



## Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition

A cooperative partnership managing invasive species in Dickinson, Menominee (MI), Florence, Forest, and Marinette Counties (WI)

# Native Alternatives to Invasive Landscaping

The following are several options for native landscaping alternatives to invasive plants in northeastern Wisconsin. When looking for an alternative or replacement, gardeners should consider what desirable traits they are looking to replace (groundcover, showy flowers, bloom time, plant height, etc.) as well as the growing conditions they have (shade, sunny, wet, dry, etc.). Not all alternatives listed are suitable for all sites. Brief information is also included on control recommendations. For more details on control options, and state regulations, contact WRISC or visit the WI or MI DNR websites: [dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/), [www.michigan.gov/invasives](http://www.michigan.gov/invasives)

### Bishop's Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)

aka Snow-on-the-Mountain

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI

**Control:** No good recommendations. Can try digging to remove as many roots as possible, covering, or herbicide. May take a long time to remove.

**Native Alternatives** - Groundcover in shade

- Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*
- Violets, *Viola spp.* (several species, flowers in purple, yellow, and white)
- Wintergreen, *Gaultheria procumbens* (good in sandy acidic soils)
- Mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*
- Thimbleberry, *Rubus parviflorus* (works in sun or shade)

### Cypress Spurge or Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*, *Euphorbia esula*)

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI

**Control:** Spray with herbicide, do not mow or dig.

**Native Alternatives** - Colonizing in sunny and/or dry areas, deer resistant

- Flowering Spurge, *Euphorbia corollata*
- Whorled Milkweed, *Asclepias verticillata*
- Prairie Sagewort, *Artemisia frigida*

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI

**Control:** Hand pull small patches in spring before seed set, burn or bag and landfill.

For large patches spray with herbicide in spring before flowering and/or to rosettes in fall

**Native Alternatives** - Spring blooms, shade groundcover

- Trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*
- Canada Anemone, *Anemone canadensis* (several anemones, this is the best for hardy groundcover)
- Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*
- Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*

Any culinary herb is preferable to Garlic Mustard

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### Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI

**Control:** Hand pull small patches in early summer before seed set, burn or bag and landfill. For large patches spray with herbicide during flowering or to rosettes in fall.

**Native Alternatives** - Large colorful blooms

- Phlox (*Phlox spp.* several varieties, native and cultivars)
- Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*
- Jacob's Ladder, *Polemonium reptans*
- Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*
- Milkweed, *Asclepias spp.* (several species)
- New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae* (fall bloomer)

### Big-Leaf Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)

**Not Regulated**

**Control:**

Dig plants, cutting root 1-2" below top of soil. Mowing while flowering can also help. Use herbicide on large populations.

**Native Alternatives** - Showy flowers, sunny areas

- Wild (Sundial) Lupine, *Lupinus perennis*
- Spiderwort, *Tradescantia spp.* (Ohio spiderwort is the most common)
- Wild Blue Indigo, *Baptisia australis* (other species in white and cream flowers)
- Hoary Vervain, *Verbena stricta* (great for dry sunny areas)
- Blazing Stars, *Liatris spp.* (Several varieties for different looks and soils)
- Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*

### Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI and MI

**Control:** Small plants/infestations can be pulled/dug, try to get all roots fragments, dispose of all plant parts by burning or bagging and landfilling. Herbicide is also effective but permitting is required if near standing water.

**Native Alternatives** –

Showy spike-like flowers, sunny wet areas

- Fireweed, *Epilobium angustifolium* (Can be weedy/aggressive, good at filling in)
- Marsh Blazing Star, *Liatris spicata*
- Blue Vervain, *Verbena hastata*

Colorful flowers, sunny wet areas

- Joe Pye Weed, *Eupatorium maculatum*
- Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*
- Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis* (very showy flower, great nectar plant, short lived, may need periodic replanting)

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### Yellow Iris, *Iris pseudacorus*

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI, Prohibited in MI

**Control:** Pull/dig plants and try to get all roots fragments, dispose of all plant parts by burning or bagging and landfilling. Herbicide is also effective but permitting is required if near standing water.

**Native Alternatives** - Showy flowers, grows along shorelines/pond and water edges

- Blue Flag Iris, *Iris versicolor*
- Marsh Marigold, *Caltha palustris*
- Arrowhead, *Sagittaria latifolia*

### Phragmites and Miscanthus grasses, *Phragmites australis*, *Miscanthus spp.*

Several miscanthus species, most common is Chinese Silvergrass, *Miscanthus sinensis*

**Phragmites Regulated:** Restricted in WI and MI  
**Miscanthus Not Regulated**

**Control:** Herbicide is needed for effective control. Danger of spreading plant if cut during growing season or digging. If near standing water permitting is required.

