

Winnakee Land Trust

Invasive Species Guide



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Winnakee
LAND TRUST

CARING FOR LAND, CONNECTING COMMUNITY

All information and imagery provided by New York State
Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management



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Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*)

Description: A large deciduous shrub that can grow up to 15 feet in height with a width of up to 20 feet. Its dull green leaves are oval-shaped with wavy margins and silvery undersides. Trumpet-shaped, white to pale yellow flowers bloom in early summer. Mature shrubs produce dense clusters of bright red berries.



Recommended Management: Seedlings can be hand pulled. Larger trees may be cut and the stump may be solarized with black plastic. Follow-up treatments may be necessary.

Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)

Description: A tall shrub growing up to 20 feet in height. It can be most easily identified in the summer, when gold and white-pinkish trumpet-shaped flowers appear and early autumn when bright red circular berries cover the plant.



Recommended Management: Hand pulling or digging small seedlings or plants is effective. For larger shrubs, use of a weed wrench is recommended. A commitment to pull at least once a year for 3-5 years is necessary to achieve any measure of control.

Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Description: A perennial, woody vine. The light brown stem grows 2-4 inches in diameter and grows up to 59 feet in length. Leaves are alternate and rounded with scalloped/toothed edges, often with pointed tips. White to green flowers are produced in clusters from May to June. Red berries ripen in September and remain on the vine through most of the winter.



Recommended Management: All mature vines should be cut near the base in July-August to prevent fruiting and relieve stress to the targeted tree. Hand-pull seedlings, removing all roots.

Border privet (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*)

Description: A deciduous shrub that can grow up to 20 feet in height. Its leaves are opposite, have smooth margins, and vary in shape from oval to oblong. Some shrubs may have short, thorny twigs that appear spindle-like protruding from the branches. It produces clusters of small white, trumpet-shaped flowers at the tips of the branches. Its berries are black when ripe and often remain on the plant into the winter.



Recommended Management: Smaller shrubs can be pulled by hand or dug out. Larger shrubs can be cut back to the stump and solarized with black plastic.

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

Description: It grows anywhere from 15-20 feet tall and equally as wide. It is multi-stemmed with a broad closed crown. The green to brown stems have two to four prominent corky wings. The elliptic leaves are simple, opposite, and 1 to 3 inches long and have fine toothed margins. The leaves turn bright red in the fall before dropping. Small green flowers with 4-petals are produced from May to June. Small smooth red-orange fruits appear as stemmed pairs in leaf axils and turn purple in the fall.



Recommended Management: Hand-pull seedlings up to 2 feet tall; cut or dig out larger plants; root systems can be removed with a spading fork or pull with a weed wrench; ground out stump and solarize with black plastic immediately after cutting.

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Description: A deciduous shrub with one or multiple stems that can grow anywhere from 6-20 feet in height. It can be identified by its hairless branches and stems, often tipped with a sharp spine. Fruits are round and turn from green to black when mature, approximately ¼ inch in diameter, and ripen in late summer through early fall. Leaves are oval with serrate margins, and dark green on the top. Flowers are four-petaled, yellowish-white, and can be found in clusters of 2-6 near the leaf bases.



Recommended Management: Pulling by hand or via a weed wrench is an effective method of control for seedlings and smaller plants. Larger stems may be girdled and re-sprouts clipped as they emerge.

Common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*)

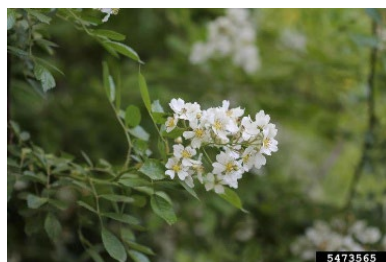
Description: A very large, perennial grass, reaching a height of 1-3.5 m, often found in extensive, dense stands in wetlands. Stems are stout, unbranched, and hollow, bearing long, flat leaves on one or two sides. Rhizomes can grow to 20 m long. Large, feathery, plumed flower spikes are produced in August and September and often persist through the winter.



Recommended Management: Very small stands: Hand-dig, being sure to remove the entire rhizome system; or smother by covering with heavy-duty black plastic (after cutting and removing stems) for at least two years; or cut stems repeatedly below water level.

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Description: A perennial shrub that can grow up to 3 meters in height. It most notably has small white flowers that bloom in May or June. They have multiple arching stems that vary between green to red in color. Arching thorns are found along the length of the stems. Leaves are about 1.5 inches long and are compound with an average of 7-9 leaflets. Leaflets are oblong and have serrated teeth. Small, red rose hips that are found on the plant persist through the winter.



Recommended Management: Hand-pull or dig small plants (with shovel, weed wrench, or grubbing hoe), removing all roots as multiflora rose readily re-sprouts from root fragments.

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

Description: a deciduous, thorny shrub that can be identified by its small, narrowly oval leaves often resembling that of a spoon. The shape of the smooth-edged leaves varies between oval to spatulate and are clustered in tight groups close to the branch. A single, very sharp spine sits beneath each cluster of leaves. Flowers are pale yellow to white in color and emerge in late April or May and generally form drooping clusters around the stem. In the fall, bright red oval fruits, approximately 0.5 inches long, hang along the length of its stems.



Recommended Management: Pulling by hand is an effective method of control for seedlings and small plants if the entire root is extracted from the soil. For larger plants, a weed wrench may be used, however, any leftover root fragments may re-sprout.

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

Description: A perennial, woody vine that can grow up to 30 feet long. It can be most easily identified by its gold to yellow white flowers that form clusters. Leaves are alternately arranged, highly variable in shape, and are dark green with a glossy surface. Leaf margins vary from coarsely serrated to deeply lobed and serrated. The fruits are a small dark purple to black berry.



Recommended Management: Pulling by hand is an effective method of control for seedlings and small plants if all the root is extracted from the soil. For larger plants, this is an inadvisable technique as root fragmentation can encourage re-sprouting.

Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)

Description: A tall, robust, semi-woody perennial that forms dense stands. Long-lived, extensive rhizomes can extend over 2 m deep and 7-20 m from the root crown. Annual stems are thick, hollow, and jointed, with swollen nodes. Stems grow 1-3 m tall and then die back to near ground level in autumn. It flowers in late July-late September, and seeds develop in August-October.



Recommended management: Individual plants can be dug prior to flowering, if all pieces of the root are removed.

Volunteer Second Saturdays STEWARDSHIP

Every second Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm

Winnakee Land Trust's Second Saturday Stewardship is a monthly volunteer program that focuses on stewardship projects at Winnakee's various parks and preserves. Volunteers help with land stewardship projects, such as invasive species removal and trail maintenance, that help connect the community to the land and improve habitat. In exchange, Winnakee teaches volunteers skills that they can use on their own lands, including identification of harmful invasive species and important native plants, proper techniques for improving habitat, and ways to enhance trails and access to land.





Winnakee
LAND TRUST

CARING FOR LAND, CONNECTING COMMUNITY

Our Mission

To protect and restore the natural landscapes and working lands that sustain life, inspire connection and strengthen the resilience of our communities.

Our Vision

A New York where forests, open space and watersheds are protected and thriving; where people are connected to nature; and where land conservation fuels climate resilience, biodiversity and community quality of life.

Join us!



**Sign up to receive alerts for
volunteer opportunities!**



**Winnakee Land Trust is accredited by
an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.**

