

GREENING YOUR MIND ABOUT

THE DO NOT GROW INVASIVE PLANT & SPREADER SPECIES

An invasive species is “a non-native species whose introduction does, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human, animal, or plant health” (Executive Order 13112, 1999).* As our community garden is uniquely positioned within a conservation park, we are responsible for ensuring that invasive plants do not have the opportunity to disrupt and overtake the native foliage particular to the Shank Painter Pond wetland. Listed here are invasive or spreading plant species that are especially noxious and damaging to Cape Cod. As gardeners, we promise to remove the following weeds at the B-Street Garden should they sprout:



BAMBOO, *Bambusa*
Native to China, and can grow 15 to 40 feet tall; will swiftly spread through New England.



TRUMPET VINE, *Campsis radicans*
Woody spreader that will climb over everything in its path, growing up to 35 feet; has waxy, orange to reddish orange trumpet-shaped flowers clustered at the ends of branches.



GROUND ELDER,
Aegopodium podagraria
Has underground root system, making removal difficult; oval leaves have a strong smell when crushed; white flowers appear above foliage in the summer.



GARLIC MUSTARD,
Alliaria petiolata
Has stalked, heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves that smell like garlic when crushed; single plant can produce thousands of seeds.



JIMSON WEED,
Datura stramonium
Will grow up to 5 feet tall with 8-inch leaves and large white or purple flowers; is extremely poisonous, and spreads vigorously through spiky seed pods.



JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE,
Lonicera japonica
Twists its stems around vertical structures, including limbs and trunks of shrubs and small trees; leaves are oblong to oval, have short stalks, and occur in pairs along the stem.



MINT (ALL TYPES),
In the *Lamiaceae* family
Bilaterally symmetrical aromatic herb with serrated, veined leaves; common species are spearmint (*Mentha spicata*) and peppermint (*Mentha piperata*).



LADY'S THUMB (kin to SMARTWEED),
Polygonum persicaria (*Polygonum lapathifolium*)
Has purplish triangle in the middle of each leaf like a thumbprint; flowers range from greenish white to pink and cluster tightly at the ends of stems; can grow up to 2 feet tall.



MULTIFLORA ROSE,
Rosa multiflora
Thorny shrub with arching stems and leaves divided into 5-11 sharply toothed leaflets; has clusters of fragrant white/pink flowers; small bright red hips develop during the summer.



PURPLE LOOSTRIFE,
Lysimachia salicaria
Four to ten feet tall herb with whorled, lance-shaped leaves and magenta flower spikes in summer; has 30-50 stems growing from a single rootstock; outcompetes the native orchid and reduces habitat for waterfowl.

* Plant Conservation Alliance, “Alien Plant Working Group’s Least Wanted: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas.” *Fact Sheets*, 2 Dec. 2009, 7 Jan. 2010 <<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact.htm>>.