

# KEEP A LOOKOUT

## for New **INVASIVE PLANTS** in the Midwest!



*These species could be spreading in your area; **early detection and eradication** can prevent an invasion.*

Current Midwest general distribution, including southern Ontario  Not Known  Isolated  Locally Abundant  Widespread



**BLACK SWALLOW-WORT**



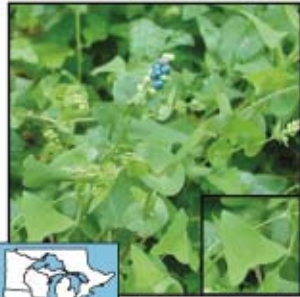
**PALE SWALLOW-WORT**



**JAPANESE HOPS**



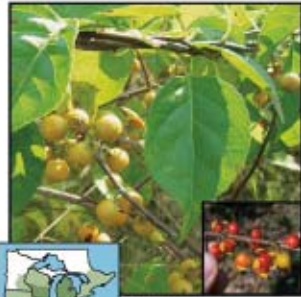
**KUDZU**



**MILE-A-MINUTE WEED**



**CHINESE YAM**



**ASIAN BITTERSWEET**



**TREE OF HEAVEN**



**JAPANESE KNOTWEED**



**JAPANESE STILT GRASS**



**SPOTTED KNAPWEED**



**CUT-LEAVED TEASEL**



**GIANT HOGWEED**



**JAPANESE HEDGE PARSLEY**



**LEAFY SPURGE**



**FLOWERING RUSH**

To report a sighting, please contact: [www.mipn.org/EDRRContacts.html](http://www.mipn.org/EDRRContacts.html)

# New INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest



**BLACK SWALLOW-WORT** (*Cynanchum louiseae*) Herbaceous, perennial **vine** twines 3 – 8 feet high. **Leaves** opposite, 2 – 5 inches long, toothless, narrowly to broadly oval, pointed tips, dark green and shiny. **Flowers** tiny, dark purple with 5 pointed, downy, triangular petals that are as long as wide. **Seedpods** milkweed-like, slender and tapered, 1.5 – 3 inches long. **Seed** on silky filaments. Threatens woodlands, forests, grasslands and savannas.

**PALE SWALLOW-WORT** (*Cynanchum rossicum*) Herbaceous, perennial **vine** twines 3 – 6 feet high. **Leaves** opposite (similar to black swallow-wort). **Flowers** maroon to pink with 5 pointed, hairless, triangular petals that are twice as long as wide. **Seedpods** milkweed-like (similar to black swallow-wort). **Seed** on silky filaments. Threatens woodlands, forests, grasslands and savannas.

**JAPANESE HOPS** (*Humulus japonicus*) Herbaceous annual **vine** twines counter-clockwise. **Leaves** opposite, 2 – 5 inches long, toothed, palmately divided usually with 5 lobes. **Leaf stem** as long or longer than leaf length. **Leaves** and **stem** with hooked climbing hairs. **Flowers** mid to late summer, male and female flowers on separate plants. Threatens floodplains, wet forests, stream banks and lakeshores in sun or shade.

**KUDZU** (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*) Semiwoody, perennial **vine** climbs 30 – 90 feet. **Leaves** alternate, compound with 3 unlobed to deeply lobed leaflets, hairy beneath and up to 4 inches wide. **Flowers** purple, pea-like, grow from leaf axils in long hanging clusters, bloom in late summer. **Seedpods** brown, flattened and hairy. Threatens forest edges, woodlands and savannas.

**MILE-A-MINUTE WEED** (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) Annual, herbaceous **vine** that climbs to 15 feet tall. **Stem** with hooked barbs and circular, cup-shaped, leafy structures around the stem at nodes. **Leaves** alternate, shaped like an equilateral triangle with barbs on undersides, leaf bases arrow- to heart-shaped. **Flowers** small, white and inconspicuous. **Fruit** a fleshy, blue, pea-sized berry. Threatens woodland edges, wetlands and riparian corridors.

**CHINESE YAM** (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*) Herbaceous, perennial **vine** twines clockwise, climbs to 15 feet. **Leaves** opposite, upper nodes alternate, reddish where leaf stem joins leaf, variable shape often shield- or heart-shaped. **Flowers** small and white, cinnamon odor, arranged in spikes. Reproductive **bulbils** (small potato-like tubers in leaf axils) present June – September. Threatens stream sides, floodplains and ravines.

**ASIAN BITTERSWEET** (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) Woody, perennial **vine**. **Leaves** alternate, toothed, teardrop-shaped to round with a pointed tip. **Flowers** small and greenish yellow, male and female flowers on separate plants, bloom early summer, fruit in fall. **Fruit** greenish to yellow, grows in clusters of 3 – 7 along stem at leaf axils, splits open to reveal bright red inner-fruit. Threatens woodlands, forests, floodplains, savannas and riparian corridors.

