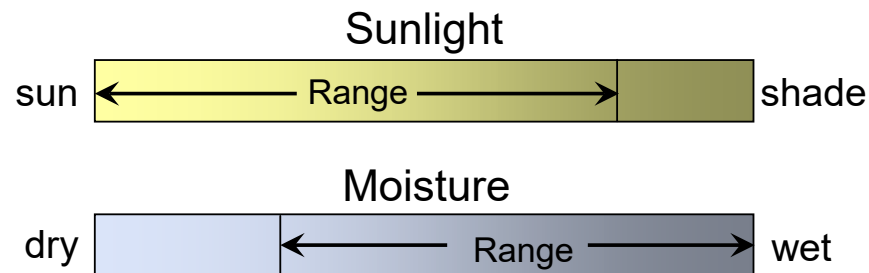


# Common cow-parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*)

This plant can be toxic and cause phytophoto dermatitis



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
yellow jackets and flower flies
- Bees: ★ ☆ ☆  
yellow-faced bees and sweat bees
- Bloom: mid June



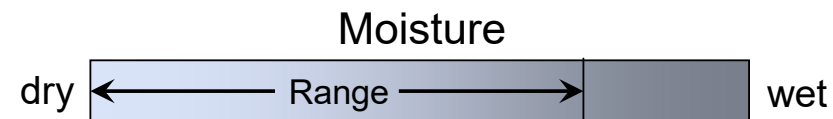
# Sand coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*) VA & WV native



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
jumping spiders, minute pirate bug  
and predatory thrips

- Pollinators: ★ ☆ ☆  
sweat bees, bumble bees, butterflies

- Bloom: June - August



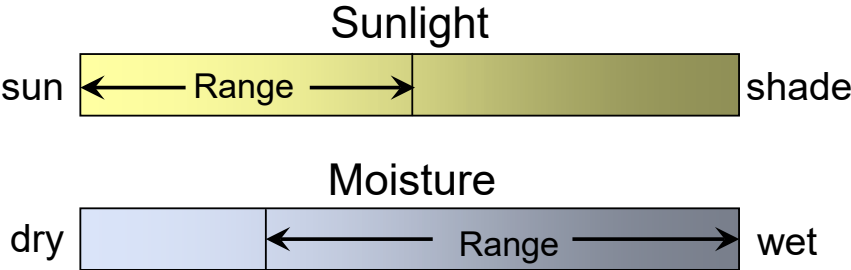
# Shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora floribunda*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
minute pirate bug, chalcid wasps, spiders, dance flies

- Bees: ★ ☆ ☆  
yellow-faced bees and sweat bees

- Bloom: July - September



# Hemp dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)

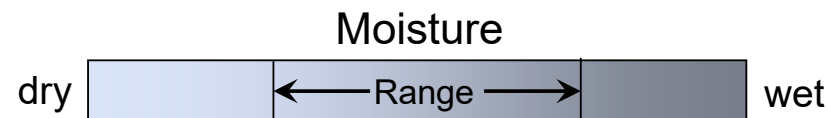
This plant can be toxic to people and animals



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
small milkweed bugs, chalcid wasps, crab spiders, lady beetles

- Pollinators: ★ ☆ ☆  
Butterflies, yellow-faced bees and sweat bees

- Bloom: late June - July



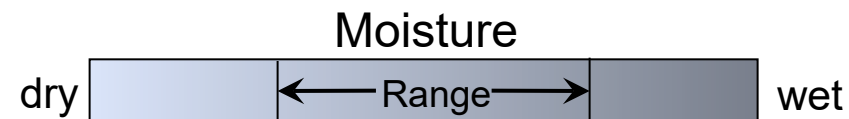
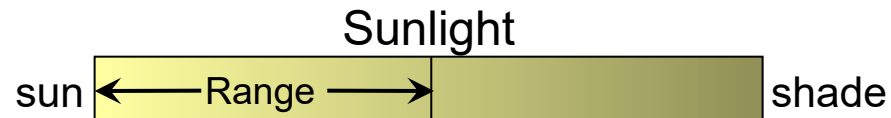
# Lance-leaved figwort (*Scrophularia lanceolata*)



- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
paper wasps, dance flies, flower flies, and ants

