

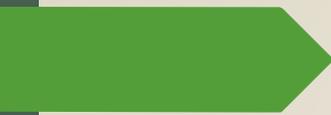


PROHIBITED AND INVASIVE PLANT LIST UPDATE

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What we're going to cover:

- Prohibited Plant List Refresher
 - Updates
- Prohibited Plants in the Nursery
 - Weeds
 - Plants for Sale
 - Exports

Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG)

- Representatives from government, conservation, academia, nursery industry, weed science, horticulture and agriculture
- Developed a risk assessment procedure to evaluate non-native plant species for invasiveness
- <http://massnrc.org/mipag>



MIPAG Invasive Plant List: Process

List compiled of non-native plant species thought to be invasive

Each species is run through the risk assessment, using over a dozen criteria, including:

Biology

Distribution in Mass.

History of invasiveness elsewhere

Species assessed as invasive, likely invasive, or potentially invasive are placed on the MIPAG list following a majority vote of MIPAG members

Prohibited Plant List

- In 2005, MDAR proposed creating a prohibited plant list using:
 - The MIPAG list
 - The USDA Federal Noxious Weed List
 - 140 species total
- In January 2006, MDAR began prohibiting the import, sale or propagation of these species
- MIPAG continues to evaluate new species, and periodically requests that MDAR amend the list
- To get the latest list, go to [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) and search for **Prohibited Plant List**
- (<https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>)



A close-up photograph of the Wall-lettuce plant, showing its characteristic deeply lobed green leaves and clusters of small yellow flowers. The plant is growing in a natural, wooded setting.

Prohibited Plant List – Recent Additions

➤ **Wall-lettuce** **(*Mycelis muralis*)**

- Listed in September 2024
- One-year phase-out period for existing stock (not an ornamental though)
- Can no longer be sold as of January 1, 2026

Photo: Gilles Ayotte

Prohibited Plant List – Recent Additions



Photo: Adobe Stock

- **Callery/Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)**
 - Listed in September 2024
 - Three-year phase-out period for existing stock
 - Can no longer be sold as of January 1, 2029
 - Exception for *P. calleryana* used as grafting rootstock for fruit trees)

Prohibited Plant List – Recent Additions

- ▶ **Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)**
 - ▶ Listed in December 2022
 - ▶ Three-year phase-out period for existing stock
 - ▶ Can no longer be sold as of January 1, 2026
 - ▶ Special exception for bonsai growers (not retailers)



Photo: Young, Wikimedia

Prohibited Plant List – Recent Changes



Photos: Adobe Stock

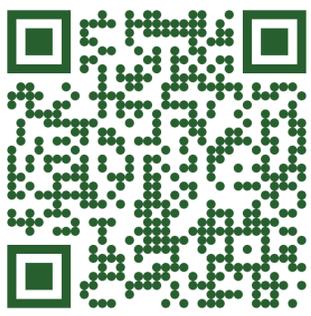


➤ **Scotch broom** **(*Cytisus scoparius*)**

- Listed in December 2022
- Two-year phase-out period for existing stock
- Can no longer be sold as of January 1, 2025

MIPAG Invasive Plant List – Recent Updates

- ▶ Black alder, European alder (*Alnus glutinosa*): Invasive
- ▶ Jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*): Likely Invasive
- ▶ Chinese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*): TBD
- ▶ <https://massnrc.org/pests/blog/?p=3583>



Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Blog

The latest info on plant pests, pathogens, and weeds

Have you seen this grass in Mass?



A triptych of images of *Miscanthus sinensis*. From left to right: Close up of fruiting grass (James Miller, USDA). A patch of *Miscanthus* gone to seed (Chris Evans, U. Illinois). A patch of flowering *Miscanthus* grass (Chris Evans, U. Illinois). All photos courtesy of bugwood.org

Miscanthus sinensis, a non-native grass species sometimes known as Chinese silver grass, is under consideration by the [Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group](#) (MIPAG) for listing as an invasive (or likely invasive) species. MIPAG is looking for additional documentation of this species in the

Prohibited Plants...In Your Nursery?

