

## Introduction

The Sustainable Hillsborough Steering Committee has created a series of brochures to inform residents about easy sustainable choices. This brochure was compiled with resources from Duke Farms, New Jersey Audubon Society, the National Park Service, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Funding for this series was provided by a small capacity building grant through Sustainable Jersey.

Please note that this brochure is for informational purposes only. Information is subject to change.

### Why Are Invasive Plants a Problem?

Invasive plants are harmful to the natural balance of an ecosystem, often introducing other invasive species, such as destructive insects or fungus.

While you may not have planted an invasive species, it may appear in your yard through seed dispersal.

There are many plants in our community that pose a threat to the ecosystem. Some invasive plants may be eradicated simply by pulling them out by hand, but others are harder to stop. Educating and discussing information with neighbors provides a team effort to combat invasive plants in our environment.

For a list of native plant alternatives and to learn more about the committee, visit [www.sustainablehillsborough.com](http://www.sustainablehillsborough.com).

There are many online resources to help homeowners make informed decisions concerning invasive plants when gardening and landscaping. The sites below have more information:

- **Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council:**  
<http://maipc.org>
- **New Jersey Audubon:**  
<http://njudubon.org/Conservation>
- **National Invasive Species Council**  
<http://invasivespecies.gov>

## About

The Hillsborough Township Committee established the Sustainable Hillsborough Steering Committee in 2007 to provide guidance on green and sustainability related issues as the Township pursues a path towards a sustainable future. The Sustainable Hillsborough Steering Committee is comprised of Hillsborough residents who are charged to develop recommendations for strategies to keep the Township moving toward its sustainable goals. The Sustainable Hillsborough Steering Committee will also articulate a long-term vision for the future, educate residents about sustainable development, and provide recommendations to the Township Committee on ways to implement future sustainable practices.

Visit [www.sustainablehillsborough.com](http://www.sustainablehillsborough.com) to learn more about the committee and its mission.



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*Sustainable  
Hillsborough*

## Invasive Plants Information Guide For Homeowners and Landscapers



*Provided by:  
Hillsborough Township's  
Sustainable Hillsborough Steering Committee*



# Some of the Invasive Plants in Hillsborough Township

## Japanese Stilt Grass



This is one of the most prominent fast spreading ground covers that can overtake your lawns and gardens. Luckily it has a shallow root system which can be pulled out by hand with ease. Because it is similar in appearance to several native grasses, it's important to know how to recognize and differentiate stilt grass from look-a-likes. Look for asymmetrical leaves with a shiny center vein (midrib) and the stilt-like growth form. Attention to new infestations should be a priority.

## Garlic Mustard



A rapidly spreading ground plant that has a garlic smell when the leaves are crushed. Chemicals in the garlic mustard are toxic to the larvae stage of native butterflies. A single plant can produce hundreds of seeds which are easily spread by wind, wildlife, and humans.

## Canada Thistle



Can form dense strands that shade out and displace native plants. It can change the plant species community and composition structure which reduces biodiversity. Once established it is very difficult to remove.

## Japanese Honeysuckle



This plant is one of the most recognized ornamental vines throughout the U.S. and is reported to be invasive in eastern states. Its fast growing vines entwine shrubs and other herbaceous plants. It can kill trees and shrubs by girdling them.



## Multiflora Rose

Grows very aggressively and produces fruits (hips) that are eaten and dispersed by many birds. Dense thickets will exclude most native shrubs and herbs from establishing. It may also be detrimental to the nesting of native birds.



## Winged Euonymus (Burning Bush)

This popular shrub which turns from green to red in the fall, threatens many habitats including forest where it displaces many native woody and herbaceous plant species by forming dense thickets. It has hundreds of seeds which can spread through wind and by wildlife.



## Japanese Knotweed

Even though this plant is a member of the buckwheat family, it grows with stalks similar to bamboo, with hollow lightweight wooden poles. White flowers form in the late summer and fall. The plant can grow up to 13 feet and overtake other native plants in a garden setting. It rapidly takes over any area it becomes established in and is very difficult to eradicate.



## Wineberry or Wine Raspberry

A spiny shrub that forms dense, shady thickets. It is difficult to remove once established and significantly changes the habitat structures of a region.



## Japanese Barberry

Where it is established, barberry can displace many native and herbaceous plants. The leaf litter from this plant changes the composition of the soil.



## Chinese Silvergrass

An Ornamental grass that is highly flammable. It creates a thicket that prevents the growth of other plants. It spreads by wind dispersal and locally by growth of rhizomes.



## Bamboo (Common, Golden, & Arrow)

It can form very dense single-species thickets that displace native plants and establish shade which prevents native seedlings from growing. It forms dense forests of growth and is difficult to remove once established. There is only one bamboo native to the United States, the Giant or Switch Cane Bamboo (*Arundinaria gigantea*).



## Purple Loosestrife

A plant of rapid reproduction that thrives in freshwater habitats, including wetlands. It will replace native plants thereby reducing local biodiversity and endangering rare species. This thick flowering plant can obstruct waterways and destroy nesting habitat for waterfowl.