- Bees: ★★☆☆  
butterflies, mason bees, sweat bees, and bumble bees

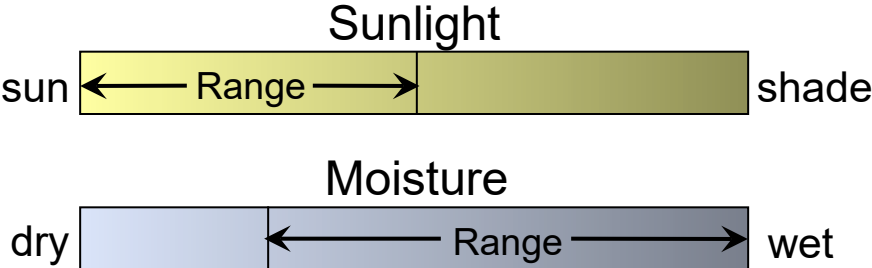
- Bloom: late July – early August



# Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)



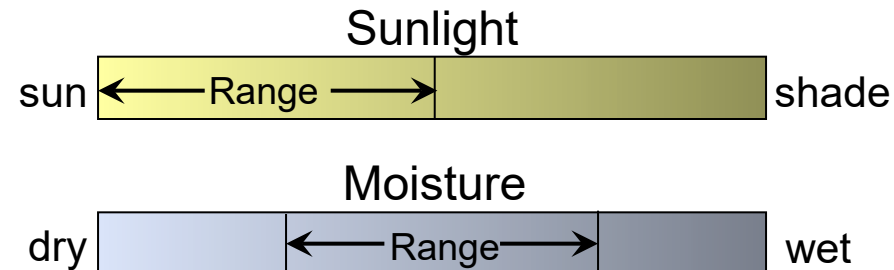
- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
chalcid wasps, digger wasps
- Pollinators: ★★☆☆  
yellow-faced bees, sweat bees, butterflies, and large carpenter bees
- Bloom: mid July – mid August



# Culver's-Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)



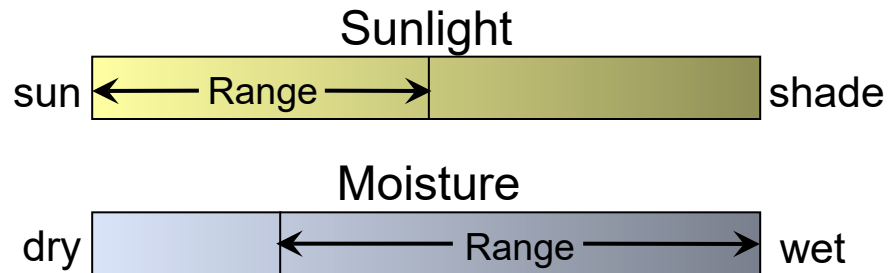
- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
minute pirate bug, flower flies, and wasps
- Bees: ★★★  
sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees; also highly attractive to honey bees
- Bloom: late July – early August



# Cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★ chalcid wasps, minute pirate bug, spiders
- Pollinators: ★★ ☆ sweat bees, digger bees, cuckoo bees, small and large carpenter bees butterflies, and bumble bees
- Bloom: late July - mid August



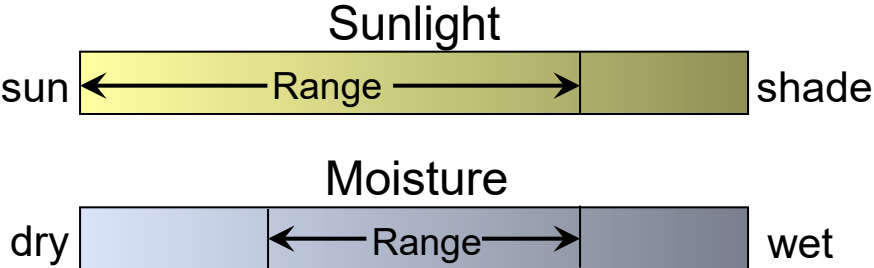
# Meadow garlic (*Allium canadense*)



