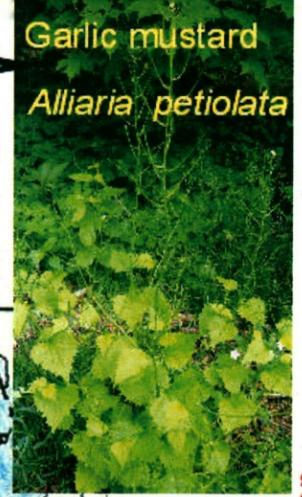
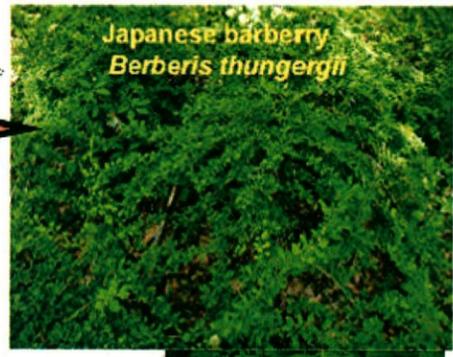
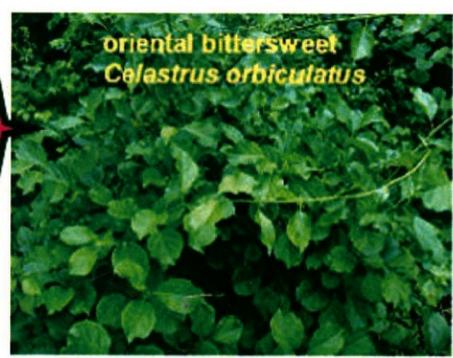
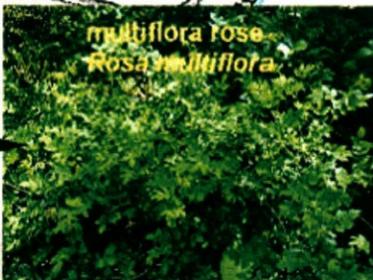
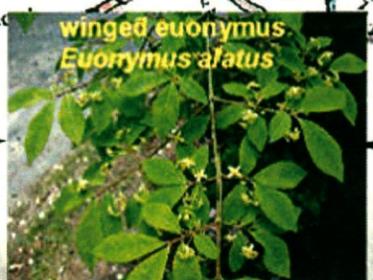




Some Common Non-Native Invasive Plants



Some Common Non-Native Invasive Plants

Town of Ashford map

Ashford Invasive Plant Brochure (6 locations for self-guided tour)

1. Pompey Hollow Park: Take gravel path to right of senior center, bear right, path leads to river.

*Garlic mustard **Alliaria petiolata** Along beginning of trail, the first year plants have basal rosette of leaves that remain green throughout the winter. Older plants seen on right side at beginning trail. This herbaceous biennial can reach over three feet tall. Coarsely-toothed leaves produce garlic scent when crushed. Bears white flowers in spring in shape of cross.

*shrubby non-native honeysuckle **Lonicera sp.** Along beginning of trail. Pinhole visible in center of stem, when cut (hole not present in native honeysuckle.)

*Japanese barberry **Berberis thunbergii** Growing by river near bridge. Dense deciduous shrub with bright red elliptic berries July-Oct.

*winged euonymus **Euonymus alatus** After crossing first bridge, seen left of path. Deciduous shrub usually with broad corky wings along gray-brown branches. Small opposite leaves turn bright in fall. Also known as burning bush due to this fall color.

*multiflora rose **Rosa multiflora** Seen to the right of the first bridge. This is a densely spreading perennial rose shrub. Leaves pinnately compound with a small comb-like margin on stipules (at base of leaflets.)

*Autumn olive **Elaeagnus umbellata** Seen to left of path, after crossing first bridge. Deciduous shrub growing up to 12 feet tall, leaves silvery beneath. May have thorns. Produces prolific red berries in autumn. Rapidly spreads as birds eat fruit.

*oriental bittersweet **Celastrus orbiculatus** Seen by second bridge. Fast spreading perennial deciduous vine. Light green ovate leaves. Small greenish flowers, in leaf axils May-June; in autumn bear yellow fruits with fleshy red aril surrounding. Fruits split open at maturity with striking contrasting colors. Birds spread seeds

*Norway maple **Acer platanoides** These maples are growing along the road leading to senior center. These trees have opposite palmately lobed leaves with 5-7 lobes. Similar to sugar maple, but have leaf petioles that exude a white sap when broken.

2. Mildred Bicknell Preserve. Park along north side of Westford Hill Road, near sign.

*Japanese barberry **Berberis thunbergii** Walk directly in, and in less than 50 feet from Bicknell sign, find old cellar hole surrounded by an expansive stand of these non-native invasive barberries. Dense deciduous shrub with bright red elliptic berries July-Oct.

3. Junction of Westford Hill and Chatey Roads, across from Westford Congregational Church. (Park in dirt parking area between these two roads.)

*oriental bittersweet **Celastrus orbiculatus** Covering small birch and other trees along Chatey Road near parking area. Perennial deciduous vine that can grow up to 60 feet. Light green ovate leaves. Small greenish flowers, in axils of leaves in May-June; in autumn bear yellow fruits with fleshy red aril surrounding. Fruits split open at maturity with striking contrasting colors. Birds spread seeds.

*multiflora rose **Rosa multiflora** Spreading on the west side of parking area. This is a densely spreading perennial rose shrub. Leaves pinnately compound with a, small comb-like margin on its stipules (at base of leaflets.)

4. Chatey Road (west of location #3) just west of maple sugar shed. Park along road.

*multiflora rose **Rosa multiflora** Large sprawling stand growing near maple sugar shed. This is a densely spreading perennial rose shrub. Leaves pinnately compound with a small comb-like margin on stipules (at base of leaflets.)

5. Seckar Road just before junction with Howey Road. Park on side of Seckar Road.

*Japanese knotweed **Polygonum cuspidatum** Growing along roadside on east side of Seckar Road, just before road curves right and turns into Howey Road. Large heart shaped leaves borne above large jointed hollow stems. Small white flowers in autumn.

6. Northeast side of Route 74 at junction with Route 44

*Autumn olive **Elaeagnus umbellata** Large sprawling stand of Autumn olive trees growing on hillside near "Image Plus." Deciduous shrub growing up to 12 feet tall, leaves silvery beneath. May have thorns. Produces prolific red berries in autumn. Rapidly spreads as birds eat fruit.

What the homeowner can do to help prevent the introduction or spread of invasive alien plants: If you find any of these common non-native invasive plants on your property, you may want to pull them out before they spread and become nearly impossible to eradicate and spread into natural areas. If you cannot remove these plants entirely from your property, try to manage them to prevent their spread outside your land. This may include pruning to prevent flowering and seed dispersal or cutting, mowing or herbicide use to prevent vegetative spread. The very best site for management and removal of invasive species is <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm>

Thank you for helping restore our native flora and fauna!

