

## Recommended Conservation Plants for Stabilizing Projects

Instead of using periwinkle to stabilize a site, (it's considered invasive in Massachusetts and Connecticut), try:

- Bearberry
- Checkerberry
- Creeping juniper
- Appalachian barren strawberry, or
- Lowbush blueberry



*Blueberry*



*Echinacea*

### Other Possibilities:

Lowbush cranberry  
Staghorn Sumac  
Wintergreen  
Virginia Creeper  
New York Aster  
Joe Pye Weed  
Echinacea  
Moss Phlox  
Black Eyed Susan  
Virginia Rose  
Bayberry

### ***Where can I buy these plants?***

Please check out our website:  
[www.yorkswcd.org](http://www.yorkswcd.org) for our updated sale list  
and ordering instructions as well as links to  
invasives identification and control.

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## Southern Maine Community Invasive Plant Control Project

### Could You Be Spreading Invasive Plants and Not Know It?

Have you installed a septic system recently where you had to dig into a bunch of “bamboo” type stuff? What did you do with that soil? Chances are you dumped it in a place where you needed some fill to bring up a grade...

Did you ever think that the “bamboo” might just grow back at that new spot? Well, it will and this is causing more problems than you may think. That “bamboo stuff” is Japanese knotweed, and it has made its presence known not only in Maine but throughout the Northeast. Today, it is the most prevalent invasive in New England.



*Japanese knotweed is just one invasive that is introduced through construction. It is easily spread through soil disturbance.*



Southern Maine has been booming with new development bringing opportunities for introduced species to make new homes.

Everywhere you go, knotweed and other invasives seem to be a contractor's nightmare. This booklet includes simple tips to keeping these invasives contained as well as some control options for established plants.



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## What Are *Invasive* Plants?

A non-native species capable of moving aggressively into a habitat and monopolizing resources such as light, nutrients, water and space.



### Some Terrestrial Invasive Species Found in Maine:

- Asiatic Bittersweet
- Autumn & Russian Olive
- Black Swallowwort
- Common & Glossy Buckthorn
- Common Reed/Phragmites
- Morrow & Tartarian Honeysuckle
- Garlic Mustard
- Japanese Barberry
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Japanese Knotweed
- Multiflora Rose
- Purple Loosestrife
- Wood bluegrass
- Norway Maple
- Burning Bush

### Why Are They Bad?

- Reduce biodiversity, creating monocultures
- Create poor wildlife habitat
- Displace native species and prevents forest regeneration
- Alter soil characteristics
- Difficult to control
- 79 species cost the U.S. more than \$97 billion annually. (TNC)



*Oriental Bittersweet*



*Purple loosestrife-it is establishing rapidly in wetlands throughout Maine.*

### Why are they so successful in our landscape?

York County acts as an invasive gateway to Maine. Invasive plant species often lack natural predators, diseases, and other pathogens that keep them in check in their native habitats. They have competitive adaptations including early leaf-out, aggressive reproductive strategies, and efficient dispersal methods. In many cases, they take advantage of disturbances, like road construction and maintenance, and establish themselves before native species can get a foot hold.

## Top Three Invasives & Control Methods

**Japanese knotweed**, sometimes called “bamboo”, is very hard to eradicate. It spreads through rhizomes (root fragments), so if there is any piece of root left in the soil, it will multiply. If you are removing soil from a contaminated site:

- Dispose of it at/or in an area that is relatively contained, or has an existing infestation.
- **Do not** bring it to a site that does not have a knotweed infestation.
- When removing knotweed stalks the best method of disposal is to burn them.

### **Oriental Bittersweet**

Is another invasive that is tough to get rid of. You have probably encountered it girdling trees while clearing house lots. It is very thick and smothers existing vegetation.

This invasive is easily spread by birds through the seeds, which can stay viable in the soil for several years. Control early before it takes over.

### **Japanese Barberry**

This invasive has been commonly planted as a foundation plant or garden accent.



*Japanese barberry*

Unfortunately, this one (even the red/purple varieties) is spreading into natural areas and causing the understory of forests to look like this:



What do you think this does for the deer that browse on the native understory??

### Control Options

#### **Chemical Control**

Consult the Weed Control Methods manual published by the Nature Conservancy at: <http://tncweeds.usdavis.edu/handbook.html> Please use caution when using chemicals and be sure to follow all label directions.

*Application of any herbicide in areas open to the public, as a government employee or under contract requires licensing through the Maine Board of Pesticides Control. To learn more about the licensing process go to [www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/cert/](http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/cert/) or call 207-287-2731.*

**Manual Control and Biological Control**, are other options. Hand pulling or repeated mowing are good ways of reducing plant vigor and reproduction. More information can be found on our website at:

[www.yorkswcd.org](http://www.yorkswcd.org)