- Natural enemies: ★☆☆  
minute pirate bug, crab spiders

- Bees: ★★☆☆  
sweat bees, bumble bees, and wool carder bee

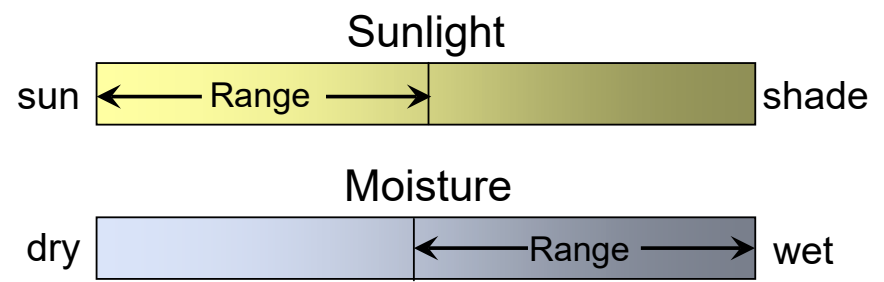
- Bloom: throughout August



# Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
flower flies, minute pirate bug and chalcid wasps
- Bees: ★★ ★  
yellow-faced bees, digger bees, sweat bees, and bumble bees
- Bloom: throughout August



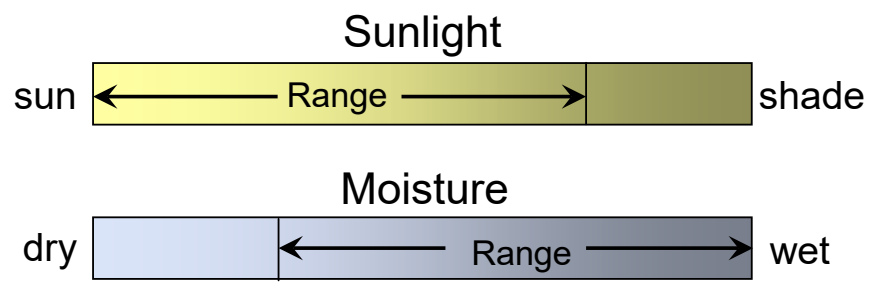
# Yellow giant hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*)



- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
 minute pirate bug, soldier beetles, spiders, dance flies, chalcid wasps

- Pollinators: ★★★☆☆  
 butterflies, yellow-faced bees, sweat bees, and bumble bees

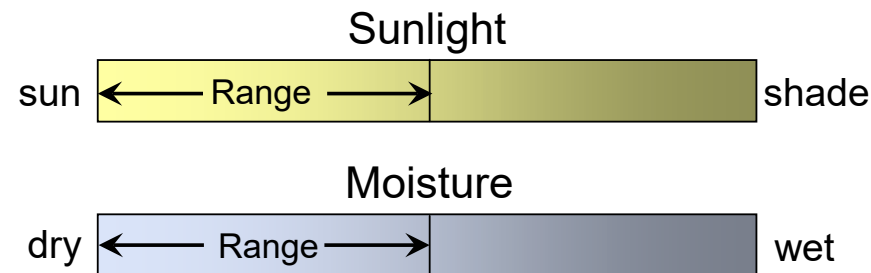
- Bloom: throughout August



# Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)



- Natural enemies: ★★ ★ mud-dauber wasp, soldier beetle, predatory plant bug
- Bees: ★★ ★ large carpenter bees, digger bees, and bumble bees
- Bloom: throughout August



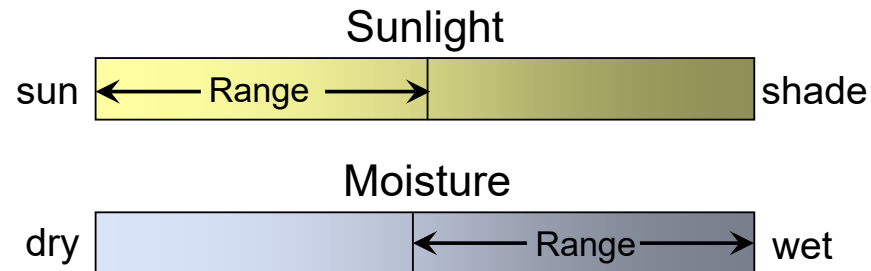
# New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) NE native



- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
flower flies, and chalcid wasps

- Pollinators: ★★☆☆  
sweat bees, leafcutter bees, cuckoo bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees

