

How do invasive plants get in our gardens?

Some invasive plants have ornamental or medicinal value and are still being sold in nurseries and greenhouses in and outside of Alaska. As gardeners, we may plant these invasives without knowing their growth habit and, once established, they can displace native and desirable vegetation in gardens and in natural areas. Invasive plants can spread by hitchhiking on clothing or fur, being blown by wind, or through aggressive root growth. Gardeners can sometimes unintentionally facilitate this movement by transplanting these plants and sharing them with others.



Invasive purple loosestrife planted in a garden.



Invasive common toadflax taking over an ornamental flower bed.

Invasive plants like purple loosestrife and common toadflax shown here are often planted for their beautiful flowers, but can quickly spread in and beyond the garden. In the lower 48 states, purple loosestrife has spread from garden plantings to dominate hundreds of wetland acres, displacing native flora and fauna. In Alaska, purple loosestrife has been found beyond its garden planting in a natural area in Westchester Lagoon, where it was quickly managed and is monitored each season.

How can you prevent invasive plants in your garden?

- Educate yourself and others about invasive plants of Alaska
- Only plant non-invasive plants
- Request that nurseries only sell non-invasive plants
- Organize neighborhood weed pulls
- Get involved with your community at garden clubs, local conservation districts, or adopt-a-garden programs

You can help stop invasive plants!

Ask your local nursery, greenhouse, or neighborhood garden club how you can prevent invasive plants from entering Alaskan gardens.

For more information on invasive plants visit www.plants.alaska.gov/invasives/index.htm or for help identifying what is in your garden contact:

UAF Cooperative Extension Service:
www.uaf.edu/ces/pests
1 (877) 520-5211

State of Alaska - Division of Agriculture
Plant Materials Center
(907) 745-4469



Cover photo: A Taste of Alaska Lodge, www.atasteofalaska.com
Panel photos: Purple loosestrife, www.specialperennials.com
Common toadflax, NetPS Plant Finder, www.netpsplantfinder.com
Back photo: Homer Garden Club, www.homergardenclub.org/status.htm
Printed by the Plant Materials Center, January 2014

Do You KNOW What You GROW?

A Guide for Replacing Invasive Plants in Your Alaska Garden



Alternative Plant Suggestions for Alaskan Gardens

Avoid planting these Invasive Plants

→ Replace with these Plant Alternatives



Purple Loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)
Replace with Lupine



Garlic Mustard
(*Alliaria petiolata*)
Replace with Brook Saxifrage



Orange Hawkweed
(*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
Replace with Pot Marigold



Common Tansy
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)
Replace with Beach Fleabane



Ornamental Jewelweed
(*Impatiens glandulifera*)
Replace with Queen of the Prairie



European Bird Cherry
(*Prunus padus*)
Replace with Ussurian Pear



Ornamental Ribbongrass
(*Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta'*)
Replace with Feather Reed Grass



Common Toadflax
(*Linaria vulgaris*)
Replace with Yellow Monkshood



Japanese Knotweed
(*Fallopia japonica*)
Replace with Bride's Feathers



Oxeye Daisy
(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
Replace with Shasta Daisy



Rampion Bellflower
(*Campanula rapunculus*)
Replace with Peach Leaved Bellflower



Bird Vetch
(*Vicia cracca*)
Replace with Eskimo Potato



White Sweetclover
(*Melilotus alba*)
Replace with Fireweed



Creeping Charlie
(*Glechoma hederacea*)
Replace with Bugleweed



Lupine
(*Lupinus nootkatensis* or *L. arcticus*)
Avoid "Bigleaf" Lupine



Brook Saxifrage
(*Saxifraga punctata*)



Pot Marigold
(*Calendula officinalis*)



Beach Fleabane
(*Senecio pseudoarnica*)



Queen of the Prairie
(*Filipendula rubra*)



Ussurian Pear
(*Pyrus ussuriensis*)



Feather Reed Grass
(*Calamagrostis acutiflora*)



Yellow Monkshood
(*Aconitum anthora*)



Bride's Feathers
(*Aruncus dioicis*)



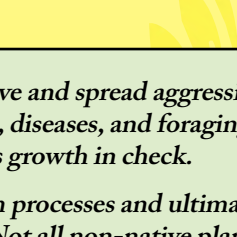
Shasta Daisy
(*Leucanthemum maximum*)



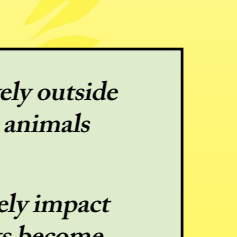
Peach Leaved Bellflower
(*Campanula persicifolia*)



Eskimo Potato
(*Hedysarum alpinum*)



***Fireweed**
(*Chamerion angustifolium*)



***Bugleweed**
(*Ajuga reptans*)

Invasive plants have the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside their natural range, without insects, diseases, and foraging animals that naturally keep its growth in check.

Invasive plants can disrupt ecosystem processes and ultimately impact natural and agricultural resources. Not all non-native plants become invasive, so it is important to know what you're planting!

*These alternatives can grow rapidly. Keep plant's roots from spreading by planting in pots or using edging.