

Black swallow-wort
Cynanchum louiseae
 Milkweed family



Stem: single, non-branching
Leaves: simple, opposite, hairless, smooth
Flowers: June-July, purple to brown/black, 5 petals, fragrant, inner petals are hairy
Fruit: long, slender, green pods (similar to milkweed), turn dark brown when ripe
Seed: on silky filaments (like common milkweed) *pods persist through winter*
Reproduction: seed, rhizome
Control: Herbicide treatment May-Oct, cut & paint or foliar spray, an adequate surfactant must be used due to waxy cuticle on both leaves and stems

Pale swallow-wort
Cynanchum rossicum
 Milkweed family



Stem: single, non-branching
Leaves: simple, opposite, hairless, smooth
Flowers: June-July, maroon to pale pink, 5 petals, hairless
Fruit: long, slender, green pods (similar to milkweed), turn dark brown when ripe
Seed: on silky filaments (like common milkweed) *pods persist through winter*
Reproduction: seed, rhizome
Control: Herbicide treatment May-Oct, cut & paint or foliar spray, an adequate surfactant must be used due to waxy cuticle on both leaves and stems

Oriental bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus
 Staff-tree family



Stem: multi-branched
Leaves: alternate, glossy, finely toothed
Flowers: clusters of small greenish flowers emerge from leaf axils in May-June
Fruit: Clusters of 1-3 fruits attach at leaf axils along the stem. Green in early summer, becoming bright yellow/orange in late summer. The outer membrane splits in September and bends back, revealing a bright red, fleshy inner-fruit
Seed: 1-2 seeds contained in red fleshy fruit
Reproduction: seed, root-suckering
Control: Herbicide treatment June-Feb, cut & paint or foliar spray

Japanese knotweed
Polygonum cuspidatum
Buckwheat family



Stem: hollow, bamboo-like stems are erect and unbranched or with a few branches toward the tip, despite size, stems are annual and die back to rhizome at end of growing season
Leaves: alternate, simple, 4-6 inches long and almost as wide, dark green
Flowers: numerous small, greenish-white flowers that are produced in late summer
Fruit: shiny black, 3-angled, and about 1/6 inch long, enclosed in a winged calyx
Seed: plant is dioecious, most plants produce only female flowers, seed production will occur if there is pollination
Reproduction: rhizomes, seed
Control: Herbicide foliar treatment May-Sept

Lombardy poplar
Populus nigra 'Italica'
Willow family



Trunk: narrow, columnar
Bark: grey/green on young trees, black, thickened & furrowed on older trees
Leaves: alternate, simple, triangular shaped, serrate leaf margins, dark green
Flowers: inconspicuous red 1-2 inch flowers in spring (catkins)
Fruit: fruitless
Seed: fluffy white seed released from catkins, seed is generally thought to be infertile
Reproduction: vegetatively (root suckering)
Control: cut & paint, or drill & fill after leaf out when plant is actively growing
Notes: short-lived, usually suffers from canker disease

Japanese honeysuckle vine
Lonicera japonica
Honeysuckle family



Stem: branching (opposite), when young- pale reddish brown, hairy & flexible, older stems- yellowish brown bark, shredding in long, papery strips, hollow
Leaves: opposite, simple, oval to oblong, smooth, 1.5-3 inches long, DO NOT unite at base like native honeysuckle, often stay on through winter
Flowers: white to yellow in pairs at leaf axils along stems, bloom April-June
Fruit: purple to black, glossy, smooth, Sept-Oct
Seed: contained in fruit, 2-3 oval to oblong, dark brown, about 1/4 inch across
Reproduction: root suckers, seed & runners
Control: May-June, fire (propane torch) or herbicide foliar spray
Notes: Native honeysuckle vines have red/orange berries, fused leaves at branch tips & clusters of many flowers

Kudzu
Pueraria montana
Legume family



Stem: yellow-green, with dense, erect yellow hairs and matted silver hairs, older vines are woody
Leaves: alternate, compound with 3 broad leaflets up to 4 inches across, hairy when young
Flowers: reddish purple, grow on 6 inch upright spikes that emerge from leaf axils, bloom Aug-Sept
Fruit: brown, hairy, flattened, seed pods
Seed: pods each contain three to ten hard seeds
Reproduction: rhizomes, runners, seed, vines that root at nodes to form new plants
Control: Early season repeated cuttings through end of growing season, cutting does not typically kill roots and should only be used to control the spread of kudzu. Herbicide foliar or cut stump treatment at end of growing season (late summer/early fall).