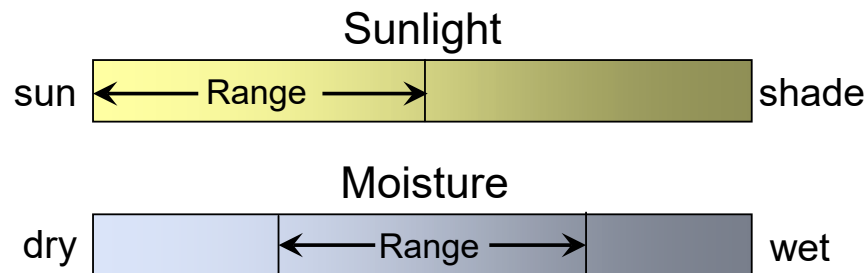
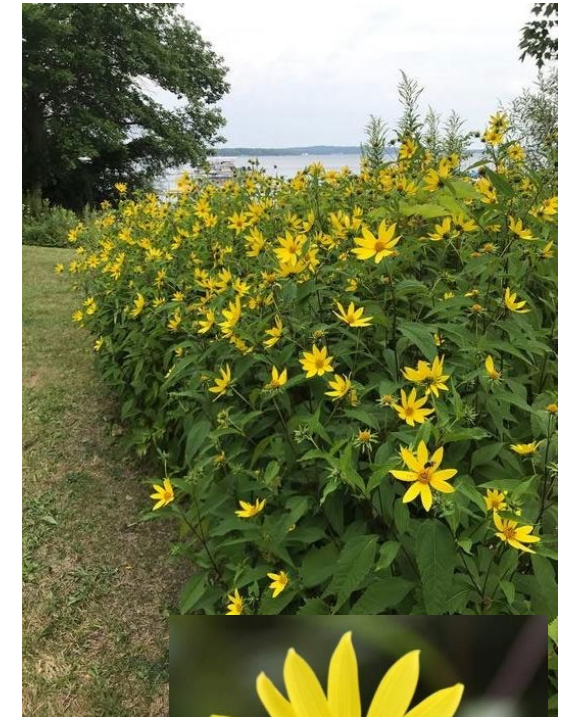
- Bloom: throughout August



# Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)



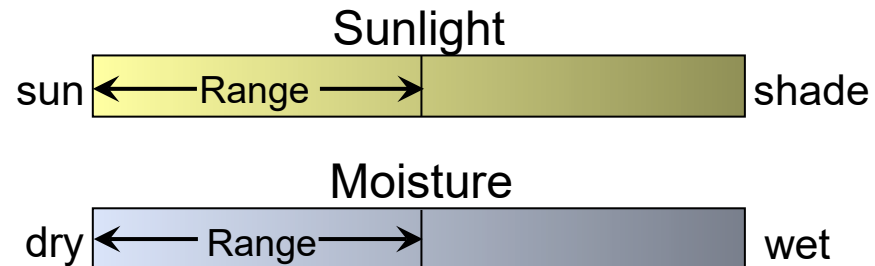
- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
chalcid wasps, minute pirate bug,  
soldier beetle, and flower flies
- Pollinators: ★★ ★  
butterflies, sweat bees, leafcutter bees,  
small carpenter bees, digger bees, and  
bumble bees
- Bloom: throughout August



# False Indian plantain (*Senecio suaveolens*) MA native

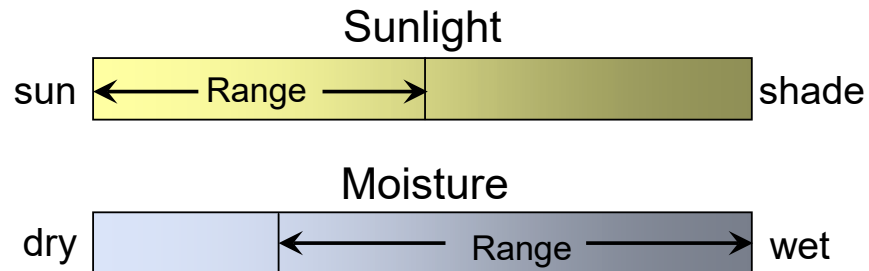
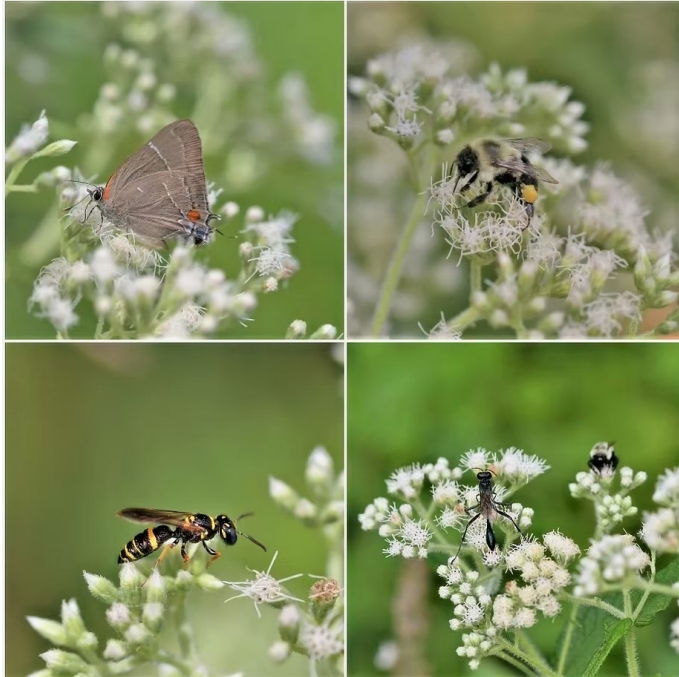


- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
minute pirate bug, chalcid wasps,  
soldier beetle
- Bees: ★★☆☆  
sweat bees, digger bees, and bumble  
bees
- Bloom: throughout August



# Common boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

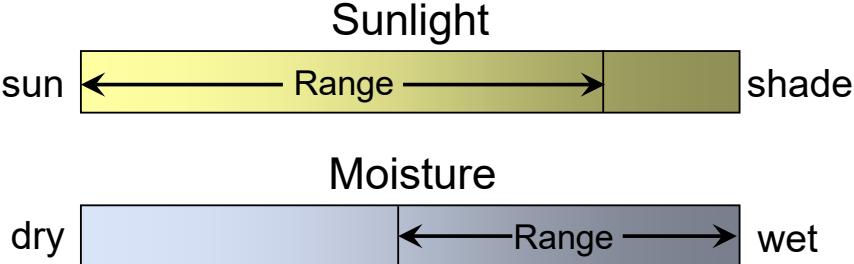
- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
minute pirate bug, predatory plant bug, wasps, soldier beetle, spiders
- Pollinators: ★★ ★  
butterflies, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, digger bees, and bumble bees
- Bloom: August – early September



# Blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)



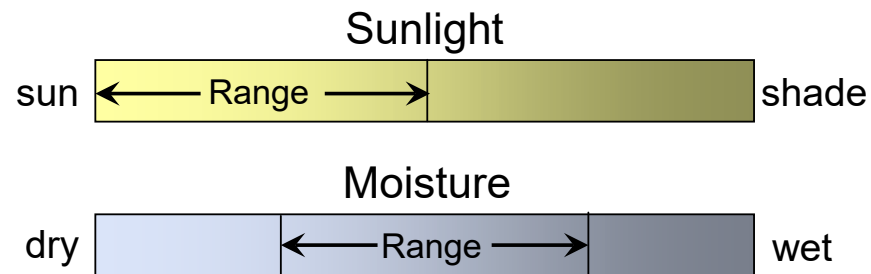
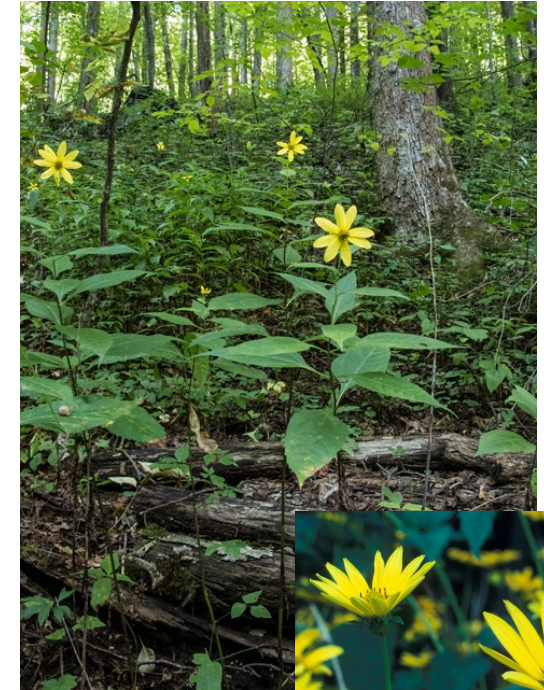
- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
minute pirate bug, chalcid wasps, soldier beetle, lady beetles, predatory plant bug
- Bees: ★★ ★  
yellow-faced bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees
- Bloom: August – early September