**TREE OF HEAVEN** (*Ailanthus altissima*) Deciduous **tree** grows to 80 feet. **Stems** smooth, pale gray bark. **Leaves** alternate, 1 – 4 feet long, compound with 11 – 25 leaflets with 1 or more glandular teeth near the leaf base. **Flowers** yellow-green, near branch tips, male and female flowers on separate trees. **Seeds** in twisted flat "wings" borne in clusters. All parts of the tree have a strong odor. Threatens woodland edges and forest openings.

**JAPANESE KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) Perennial herb with **shrub-like** form grows 3 – 9 feet. **Stem** hollow, bamboo-like with swollen leaf joints. **Leaves** 6 inches long, 3 – 4 inches wide, leaf base straight across to bluntly right angled. **Flowers** white to pink and densely crowded on erect stalks. Threatens riparian corridors, fens, springs, ravines, forests and streamsides.

**JAPANESE STILT GRASS** (*Microstegium vimineum*) Annual, sprawling **grass**, 12 – 24 inches tall, resembling miniature bamboo. **Leaves** wide, alternate, pale green, lance-shaped, 2 – 3 inches long, pale silvery stripe of reflective hairs along midrib of upper surface. **Flower spikes** 1 – 3 inches long, bloom late summer into early fall, prolific seed production. Threatens river and stream corridors, floodplains, moist woodlands and forested wetlands.

**SPOTTED KNAPWEED** (*Centaurea biebersteinii*) Short-lived, perennial **herb**. First-year plants form low-growing rosettes. Flowering **stems** leafy, 1 – 2 feet tall with wiry, hoary branches. **Leaves** grayish, hairy, deeply cut with narrow lobes. **Flowers** thistle-like, pink to purple. Flower base covered by black-tipped bracts. Threatens savannas, grasslands, sand dunes and prairies.

**CUT-LEAVED TEASEL** (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) Perennial **herb**, flowers once then dies. First year forms a low-growing rosette; second or third year produces a 2 – 6 foot stem. **Leaves** on stem opposite, long, deeply cut, prickly, joined into a cup around stalk. **Stem** ridged and spiny. **Flowers** small and white in oval-shaped heads atop stems, bloom summer into fall. Threatens prairies and sedge meadows. **Common teasel** (*D. fullonum*) similar and invasive but with purple flowers, leaves not deeply cut.

**GIANT HOGWEED** (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) Large perennial **herb**, flowers once then dies. First year is a single leaf, then grows a larger rosette each year. In fourth or fifth year produces a 7 – 15 foot flower stalk. **Leaves** 3-part compound, 1 – 4 feet wide, deeply incised and pointed. **Flowers** white in multiple broad domed umbels. **Flower stalk** hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple splotching. Threatens river corridors and woodland edges. **Caution! Plant sap causes severe photodermatitis.**

**JAPANESE HEDGE PARSLEY** (*Torilis japonica*) Biennial **herb** grows 2 – 4 feet tall when flowering in second year. First-year rosettes are low, parsley-like and green into fall. **Leaves** alternate, fern-like, 2 – 5 inches long, slightly hairy. **Flowers** tiny and white, clustered in small flat-topped umbels. **Fruit** small and covered with hooked hairs. Threatens woodlands and savannas. **Spreading hedge parsley** (*T. arvensis*) is very similar and invasive.

**LEAFY SPURGE** (*Euphorbia esula*) Perennial **herb** grows 2 – 3 feet. Milky sap in stem and leaves. **Leaves** alternate, narrow with pointed tips, smooth and hairless. **Flowers** on paired, yellowish green cup-shaped bracts. Bracts in clusters of 7 – 10 at top of stem, bloom late spring to mid summer. **Seedpods** attach to center of paired bracts. Threatens prairies, grasslands, savannas, sand dunes and open woodlands.

**FLOWERING RUSH** (*Butomus umbellatus*) Perennial, emergent **aquatic herb** (can be submerged in deep water). Emergent **leaves** 3 feet tall, stiff, narrow and triangular in cross-section. **Flowers** 3 petals and 3 sepals, white or pink, distinctive flat-topped spray atop a tall stalk, bloom late summer through early fall. Prefers shallow or slow-moving water. Threatens marshes, backwaters and shorelines.

**For control and management of these species, please visit the following Web sites:**

[www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm), [tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/control.html](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/control.html), [dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.htm) and [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml)

Photos: Elizabeth Czarapata; Antonio DiTommaso, Cornell Univ.; David Eagan, Univ. of WI; Kate Howe, MIPN; Emmet Judziewicz, Univ. of WI-Stevens Point; Kelly Kearns, WI-DNR; Larissa L. Smith, Cornell Univ.; Debbie Maurer, IL-LCFPD; Jody Shimp, IL-IDNR; Bill Smith, WI-DNR. *Taxonomy*: based on USDA PLANTS Database, [www.plants.usda.gov](http://www.plants.usda.gov)

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