**Native Alternatives** – Ornamental Grasses

- Big Bluestem (tall grass, nice fall colors)
- Indian Grass, *Sorghastrum nutans* (tall grass, naturally clump-forming)
- Prairie Dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis* (shorter, but very showy and clump-forming)
- Prairie Cordgrass, *Spartina pectinate* (tall grass, good for wet areas)
- Sideoats Grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula* (shorter, but showy flowers/seeds)

### Japanese Knotweed, *Fallopia japonica* or *Polygonum cuspidatum*

**Regulated:** Restricted in WI, Prohibited in MI

**Control:** Herbicide is needed for effective control. Danger of spreading plant if cut during growing season or digging. If near standing water permitting may be required.

**Native Alternatives**

- Dogwoods (Red osier, Alternate leaf, Round leaf, Grey)
- Solomon's Plume, *Smilacina racemose* (very short perennial, but similar plume flowers)
- Thimbleberry, *Rubus parviflorus* (shorter, but very large leaves)
- Spikenard, *Aralia racemose* (might not form a hedge, but is a large showy plant)
- Nannyberry, *Viburnum lentago* (plant alone or hedge, very cold tolerant)

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### Invasive Woody Shrubs:

Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Eurasian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

**Regulated:** All species are Restricted in WI, although some exemptions for select barberry cultivars.

**Control:** Control for all of these species is generally the same. Small seedlings can be hand pulled. Larger plants can be dug or weed wrenched if able. If cutting larger plants apply concentrated herbicide to cut stem after cutting (not effective in spring). Can also use foliar herbicide.

### Native Alternatives

- Northern Bush Honeysuckle, *Diervilla lonicera* (there is also another native bush honeysuckle, and native vines)
- Dogwoods (Red osier, Alternate leaf, Round leaf, Grey)
- Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana* (unique plant, can grow in shaded areas, blooms in fall and keeps blooms into November)
- Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius*
- Maple Leaf Viburnum, *viburnum acerifolium*
- Nannyberry, *Viburnum lentago* (plant alone or hedge, very cold tolerant)
- American Hazelnut, *Corylus Americana*
- New Jersey Tea, *Ceanothus americanus* (more compact shrub with showy blooms)

### Plants with showy berries

- High Bush Cranberry, *Viburnum Trilobum*
- Winterberry Holly, *Ilex verticillata* (Bright red berries stay into winter, good for wet areas)
- Pin Cherry, *Prunus pennsylvanica* or Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana* (Large bush to small tree)
- Elderberries, *Sambucus spp.*
- Staghorn Sumac, *Rhus typhina* (and other species, tall and showy, can be aggressive and need lots of room)

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### Native Plant Suppliers

The following is a list of known sellers of native plants listed above. This is not a comprehensive list and there may additional vendors locally. In addition, several gardening groups conduct spring plant sales, advertised locally. Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement of any particular supplier or vendor by WRISC, and does not imply that native plants are the only plants sold by the vendors.

#### **Prairie Nursery**

Westfield, WI

Orders available online and via catalog, or in store

[www.prairienursery.com](http://www.prairienursery.com)

#### **Prairie Moon Nursery**

Winona, MN

Orders available online and via catalog

[www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com)

#### **Hanson's Garden Village**

Rhineland, WI

In store, catalog, some items also online

[www.hansonsgardenvillage.com](http://www.hansonsgardenvillage.com)

#### **Dickinson Conservation District**

Kingsford, MI

Spring tree/shrub sale followed by wildflower sale

Order online, phone, and via paper form.

Scheduled pick-ups, no shipping

Contact to be put on plant sale mailing list

[www.dickinsoncd.org](http://www.dickinsoncd.org)

#### **Menominee Conservation District**

Stephenson, MI

Spring tree/shrub sale

Order online, phone, and via paper form.

Scheduled pick-ups, no shipping

Contact to be put on plant sale mailing list

[www.menomineecd.com](http://www.menomineecd.com)

#### **Iron Conservation District**

Crystal Falls, MI

Spring tree/shrub sale

Order online, phone, and via paper form.

Scheduled pick-ups, no shipping

Contact to be put on plant sale mailing list

[www.ironcd.org](http://www.ironcd.org)

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