- ▶ Are you selling or landscaping with prohibited species?
 - ▶ Cultivars, varieties, or hybrids of listed plants are NOT allowed
 - ▶ Even if they look nothing like the parent plant
 - ▶ Even if they are labeled as “sterile” or otherwise appear to be unable to reproduce or be propagated
 - ▶ Species on the Prohibited Plant List cannot be imported into Massachusetts
- ▶ To get the latest list, go to **mass.gov** and search for **Prohibited Plant List**
- ▶ (<https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>)



PROHIBITED:

Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

- Used as a filler plant for containers, hanging baskets
- Often touted as a good ground cover for wet areas
- Sometimes sold for ponds, aquariums as an aquatic plant
- May be in your “fairy garden” section
- Golden-leaved cultivar ‘Aurea’ available



Photos: 7zz, Wikimedia; MDAR

PROHIBITED:
Variegated Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* 'Variegata')

- Sold under a variety of common and scientific names
 - Japanese fleece flower
 - 'Devon Cream' knotweed
 - *Polygonum cuspidatum* 'Variegata'
 - *Reynoutria japonica* 'Variegata'
- Tends to be compact, non-aggressive
- Plants are typically male-fertile and will cross with wild Japanese knotweed



Photos: MDAR; Alex Zorach, Wikimedia



PROHIBITED:

Fine Line Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus* 'Fineline')

- Also sold under different names
 - *Rhamnus frangula*
 - 'Fern Leaf'
- Cross between 'Asplenifolia' and 'Columnaris' cultivars
- Often touted as deer-resistant
- Low fruit production
- Cannot be sold in MA



(wild glossy
buckthorn)



NOT Prohibited, but...

➤ Bittersweet

- American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) is NOT prohibited but is often mistaken for Asiatic bittersweet
- Mass Wildlife advises against planting this near habitat where wild American bittersweet may be present



Photo: Krzysztof Ziarnek, Kenraiz, Wikimedia

NOT Prohibited, but...

➤ Bittersweet

- Artificial arrangements containing fake Asiatic bittersweet stems are often mistaken for real Asiatic bittersweet
- **(Wreaths or other decorations made with Asiatic bittersweet stems ARE prohibited if they include fruits)**



Photo: Factory Direct Craft

NOT Prohibited, but...

➤ Boxwoods (*Buxus* spp.)

- Federal quarantine due to the invasive box tree moth as of May 2024
- No export of boxwoods outside of Massachusetts without a permit from MDAR
- <https://www.mass.gov/box-tree-moth>



Photos: Hannah Nadel, USDA; C. McKernan; Ferenc Lakatos, University of Sopron



Not on the Prohibited Plant List, but still prohibited!

Black currants (*Ribes nigrum*)

- Alternate host for white pine blister rust
- Currant varieties labeled as “resistant” turned out not to be

➤ Red currants, Gooseberries (*Ribes* spp.)

- Can be sold **WITH A PERMIT** but only for planting in certain cities/towns
- <https://www.mass.gov/growing-red-currants-or-gooseberries-in-massachusetts>



Image: Adobe Stock

Prohibited Plants...In Your Nursery?



- Is your compost weed-free?
- Are your plant containers full of stragglers?
- What grows in the uncultivated parts of your property?

PROHIBITED:

Mile-a-minute Vine
(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

- Originally introduced to North America through nursery imports
- Still often found as a soil contaminant in plant containers, root balls



PROHIBITED:

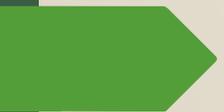
Mile-a-minute Vine

(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

- Can easily infest compost and fill piles
- Being spread through contaminated machinery/equipment