# Thin-leaved sunflower (*Helianthus decapetalus*)



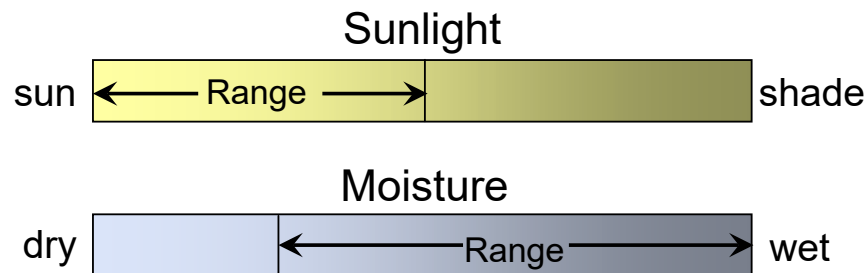
- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
chalcid wasps, soldier beetle,  
minute pirate bug, crab spiders
- Bees: ★★ ★  
sweat bees, digger bees, and  
bumble bees
- Bloom: July – August



# Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)



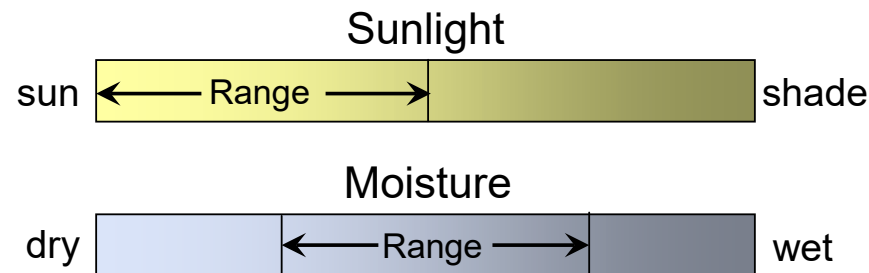
- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
minute pirate bug, chalcid wasps,  
paper wasps, lady beetles, and spiders
- Pollinators: ★★★☆☆  
butterflies, yellow-faced bees, Andrenid  
bees, sweat bees, small and large  
carpenter bees, digger bees, and bumble  
bees
- Bloom: August - October



# New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)



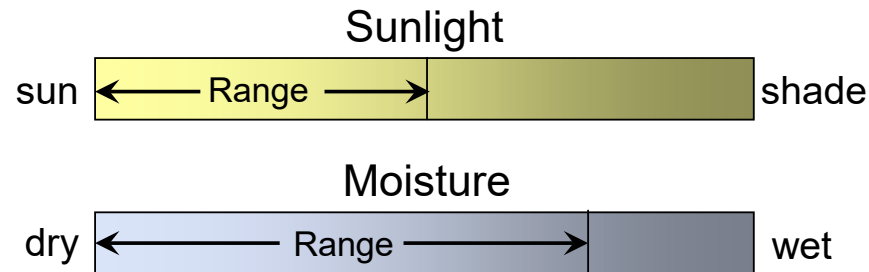
- Natural enemies: ★★ ★  
flower flies, chalcid wasps, and dance flies
- Bees: ★★ ★  
digger bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees
- Bloom: throughout September



# Smooth aster (*Symphyotrichum laevis*)

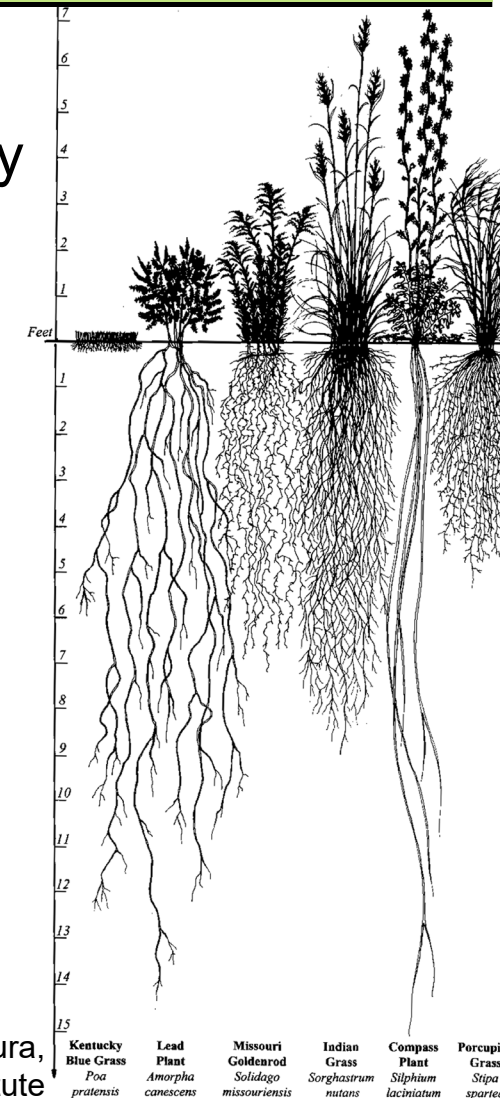


- Natural enemies: ★★☆☆  
minute pirate bug, spiders, and wasps
- Bees: ★★☆☆  
carpenter bees, sweat bees and bumble bees
- Bloom: mid September – early October



