

A call to action for Vermonters by The Nature Conservancy of Vermont to restore Vermont's native habitats by keeping invasive plants out of gardens and backyards.

## What are invasive plants?

Invasive plants are those that are introduced to a new area, where, free from their natural competitors, they are able to proliferate and persist to the detriment of the native environment. Invasive plants can cause widespread harm by out-competing native plants, increasing erosion along stream banks, and providing less-nutritious food and insufficient cover for wildlife.

## Why do we need your help?

Most of today's worst invasive terrestrial plant species arrived as ornamental additions to gardens and landscapes. A key factor in keeping invasive plants *out* of our ecosystem is to place non-invasive plants *into* our landscaping. Vermont businesses with high visibility are great places to show what invasive-free landscaping looks like and will encourage homeowners to take similar action in their own backyards.

## What does becoming a WOW! Demonstration Site entail?

As a WOW! Demonstration Site you will pledge to plant and showcase non-invasive plants in your landscaping. By becoming "Wise On Weeds" you will show your dedication to keep Vermont's wild lands healthy and free from invasive species.

### Did you Know?

**42%** of federally listed threatened and endangered species are in decline because of invasive species. -- *The Nature Conservancy*

**85%** of all woody invasive plants known to invade natural areas were introduced primarily for ornamental and landscape purposes.

-- American Nurseryman, 1996



Garlic mustard, pictured left, was once commonly planted in yards and gardens. Now, it is found blanketing Vermont's forests' floors, keeping native wildflowers, like white trillium, from growing.

### WOW! Benefits

- A sign or sticker indicating that your landscaping is "Wise On Weeds".
- Mention of your organization's commitment to Vermont's environment through press releases, presentations, advertisements and other media events.
- Optional membership in TNC's Corporate Conservation Council of Vermont. Benefits include: Listing of your company on The Nature Conservancy's website and in the newsletter; Invitations to select Nature Conservancy field trips and events including the annual Corporate Conservation Council Luncheon; and a subscription to Natural Assets, a monthly electronic newsletter.

### Contact Information

The Nature Conservancy, 27 State Street, Montpelier VT, 05602.  
Sara Kuebbing Telephone: (802) 229-4425 Ext. 120  
Website: [www.nature.org/vermont](http://www.nature.org/vermont) Email: [skuebbing@tnc.org](mailto:skuebbing@tnc.org)

## Draft Code of Conduct

### Voluntary Code of Conduct for Demonstration Sites:

1. I will plant only non-invasive species in my gardens and landscapes.
2. I will remove invasive species that enter my property through unintentional incursions and replace them with non-invasive species, if necessary.
3. I will help educate my community by displaying a sign, sticker or poster declaring that my business, organization or school is a WOW! participant
4. I will direct interested patrons and/or colleagues to The Nature Conservancy of Vermont for more information about joining the WOW! movement.

### Voluntary Code of Conduct for The Nature Conservancy:

1. We will help Demonstration Sites determine what plant species are safe to plant in landscaping and where they can acquire these plants.
2. We will provide Demonstration Sites with a free consultation walk around their property to help them identify invasive species and determine the best management practices for those areas.
3. We will provide Demonstration Sites with the appropriate signs, stickers and posters to display on their property.
4. We will let Vermont consumers know of a Demonstration Site's participation in the WOW! movement through press releases, presentations and other media events.
5. We will offer an invitation to join TNC's Corporate Conservation Council of Vermont. Benefits include: recognition through advertisements in Vermont's major newspapers and publication, listing of your company on TNC's website, a subscription to *Natural Assets*, a monthly e-newsletter, and invitations to TNC field trips, volunteer days, and other events including the annual Corporate Council Luncheon.

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Name

Title

Business

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Robert Klein

Chapter Director

The Nature Conservancy of Vermont

## List of Invasive Plant Species

### Plants that should not be planted in a WOW! Demonstration Site:

1. *Acer ginnala* (Amur maple)
2. *Acer platanoides* (Norway maple)
3. *Aegopodium podagraria* L. (goutweed)
4. *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven)
5. *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry)
6. *Berberis vulgaris* (Common barberry)
7. *Celastrus orbiculatus* Thunb. (Oriental bittersweet)
8. *Elaeagnus angustifolia* (Russian olive)
9. *Eleagnus umbellate* (Autumn olive)
10. *Euonymus alata* (winged euonymus)
11. *Iris pseudacorus* (yellow iris)
12. *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)
13. *Phalaris arundinacea* (Reed canary grass)

### Plants that may unintentionally appear in a WOW! Demonstration Site:

1. *Alliaria petiolata* (*A. officinalis*) (garlic mustard)
2. *Fallopia japonica* (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) (Japanese knotweed)
3. *Lonicera x bella* (Bell honeysuckle)
4. *Lonicera morrowii* (Morrow honeysuckle)
5. *Lonicera tatarica* (Tartarian honeysuckle)
6. *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife)
7. *Phragmites australis* (common reed)
8. *Rhamnus cathartica* (common buckthorn)
9. *Rhamnus frangula* (glossy buckthorn)
10. *Vincetoxicum nigrum* L. (black swallow-wort)

#### How did we compile this list?

This is a composite of the Vermont Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Quarantine List and the Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Committee's Watch List for Invasive Species.

#### Why are burning bush, Norway maple and Japanese barberry on this list?

These three species are listed on the Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Committee's Watch List because there is potential they will become heavily invasive in Vermont based on their behavior in other northeastern states. By removing these plants from Vermont's landscape now, before they become invasive into Vermont's wild lands, WOW! Demonstration Sites are insuring that what is on display in their landscaping will stay in their landscaping.