

# Invasive Plants in Newington, CT

## what you should be on the lookout for

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Gold Award Project 2013-2014



Pictures are Courtesy of Leyla and Deniz Yetil

Device: Apple iPad 3 ios7 Camera

**About the Author:**

My name is Deniz Yetil. I made this booklet to further educate my community of the invasive plants of their town: Newton, CT.

This booklet was part of my Gold Award project for Girl Scouts. I hope that it will be a helpful resource to use.

Deniz Yetil

Girl Scout Troop 10536

Girl Scout Ambassador

**Dedication:**

**Mrs. Dumont:** Without you I would not have been able get this far in Girl Scouts. Thank you for never giving up on us and always having faith. I love you!

**Newington High School Key Club:** Thank you for volunteering your time to help with my project and our environment!

**Boy Scout Troop 355:** Thank you for volunteering your time to help out a fellow scout. I appreciate all you do!

**Girl Scout Troop 10536:** I am so proud of all of you! Thank you all for the support you have given me! I hope our sister-ship lasts forever!

**Gold Award Mentor:** Thank you so much for all the effort you put forth for my project. You were truly helpful!

**My mother and father:** Anne ve Baba, thank you for believing in me and always being there for me through all my challenges.

**My brother:** Thank you for coming along with me on this journey and never complaining. I do think you are the best brother anyone can have!

**FTC Robotic Team 5520, 5518, 5519, 5521 of 2013-14:** Thank you for understanding how important this project was to me! Your support helped me finish! Go pirates!

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**Author's Notes/ Disclaimer:**

**Disclaimer:** This booklet is not a professional plant manual and shall not be held liable for any injuries or mishaps that may occur from the advice of this booklet (including the destruction of land or material possessions).

This booklet only gives information on the invasive plants listed and different ways one could eradicate them. Before eradicating, please check with a professional/town hall on whether or not the eradication process you wish to use is the best method for your situation.

To dispose of these plants:

It is illegal to transport invasive plants in Connecticut unless you are transporting for their eradication. If you are burning the plant, please let the town know where and how.

\*\*For more information of how to dispose these plants visit:

[www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg)

or contact the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at 860-424-3589

Herbicides: Be safe with herbicides and don't ruin your land. Herbicides are harmful chemicals that are created to kill plant life. By using them you could kill non-invasive plants and be injured through intoxication. I strongly advise against herbicides near gardens.

You should call a contractor for your invasive plants on information about specific types of herbicides. Some plants may need a more toxic herbicide that requires special gear a contractor would have.



### **Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)**

The left picture is of a part of a winged burning bush. It is native to north east Asia and central China. It is found on roadsides and forests, and prairies.

#### Dangers:

- If ingested, parts of the plant are poisonous
- Highly adaptable to poor soil condition
- Grows slowly past intended boundaries
- Threats forests, prairies, and coastal shrub lands
- Forms dense thickets

#### Eradication:

- Repeatedly cut to delay reproduction
- When cut, spray with herbicides (see author's notes)
- Pull out from root

Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)





### **Japanese Stillgrass (*Microstegium vimineum* )**

These pictures are smaller representations of Japanese Stillgrass. The grass tends to grow in bundles. Its origin is Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia and India. It is found on stream banks, floodplains, wetlands, moist woodlands, uplands, thickets, ditches on the roadside, and gas and power-line corridors. The stillgrass likes moist, rich soils that are filled with acidic (neutral or basic) and nitrogen high. So they will grow under human carbon-polluted conditions.



#### Dangers:

- Invades plants in shaded areas and sunny areas
- Spreads quickly and forms dense patches
- Displaces native wetland and forest vegetation

#### Eradication:

- To recognize (due to its similar appearance with tall grass), look for asymmetrical leaves.
- Pull by hand: it is not deep rooted
- If flowering: cut plants by mower/weed whip to prevent seed production
- Extensive infestations: use herbicides (see author's notes)

Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)



### **European Common Reed (Phragmites australis )**

European common reed grows mainly near banks. The one in the picture was found near the pond in Mill Pond Park, Newington CT. It is also known as a wetland grass. The tall ones tend to form wheat-like structures.

#### Dangers:

- Quickly alters the wetland hydrology (a science that deals with the water depth, flow patterns, and flooding) and changes that wildlife habitat
- Increases risk of fire
- Has a high biomass: blocks light from other plants
- Spread through rhizomes, not seeds: the root of the plant (grows horizontally underground and can laterally grow outward)
  - ⇒ This lowers plant diversity and causes over-growth
- reduces the areas in water that serve as a nursery for fish and other creatures
- Creates unsuitable habituate for birds

#### Eradication:

- Flooding: European Common Reeds do not grow in 5 feet of water. I would not recommend this type of eradication, as flooding causes much harm to habitats
- mechanically rid the plant through mowing or weed whipping periodically (this is best done when the plant is dry)
- Digging: this is best done when the soil of the pant is loose. You can dig the plant from its root or pull it if that is easier.

Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)





### **Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)**

Japanese Barberry is one of the most common invasive plants in Newington. It is from Japan and is found near wetlands, forests, prairies, meadows and open woodlands. It has leaves with many red seeds when it is in season.