Lyme grass
Leymus arenarius
Grass family



Stem: Blue-glaucous, hairless or nearly so at the summit
Leaves: evergreen leaf is blue-green, 12 inches long and 1/2 inch wide
Flowers: dense spikelets that are blue-green May-July and turn beige later in the year (Sept-Oct)
Fruit: brown, attached to the palea (one of the bract-like organs of a grass spikelet)
Seed: Arranged in a spike; 15-25 mm thick
Reproduction: rhizomes, seed
Control: Foliar treatment or bloody glove
Notes: Conspicuously blue in color and hairless almost to top; stand out from native dune grass which is green and finely hairy under the spike.

Phragmites/ Common reed
Phragmites australis
Grass family



Stem: upright, rigid, hollow, leaf sheaths tight to stem
Leaves: aligned on one side of stem, flat, smooth leaf blades, typically blue-green
Flowers: Dense branched clusters on bearded axis at the end of each stem; becoming open and feathery at maturity, produced July-Sept
Fruit: fruit is a tiny grain, hidden within tiny bracts and grouped into small clusters that are closely arranged on a large, wide, open-branched plume (or seed head), that changes texture from soft or watery to hard and drops from the plant
Seeds: have white hairs almost as long as seed
Reproduction: rhizome, seed
Control: Herbicide bloody glove or foliar treatment Aug-Sept
Notes: Stalks of invasive phragmites plants are rigid, rough, dull, tan in color, and hollow inside

Reed canary grass
Phalaris arundinacea
Grass family



Stem: erect, rounded, hairless stem with gradually tapering leaf blades
Leaves: flat, hairless, rough texture on both sides, 3.5-10 inches long and .25 to .75 inches wide, highly transparent ligule (membrane where blade and sheath meet)
Flowers: single flowers occur in dense clusters May-June, green to purple eventually fading to beige
Fruit: plume contracts and becomes light tan in color in the fruiting stage, fruit forms inside of plume
Seed: shiny brown, readily germinate after maturation (no dormancy period)
Reproduction: seed, rhizomes
Control: herbicide foliar treatment May-August and/or cut & paint June-August

Baby's Breath
Gypsophila paniculata
Carnation family



Stem: coarse, multi-branched, silvery
Leaves: narrow, opposite leaves, with a prominent mid-vein, grow 1 to 4 in long
Flowers: Plants typically flower the third year; flowers in June, small (1/4 in across) white or pink flowers form on diffusely branched clusters
Fruit: form mid-July, contain 1-5 black seeds
Seed: small, black, contained in fruits
Reproduction: primarily by seed
Control: Can be effectively controlled by manual removal. To ensure that the plant does not re-sprout, the root needs to be severed below the caudex, the point where the root becomes the stem.

Garlic mustard
Alliaria petiolata
Mustard family



Stem: smooth (though sometimes sparse with hairs), a single plant usually produces only one stem but may produce as many as ten
Leaves: (biennial herb) alternate, triangular to heart shaped leaves, coarsely toothed, give off strong garlic odor when crushed, first year plants appear as rosettes close to the ground, second year, stalk emerges from basal rosette
Flowers: button-like clusters of small white flowers, 4 petals on each flower
Fruit: slender green pods produced in May, become shiny black when mature
Seed: contained in pods, single plant can produce thousands of seeds
Reproduction: seed, can remain viable in the soil for 5 or more years
Control: pull in spring before seeds pop