



Invasive Plant Pocket Guide

Japanese Hops
Humulus japonicu



Japanese Hops
Humulus japonicu

- Creeping vine commonly found along steam banks, flood plains, and disturbed soils.
- Leaves are simple and paired, commonly five to seven lobes, with serrated edges. Vine stems are covered in prickly barbs which can be irritating to skin.
- Flowers in July and August and produces overlapping “scales” which become hops. Seeds out in September.
- Can be hand pulled, but use caution because of prickly stems. Use foliar spray from late spring until late summer, best if done before seeds drop in September. Because it often grow near water, it is advised to use water soluble herbicides when treating such as “Rodeo”.

English Ivy
Hedera Helix



English Ivy
Hedera Helix

- Woody vine which grows in disturbed soils, and often around old buildings and home sites.
- Can be found smothering forest floor, climbs trees into forest canopy, and grows on walls and fence rows.
- Light to dark green leaves which are evergreen, can come in a variety of shapes from oval to 3-5 lobed.
- Flowers in late summer, and in fall produces small black berries which are transported by birds.
- Ground cover can be pulled by hand, vines on trees can be cut and treated with glyphosate. Can use foliar spray with a surfactant from late spring to fall.

Oriental Bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus



Oriental Bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus

- Woody vine which grows on forest edges, fence lines, and disturbed soils. Vines can grow up several inches in diameter.
- Alternate elliptical to round leaves, pale green in color. Produces green berries in summer, which turn red and yellow in fall.
- Often found growing inside tree tubes, killing small trees inside.
- Small vines can be hand pulled, make sure that roots are removed as well, or vigorous regrowth will occur. In summer months a foliar spray can be used, and cut stump methods can be used year round.

Kudzu
Pueraria montana



Kudzu
Pueraria montana

- Deciduous woody vine which grows on right of ways, fence lines, fields, forest edges, and stream banks.
- Leaves grow in clusters of three, the end leaf has 3 lobes and a short stem, the back two leaves have one or no lobe and grow straight from the vine. Produces a purple flower in late summer.
- Vines can grow up to 1 foot per day in ideal conditions, and 60 feet per year. Identification and treatment must be done quickly or the vine can be near impossible to eradicate.
- Can be treated in various ways, for small clusters grazing can be done or hand pulling. Any areas that are well established must be treated with a foliar spray in late spring and again in late summer, or use cut stump methods to kill off larger sections.

Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense



Chinese Privet
Ligustrum sinense

- Evergreen shrub that grows on forest edges and canopy floor.
- Oval dark green leaves that are opposite on the stem, shrub can grow up to 30 feet tall but typically ranges between 12 and 20 feet.
- Produces white flowers in early summer, and produces clusters of small dark blue berries that are present in later summer and into early winter.
- Can be hand pulled when sprouts are young.
- Larger plants can be treated with basal bark application, hack and squirt method, or cut and paint. Best to treat before the plant produces fruit in later summer.

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica



Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

- Evergreen woody vine that grows up fence lines, hedges, trees, and along forest floor.
- Pale to dark green leaves are opposite on vine, young stems are reddish and older larger stems are light brown and bark begins to peel. Vines can vary in diameter from 1/16" to several inches in diameter.
- Produces white and yellow flowers in the spring, may produce green berries which blacken towards end of summer.
- Small vines can be pulled by hand, or sprayed with foliar treatment. Large vines can be treated with basal bark application, or cut and paint method. Cut vines should not be pulled out of trees to prevent injury.

Multiflora Rose
Rosa multiflora



Multiflora Rose
Rosa multiflora

- Thorny shrub which grows in fields, wood edges, and disturbed soils. New chutes are green, while older ones become woody.
- Dark green serrated leaves, blooms white flowers in May, which become green and then red berries in fall. Thorns are “cat claw like” and are identified by their curve towards the base of the plant.
- Can be mowed back, but must be persistent and cut several times per growing season. Also young plants can be treated with glyphosate foliar spray. Larger plants can be treated with basal bark treatment. Will need to follow up for several years to ensure it is eradicated.

Tree of Heaven
Ailanthus altissima



Tree of Heaven
Ailanthus altissima

- Rapidly growing deciduous tree which can be found in any disturbed soils, forest edges, forest openings, fence rows, and road edges. It quickly over takes forest edges and right of ways by secreting a toxin in the soil to prevent competitive growth.
- Alternate leaves, which are 1 to 4 feet long. Has easily identifiable “snake skin” gray bark. Male and female trees produce flowers in summer, female trees can produce thousands of wind dispersed seed pods by fall.
- Combating this tree is difficult, because if it is killed too quickly it shoots up several chutes in the area of the killed tree. Best methods are to foliar spray small saplings, for larger trees use basal spray from June to January, or use hack and squirt method during the same time period. Not advised to use cut stump method.

Autumn Olive
Elaeagnus umbellata



Autumn Olive
Elaeagnus umbellata

- Medium sized shrub to small tree which grows up to 20 feet tall and 15 feet wide. Grows in all disturbed soils, forest and road edges, and fields. Several trunks emanate from each plant and have a gray brown color, older plants have rough bark.
- Leaves out before most other plants in spring, and have dark green leaf tops with silvery under sides. It produces a creamy white or yellow flower in spring, and by mid summer produce green seeds. Seeds mature into red berries by late summer and are consumed by many species of birds and mammals, making dispersal quite prolific.
- Mechanical control methods are not advised, since it and other invasive prefer disturbed soils. Use of foliar spray in early summer before seeding occurs can be done on small plants. Basal bark can be applied June through January and is quite effective. Best done before seeds to mature to prevent spreading. Cut stump method can also be used.

Japanese Stiltgrass
Microstegium vimenium



Japanese Stiltgrass
Microstegium vimenium

- Annual grass which grows prolifically in almost any areas including shady and well lit forest floor, fields, wet and dry environments. Releases a toxin in the soil which prohibits other plant life from growing.
- Growing 6 inches to 4 feet tall depending on conditions. Produces a slender light green leaf with a silver vein which grows 2 to 4 inches in length. Flowering occurs between July and October, and seeds from August to December. Seeds germinate the following year, and can stay dormant in the soil for up to seven years.
- Small batches can be hand pulled, but also mower or trimmed. This is best done in June before the plant flowers. Foliar application can be made with either glyphosate or with a grass specific herbicide. The concentration needed is small so native plants are often spared using this method. Spraying is best done in late summer before seeds are produced.

Johnson Grass
Sorghum halepense



Johnson Grass
Sorghum halepense

- Perineal grass which grows in pastures, right of ways, ditch lines, and most other disturbed soils. Reproduces through rhizomes and seeds making its removal difficult. Grows in large clusters which out compete native grass and tree species.
- Grass grows up to 3 to 10 feet tall, with up to 24" long leaves which grow directly from the main stalk. Seed cluster at the top of the plant is up to 12" long and has whorled branching stems.
- Control of this invasive grass is difficult because it reproduces through rhizomes and seeds. Most herbicides will only kill the grass and not the rhizome so the plant can still grow. Best methods to control Johnson Grass are to till the soils in the fall and bring the rhizomes to the surface and treat. Use pre-emergent herbicides in the spring, and use foliar spray when the grass is 8-12" high.