#### Dangers:

- Alters soil pH, nitrogen levels, and biological activity in the soil
- Wraps around trees, suffocating them
- Displaces natives plants
- Reduces wildlife habitat by growing over plant life.
- Is spread by birds and by its rhizomes (a type of root that grows horizontally underground)
- Very adaptable



#### Eradication:

- Get all the root: it can re-sprout from root fragments
- You should combine the root removal with herbicides ( see author's notes)
- You can mechanically remove with weed whip or dig if the soil around the root is loose

⇒ Try not to let the seeds fall to the ground –they can replant

Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)



**Yellow Groove Bamboo (*Phyllostachys aureosulcata*)**

Yellow Groove Bamboo is an invasive plant originated from China and Japan. It can be planted in partial shade. It is generally thicker and taller when in season.

Dangers:

- Excessive growth (can spread from 6-8 inches within a few years)
- Takes up space from native plants through its rhizomes (a type of root grows horizontally underground. This is how the plant reproduces)
- Sharp
- Grows tall (can grow around 20ft)

**Eradication:**

- Mow the plants down frequently
- Pull from roots (they are easily pulled in late fall early winter)

Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)



This picture shows the bamboo sticking out from a school fence.



### **Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense )**

Canada Thistle is distributed through its small seeds and rhizomes. This one was found at Mill Pond Park, Newington CT. It has a feathery structure. Its origin is Canada.

#### Dangers:

- Contains prickly leaves (use caution when handling)
  - Attacks non-forested areas, prairies, barrens, savannas, sand dunes, fields and meadows.
  - Once established, it crowds out and replaces native plants (changes their structure and composition of the plant areas)
  - Spreads through seeds and rhizomes (a type of root that grows horizontally underground)
  - Reduces plant and animal diversity
  - Possibly releases chemical toxins that are poi-



sonous to other plants.

- Competes with other plants for soil
- Costs millions of dollars for the US to control it (when you see one, just try to rid of it)

#### Eradication:

- Hand-cutting it (rid of its seeds/roots)
- Mow it frequently
- Controlled burning (see author's notes)
  - ⇒ Preferably burn them late in the season for best results
- Herbicides (see author's notes)
- Kill all of plant

Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)



### Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

Japanese Knotweed comes in the form of loose leaves attached to a thin tall branch. It can have a bamboo-like structure. It spreads through rhizomes (a type of root grows horizontally underground. This is how the plant reproduces). This plant is native to Asia.

#### Dangers:



- No competition so it can spread
- Capable of living in a wide range of conditions (riverbanks, roadsides, etc.)
- The rhizome can stay for 20 years without reproducing
- Grows in other plant's places
- Without proper basement lining, the plant

can even grow under your house

- Without proper panel protection, the rhizomes will grow under and inside your walls

#### Eradication:

- Contain it: even if it is on your neighbor's land, talk to them about getting rid of it (the rhizomes can grow under and onto your property without you even knowing)
- Have a registered contractor remove it
- Apply herbicides in the late summer: it will take at least three years for the plant to stop growing with this (see author's notes)
- Dig the plant out/use herbicides (see author's notes): more effective
- Cut the plant four times a year (with herbicides for a more effective result)
- Controlled burning (see author's notes)

Dispose Accordingly (see author's notes)



### **Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)**

Generally, in the spring, summer and early fall, oriental bittersweet has green leaves with many seeds (especially early fall). The plants tend to be found wrapped around trees, bushes, or even tangled with shrubs. These pictures portray the plant in the winter where it is tightly wrapped around branches and trees. It is originated from Japan, Korea and East China.

#### Dangers:

- Grows in any type of soil and is shade tolerant
- It can move into open areas
- Kills trees by growing around them.
- It reproduces through seeds and rhizomes (a type of root that grows horizontally underground)
- Invades forests
- Ruins habitats

#### Eradication:



- Use herbicides after cutting the stems of the plant. This should rid the plant in about a week (see author's notes).
  - Repeatedly cut the plant
  - Pull the plant from its roots
- Dispose accordingly (see author's notes)



**Where to get more information:**

Winged Burning Bush

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien./pubs/midatlantic/eual.htm>
- [plantfacts.osu.edu/pdf/0246-421.pdf](http://plantfacts.osu.edu/pdf/0246-421.pdf)
- <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/1705/>

Japanese Stillgrass

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien./pubs/midatlantic/mivi.htm>

European Common Reed

- [http://pubstorage.sdstate.edu/AgBio\\_Publications/articles/FS957.pdf](http://pubstorage.sdstate.edu/AgBio_Publications/articles/FS957.pdf)

Japanese Barberry

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien./fact/beth1.htm>

Yellow Groove Bamboo

- <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/81044/#b>

Canada Thistle

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ciar1.htm>

Japanese Knotweed

- <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/invasive-knotweeds/japanese-knotweed.aspx>
- <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/130079.aspx>

Oriental bitter sweet

- <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ceor1.htm>
- <http://www.hrwc.net/orientalbittersweet.htm>

Legality Concerning Invasive Plants in CT

- [http://www.hort.uconn.edu/CIPWG/pdfs/Invasive\\_plant\\_disposal\\_guide\\_8-2011.pdf](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/CIPWG/pdfs/Invasive_plant_disposal_guide_8-2011.pdf)

**\*\* Do not buy these plants if you are directed to a buyer's site; The site is also a good place for information of the plant\*\***