# Native grasses

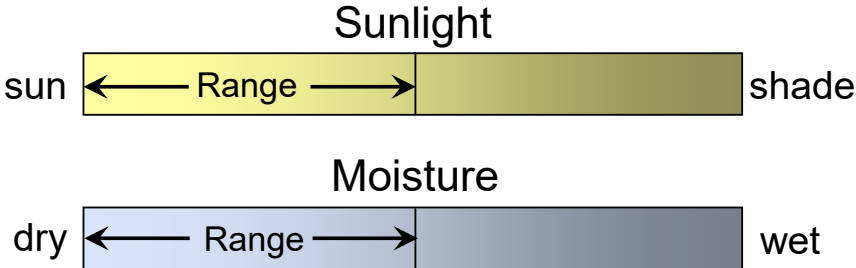
- Can be an important addition, where they
  1. Provide structural support for wildflowers
  2. Fill in gaps that wildflowers can't fill early in establishment, decreasing weed pressure
  3. Have root systems of different depths that complement wildflowers



Heidi Natura,  
Conservation Research Institute

# Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*)

- Attracts Wildlife  
Host Plant, Pollinators, Other Wildlife
- Tolerance  
Drought Tolerant, Deer Resistant, Salt Tolerant

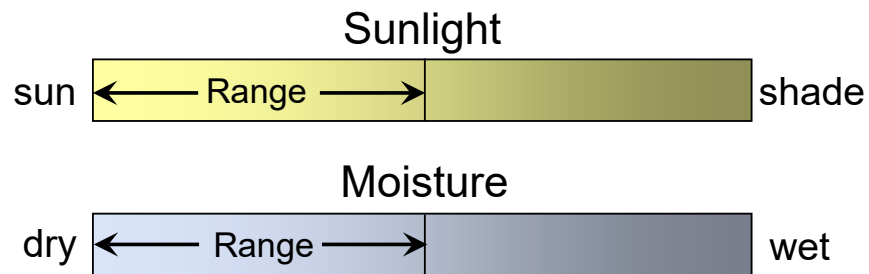


# Little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*)



- Attracts Wildlife  
Host Plant, Pollinators, Other Wildlife

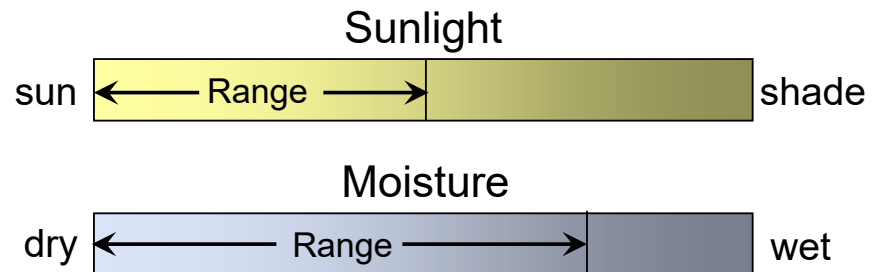
- Tolerance  
Drought Tolerant, Deer Resistant, Salt Tolerant



# Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)



- **Attracts Wildlife**  
Host Plant, Pollinator Powerhouse Plant, Attracts Songbirds
- **Tolerance**  
Drought Tolerant, Urban Environment, Salt Tolerant



# Where to buy & learn more

https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search

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ABOUT US

Welcome to Garden Plant Finder!  
Here you can discover plants native to New  
England that will thrive in your garden and meet  
your needs.