Photo: Adobe Stock



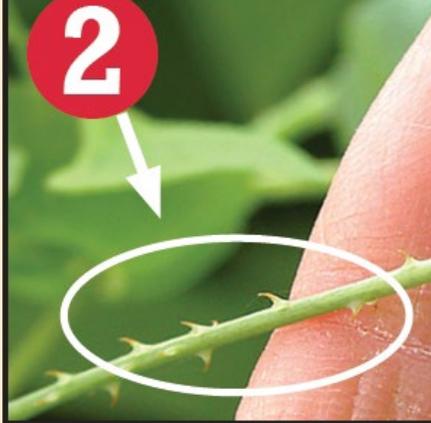
Mile-a-minute Vine identification

1



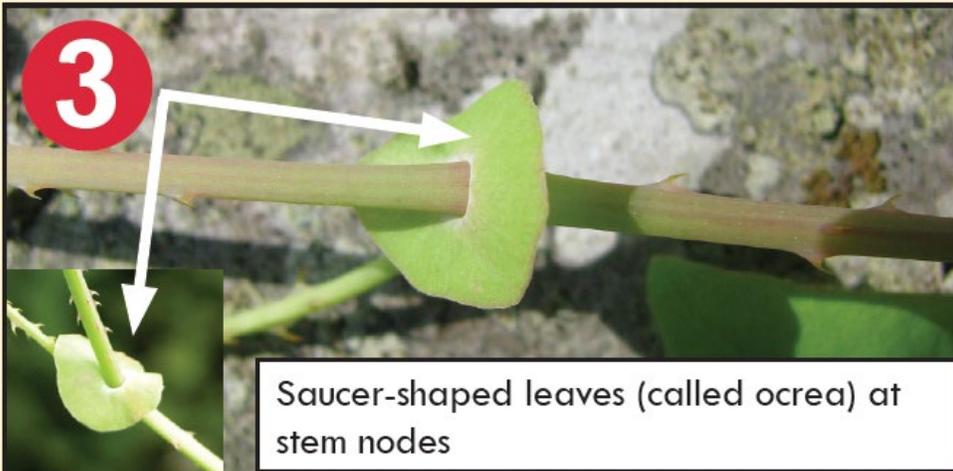
Triangular leaves
(often nearly equilateral)

2



Small curved
barbs along stems

3



Saucer-shaped leaves (called ocrea) at
stem nodes



In summer, MAM fruits ripen from green to metallic blue

Mile-a-minute Vine Management

► Management

- Hand-pulling
 - Good for smaller infestations, or in combination with other techniques at larger infestations
- Cultural
 - Keep fruits from spreading by acting before seed set
 - Avoid contamination of fill, machinery
- Herbicide
 - Pre-emergents (pendimethalin, sulfometuron, and imazapic) have been successfully used in some states
 - Triclopyr and glyphosate are effective post-emergents
 - **Caution!** Application near wetlands can be an issue



Photo: SERNEC

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



Photo: Ansel Oomen, bugwood.org



Photo: Richard Gardner, bugwood.org





Photo: Penn State Extension

tree-of-heaven is the main host plant for spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)



Prohibited Plants in Other States

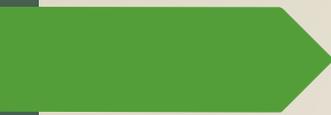
- Do you ship plants out of state?
- Do you have customers/clients from nearby states?
- Do you do landscaping work in other states?

- Every state has their own rules and their own lists!

Prohibited Plants in Other States

- Connecticut: https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/
- Maine: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/invasiveplants.shtml>
- New Hampshire: <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/invasive-plants.htm>
- Rhode Island: <https://rinhs.org/species/invasive-species/>
- Vermont: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/plant-health-and-pest-management/plant-2>

- **Connecticut:** Japanese and Chinese wisteria now banned
- **Maine:** bamboo, Russian olive, common privet banned
- **New Hampshire:** Common privet, European black alder banned
- **Rhode Island:** Has a species list but it is non-regulatory
- **Vermont:** Cannot sell water hyacinth without a permit



Summary/Quick Tips

- Make sure you and your staff are familiar with the species on the Prohibited Plant List (and the MIPAG List)
- Make sure any vendors you purchase plants/seeds from have a copy of the list
- If you ship to or do work with out-of-state partners, make sure you know the invasive plant rules/regs in that state
- Best management practices for invasive plants involves your whole property
 - Container contaminants
 - Fill piles
 - Compost heaps

Thank you!

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Monthly Pest Alert newsletter
massnrc.org/pests/signup.aspx

Pest Dashboard
bit.ly/MDARpestdashboard

Report a Pest
massnrc.org/pests

Order free outreach materials!
bit.ly/MDARpestmaterials