



MAINE ISLAND TRAIL ASSOCIATION: INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CRIB SHEET



Black Swallowwort (a.k.a Dog-strangle Vine)

Perennial vine, single non-branching stem dies back annually, to 6'

Leaves: Dark green, opposite, lance head shaped to heart-shaped, 2-4"

Flowers: Purplish-brownish, five-petalled, and fragrant, June to late summer, ¼"

Fruits: Long slender green pods turn dark brown when ripe, in pairs or threes, similar to milkweed pods, but longer and narrower, 2-3". Seeds like common milkweed seeds, rounded and flattened, each with an attached tuft of silky hair dispersed by wind.

Control: Digging root crowns effective - whole crown must be removed. Pulling by hand leads to re-sprouting but prevents seed production, especially if repeated during growing season. Mowing is best for preventing seed production; Mow one to two times per season as pods are forming.



Japanese Barberry

Dense woody shrub with numerous arching, spine-bearing branches, 3-6'

Leaves: Small wedge-shaped, appear early, in clusters, turn red and orange in fall, to 1"

Flowers: Small, yellow, 4 part, alone or in small clusters appear in May, ¼"

Fruits: Red oblong berries—persist into winter, 1/3"

Control: Mechanical removal best- pull and dry small plants (leave above ground to prevent re-rooting), weed wrench for larger; can re-sprout from roots. Regular mowing can prevent re-sprouting. Spread by birds that eat berries.

Asiatic Bittersweet

Deciduous vine, climbs by twining, to 50'

Branches: Round, hairless, light to dark brown, with noticeable surface "bumps"

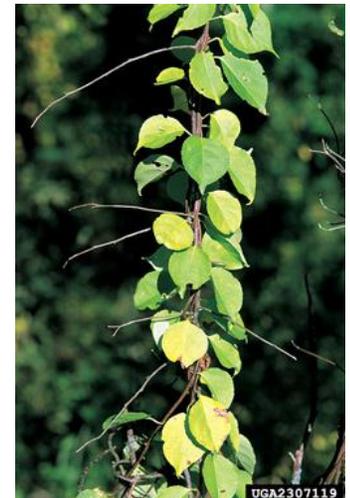
Roots: Outer surface bright orange

Leaves: Alternate and variable shape, typically oval with pointed tip 1-5"

Flowers: Small, greenish-yellow in clusters from joints between leaves and stems

Fruits: Pea-sized capsules, changing from green to bright yellow as they mature, split open to reveal bright orange-red berry when ripe.

Control: Hand-pull small patches; remove entire root to prevent resprouting. Mow low patches repeatedly, preferably in late June. Cut tree infestations at ground and chest level and then mow resprouts. With substantial seedbank, complete eradication may require repeating over several years. Spread by birds that eat fruits and by humans who use dry fruiting stems for decoration then dispose of them outdoors.





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Japanese Knotweed (a.k.a. Mexican Bamboo)

Robust perennial herb emerges early. Large hollow stems turn chestnut brown, may remain standing for most of winter. Forms dense thickets, 3-9'

Leaves: Broadly oval with squarish bases and pointed tips 2-6"

Flowers: Tiny greenish-white in linear clusters along stem, blooms August to September

Seeds: Shiny black-brown, three-sided

Control: Remove by repeatedly cutting stalks. Three or more cuttings in a season can offset growth of rhizomes. Digging or pulling roots not recommended as root fragments can repopulate.



Bush Honeysuckles

Upright deciduous shrubs, branches spread widely, older stems with hollow pith (cut to see), 3-16'

Leaves: Oval to oblong, in pairs on stem, 1-2½"

Flowers: Tubular in pairs, appear in June

Fruit: Many-seeded red, orange or yellow berry

Control: Remove new colonies by digging, ensure entire root is removed. Cut down larger colonies in early spring and late summer or early fall. Cutting results in resprouting, but temporarily reduces seed production. Seedlings easily pulled. Repeat for three to five years to inhibit resprouting and to exhaust seedbank. Birds eat fruit, dispersing seeds. Promoted for conservation use until 1980s!



IF YOU FIND INVASIVES

Please report the following to MITA office:

Name of site:

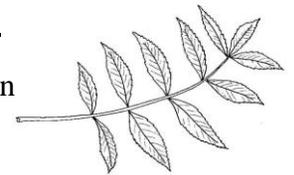
What plant: photos and/or a sample in a Ziploc are helpful for positive ID,

Description of colony size: e.g. few plants, area of MITA boat (7x18'), school bus (10x40') etc.

Nature of colony: e.g. scattered plants, dense thicket, vines covering trees x ft high, etc.

Definitions of Leaf Descriptions

Opposite: Two leaves arranged on opposite sides of each node.



Alternate: Each leaf occurs singly on each node.

