

Caring for Your Land and Water

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES MANAGEMENT

FACTSHEET 26



What are invasive species and why are they a problem?

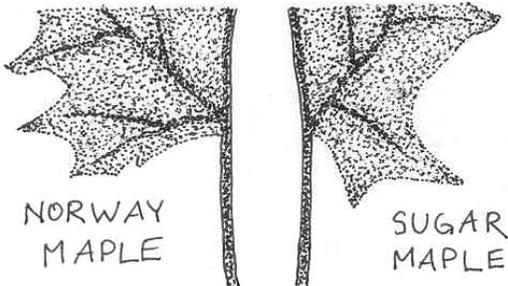
Any species becomes invasive when they decrease native species populations, which can lead to a reduction in native wildlife habitat and food. Common characteristics typical of invasive species include:

- Reaching reproductive maturity quickly
- Producing a high number of seeds
- A high success rate of dispersing their seeds, germinating and establishing themselves

As an introduction to invasive species Norway Maple, Garlic Mustard, European Buckthorn & Glossy Buckthorn will be discussed.

How can you identify Norway Maple and why should it be controlled?

At first glance, Norway Maple could be mistaken for Sugar Maple. Breaking off a leaf and looking to see if a white sap appears from the leaf stem can easily distinguish these two species. If this occurs, it is a Norway Maple; Sugar Maple has a clear sap. Norway Maple is an invasive exotic that forms such a dense canopy that it shades out all the groundcover, causing nothing to grow below it.



Action Steps

- Consult an invasive species list to identify and learn about invasives on your property
- Establish monitoring programs
- Implement selective eradication



How can you identify Garlic Mustard and why is it considered to be invasive?

Garlic Mustard has leaves that are alternate, long-stemmed and deeply toothed. Garlic mustard can be easily identified by its garlic-like smell when the leaves are crushed. When in bloom, they have clusters of small white flowers. Cutting the flowers off before they seed can help reduce its spread. Garlic Mustard is considered to be invasive because it can spread rapidly and can inhibit the regeneration of trees.

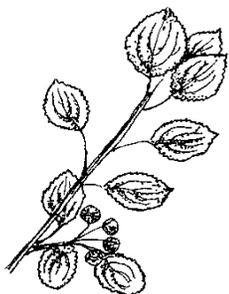
Garlic Mustard



Why is European Buckthorn considered to be an invasive species?

European (Common) Buckthorn is a shrub or small tree species commonly found in forests, fencerows, prairies and old fields. European Buckthorn can survive in a wide range of moisture and light conditions and can also spread quickly, causing it to shade out the native species. It usually grows to a height of 20' (6m) and has opposite, elliptical, hairless, finely-toothed leaves.

European Buckthorn



Glossy Buckthorn



Why is Glossy Buckthorn considered to be an invasive species?

Glossy Buckthorn is considered to be an invasive species because shades out the native species. The Glossy Buckthorn is a shrub or small tree species that produces a berrylike fruit known as drupes. Unlike the European Buckthorn, the Glossy Buckthorn is not toothed and has parallel side veins. The leaves of the Glossy Buckthorn are slightly larger than the European Buckthorn. Leaves of both species stay on the shrubs late in the fall, and remain green.

How can you tell the difference between Buckthorn and Dogwood?

To determine what species it is take one of the leaves, hold it horizontally and carefully pull it apart. If the leaf breaks apart completely, it is Buckthorn. If, on the other hand, there appears to be little strings holding the leaf together, it is a Dogwood.

Dogwood Leaf

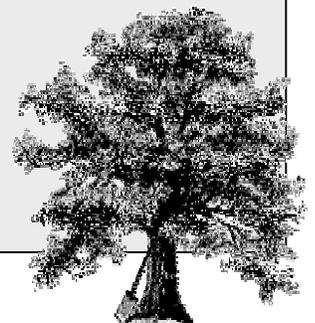


Who can you contact for assistance?

- Conservation Authority Forester
- Society for Ecological Restoration
- Canadian Botanical Conservation Network (CBCN)

Other relevant factsheets in this series include:

- Lawn Care
- Natural Gardening
- Planting a Tree



Scientific references available upon request