



THE NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM PRESENTS

# INVASIVE TREES & SHRUBS IN NEBRASKA

Justin Evertson & Bob Henrickson, NSA 2011. For more plant information, visit [arboretum.unl.edu](http://arboretum.unl.edu) or [retreenbraska.unl.edu](http://retreenbraska.unl.edu).

**Note:** This is not a complete list of potentially invasive species.

## INVASIVE SPECIES ARE COMMONLY DEFINED AS:

- Not native to the given area
- Have rapid and widespread dispersal and establishment
- Displace native plant species and alter ecosystems and habitats
- Typically reduce native biodiversity including animals, insects and microorganisms
- Can hybridize with native plants, changing their genetic makeup
- Can cause economic harm and harm to human health

## Worst of the Invasive Trees in Nebraska

Most are designated as invasive by the Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council (NISAC)

1. *Ailanthus altissima* – tree-of-heaven
2. *Elaeagnus angustifolia* – Russian olive
3. *Juniperus virginiana* – eastern redcedar
4. *Morus alba* – white mulberry
5. *Rhamnus cathartica* – common buckthorn
6. *Robinia pseudoacacia* – black locust
7. *Tamarix* spp. – saltcedar (declared noxious weed in Nebraska)
8. *Ulmus pumila* – Siberian elm

## Other Potentially Invasive Tree Species

Designated in surrounding states or on the NISAC watch list

1. *Acer ginnala* – Amur maple
2. *Acer platanoides* – Norway maple
3. *Euonymus bungeana* – winterberry euonymus (Chinese spindle tree)
4. *Koelreuteria paniculata* – goldenrain tree
5. *Phellodendron amurense* – Amur cork tree
6. *Populus alba* – white poplar
7. *Pyrus calleryana* – callery pear (especially ‘Bradford’)
8. *Quercus acutissima* – sawtooth oak
9. *Ulmus parvifolia* – lacebark (Chinese) elm

## Invasive and/or Aggressive Native Trees of the Midwest

1. *Acer negundo* – boxelder maple
2. *Acer saccharinum* – silver maple
3. *Catalpa speciosa* – northern catalpa
4. *Celtis occidentalis* – hackberry
5. *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* – green ash
6. *Gleditsia triacanthos* – honeylocust
7. *Juniperus virginiana* – eastern redcedar
8. *Maclura pomifera* – Osage-orange

## Invasive Shrubs & Vines

\*currently listed by NISAC

1. *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* – porcelain vine
2. *Berberis thunbergii* – Japanese barberry\*
3. *Berberis vulgaris* – European barberry\*
4. *Buddleja davidii* - butterflybush
5. *Celastris orbiculatus* – Oriental bittersweet
6. *Clematis terniflora* – sweet autumn clematis
7. *Elaeagnus umbellata* – autumn-olive\*
8. *Euonymus alatus* – winged euonymus (burning bush)\*
9. *Euonymus fortunei* – wintercreeper euonymus\*
10. *Ligustrum obtusifolium* – border privet\*
11. *Ligustrum vulgare* – European privet\*
12. *Lonicera japonica* – Japanese honeysuckle\*
13. *Lonicera maackii* – Amur honeysuckle\*
14. *Lonicera morrowii* – morrow honeysuckle\*
15. *Lonicera tatarica* – Tatarian honeysuckle\*
16. *Lonicera xylosteum* – European fly honeysuckle\*
17. *Pueraria montana* var. *lobata* – kudzu\*
18. *Rhamnus davurica* – dahurian buckthorn\*
19. *Rhamnus frangula* – glossy buckthorn
20. *Rhus typhina* – staghorn sumac\*
21. *Rosa multiflora* – multiflora rose\*
22. *Viburnum lantana* – wayfaringtree viburnum
23. *Viburnum opulus* – European cranberrybush viburnum
24. *Vinca minor* – periwinkle

## THOUGHTS & CONSIDERATIONS

1. Many common tree and shrub species used in the landscape are invasive somewhere.
2. Even native species can be highly invasive.
3. Not all introduced species are bad and many non-native plants have their place in the landscape.
4. Native species should be emphasized wherever possible, as they are vitally important to maintaining biodiversity. But what is native? What time frame is used? Plants have moved around for eons.
5. Improve landscape biodiversity by providing habitat for animals, insects and microorganisms. Think regionally native species.
6. Plant trees and landscape plants in mutually beneficial groupings – not just individual specimens. Plant in communities.
7. Celebrate insect feeding and hosting! A little leaf chewing is not a bad thing.
8. Problematic species should not be planted if better choices exist.
9. Be careful around/near high-quality native eco-systems.

## ON-LINE RESOURCES:

Nebraska Invasive Species Project: <http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/invasiveplants.htm>

Wisconsin Invasive Plants: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp?sortBy=scientific&sciSortDir=asc>

Missouri Exotic Pest Plants: <http://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/mepp/ratings.shtml>

Invasive Plants of Eastern US: <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/index.html>

Invasive plant atlas of US: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/index.html>

Native Suburbia: [http://www.icode6.net/native\\_suburbia/](http://www.icode6.net/native_suburbia/)

**DID YOU KNOW?** The greater the variety of plants, the more resilient the landscape.

Since 1978, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum has been helping to grow sustainable landscapes for healthy homes and communities. Please support the NSA by becoming a member. Benefits include admission privileges at botanical gardens across North America, plant discounts, and publications with plant and garden recommendations. Plant information and much more at: [plantnebraska.org](http://plantnebraska.org)

