

# It's an Invasion!

Invasive species are non-native plants or animals that take over native habitats. They outcompete local "native" species and they alter habitats and ecosystem processes. They are often brought to new locations as pets, for people's gardens, or by accident, and they thrive when introduced because of quick reproduction and a lack of natural predators.

## Invasive Plants You Can Find Here



**Oriental Bittersweet**  
*Celastrus orbiculatus*

This invasive vine is from eastern Asia and has a bad habit of strangling the trees it grows on.



**Autumn Olive**  
*Elaeagnus umbellata*

This shrub, originally from Asia, was once used for erosion control. While birds love its berries, it outcompetes and hinders the growth of native plants.



**Japanese Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera japonica*

This vine from Japan and Korea kills shrubs by strangling or smothering them, displacing native plants that provide food and habitat for wildlife.



**Mugwort**  
*Artemisia vulgaris*

This perennial is a nuisance in gardens and in our preserves! It is a prolific pollen-producer, displaces native wildflowers, and is almost impossible to remove completely.



**Common Reed**  
*Phragmites australis*

This reed takes over marsh and coastal areas, altering habitat for birds, invertebrates, and other wildlife by displacing native grasses and other vegetation.

## What You See Before You

Here at the Quinnipiac Meadows Nature Preserve, we selectively fight back against invasive plants. In 2014 in the meadow in front of you we removed as many invasive plants as possible and planted native

trees such as red oaks, pin oaks, swamp white oaks and shadbush. Over time, we hope these trees will grow and create a native forest habitat free of invasive species.

## Native Plants You Can Find Here



**Northern Red Oak**  
*Quercus rubra*

This common tree thrives in acidic soils, like those you often find in wetter areas. Its acorns are an important food source for wildlife.



**Shadbush**  
*Amelanchier canadensis*

This native bush or small tree provides food and habitat for wildlife. The small, blue berries are edible for people too.



**Eastern Cottonwood**  
*Populus deltoides*

Cottonwood trees thrive in wet soils and their leaves are much enjoyed by various species of caterpillar.



**Goldenrod**  
*Solidago* spp.

This native perennial flowers in the summer. It provides great food for pollinators and insects — which are great food for birds!



**Queen Anne's Lace**  
*Daucus carota*

Queen Anne's Lace is an herbaceous, flowering plant that is ubiquitous all over the U.S. Also known as "wild carrot" the young root is edible, and the flowers provide food for insects.

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**Northern Red Oak**  
*Quercus rubra*

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