### Additional Information

- About Ecoregions, Cultivars and More

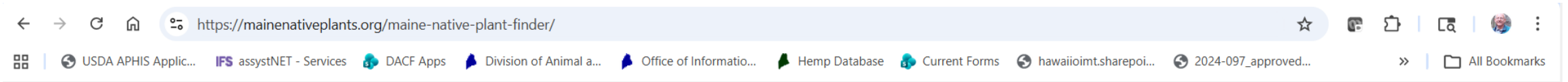
Search for plants by name using "quick search," or narrow your results based on plant type, flower color, [New England Level 3 ecoregion](#), exposure, moisture, bloom season, and even [cultivation status](#). Specify whether to show results that meet *all* or *any* of your search criteria by toggling the box at the bottom of the page. You can also use our search tool to access information about the full range of plants sold at Garden in the Woods and Nasami Farm.

Check out our [Important Definitions](#) page to learn more about ecoregions, cultivation status, and why certain plants are included in this database.

Note: This site is still under development, and is being regularly updated and improved to make it a more comprehensive resource. To alert us of site functionality problems, please contact [ulorimer@nativeplanttrust.org](mailto:ulorimer@nativeplanttrust.org).

Quick Search

# Where to buy & learn more



## Choose the Perfect Plant

Maine native plants provide the greatest benefit to wildlife. Click on any of the boxes below to filter plants based on different criteria (Bloom Month, Sunlight, Soil Conditions, Size/Plant Height, Caterpillars Hosted, and Wildlife Benefited). Combine your filters to find the perfect plants for you!

You can choose multiple criteria and the results will automatically update. You can remove filters too, by clicking on any of your filter items.

[Find out more about Maine Audubon's "Bringing Nature Home" project](#)

**Bloom Month**

All Months

**Sun/Shade**

All Types of Sunlight

**Soil**

All Types of Soil

**Size**

All Sizes

**Caterpillars Hosted**

All Counts

**Wildlife Benefited**

All Wildlife



# Where to buy & learn more



## Wild Seed Project

[About](#)

[Learn](#)

[Support](#)

[Events](#)

[Shop](#)

[DONATE](#)

Wild Seed Project equips community members with the resources they need to collectively restore native plants that expand wildlife habitat, support biodiversity, and build climate resilience.

Upcoming Events

# Where to buy & learn more

## Maine Native Plant Sources

[Androscoggin Valley Soil & Water District](#)

[Bas Rouge Farm & Forge](#)

[Crystal Lake Farm & Nursery](#)

[Eastfield Native Plants](#)

[Edgewood Nursery](#)

[Ellsworth Garden Club](#)

[Fedco Trees](#)

[Fernwood](#)

[Figwort Farm](#)

[Flora Maine Native Plants + Gardens](#)

[Honey Petal Plants](#)

[Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation](#)

[District](#)

[Maine Audubon](#)

[Marpa Farm & Nursery](#)

[Native Gardens of Blue Hill](#)

[Native Haunts](#)

[Northern Bay Organics](#)

[Pierson Nurseries](#)

[Radical Roots Nursery](#)

[Rebel Hill Farm](#)

[Ripley Farm](#)

[Rooted Elements](#)

[Sweetfern Maine](#)

[5 Star Orchard](#)

[Wells Reserve at Laudholm](#)

[Whaleback Nursery](#)

## Internet Native Plant Sources

[Prairie Moon Nursery](#)

[NorthCreek Nurseries](#)

[Blue Stem Natives](#)

# Acknowledgements

Bill Schneider and WILDTYPE Design, Native Plants & Seed Ltd:  
native plants and expertise

For more information: <http://ipm.msu.edu/plants/home.htm>



Funding:



For photos of native plants: contact Anna Fiedler

# Questions & Additional Resource Links



The screenshot shows the 'Got Pests?' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Find a Pest', 'Is it a Pest?', 'Solutions', 'Pesticides', 'Resources', and 'Ask the Experts'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search Got Pests' and a 'SEARCH' button. The main content area is titled 'Got Pests?' and includes a paragraph explaining that pests can be insects, weeds, fungi, mice, and other animals, and that it is important to know if a pest is an enemy or a beneficial/harmless plant or animal. There is a search box for the name of the pest and a 'Go' button. Below this, there are several categories for where the pest is found: HOME, LAWNS & YARDS, TREES & SHRUBS, FLOWERS, FRUIT, VEGETABLES, PEOPLE & PETS. There are also categories for what kind of pest it is: WEED, PLANT DISEASE, BUG, and OTHER CRITTER. On the right side, there is a section for 'Teaching kids to identify and manage pests?' with a link to 'K-12 IPM Curricula' and a 'Featured Links' section with several links to various resources. The footer contains 'Credits', 'Information', 'Pesticides Use', 'Connect with Us', and 'Contact Information'.



# Questions

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Phish Photography