



Bittersweet (Round Leaf) is a vine that grows up to 60' long with diameters up to 6" which climb trees, strangling them like pythons (above right). It also forms enormous mounds totally covering vegetation. The Bailey's Hill restoration consisted in large part of removal of these monsters and the large number of Norway Maples they climbed.



Norway Maple produces allelochemicals which prevent plant growth underneath them and are very weak and disease prone. They shed enormous quantities of seeds. Remove them if you can.



NAHANT'S MOST COMMON

Invasive Plants

What are invasive species?

They are living things which did not evolve in a given region with the result that natural controls did not evolve to consume them. As a result, invasives can grow so out of control that they can overwhelm native species. Since everything in our ecosystem is interconnected (just as our bodies are ecosystems in which all parts are interconnected), invasive species can disrupt or even destroy the balance.

What can we do about invasive plants?

There are several ways to control them. Go to the Mass Audubon link given in the orange box in this flyer for a thorough discussion. The most ecological ways to control them are: remove them by hand; "cook" them under black tarps in the sunshine; pour boiling water over individual plants. Herbicides should be used as a last resort as they can disrupt the interconnected ecosystem in which we live.



Porcelain-Berry is a 20' vine which smothers other plants. It is spreading like wildfire in Nahant, originating mostly from Marginal Road along the wall where the benches are. The berries look a bit like grapes but become lavender and blue in color.



Japanese Knotweed (right and far right) is incredibly strong and can even grow up through blacktop. No insects or herbivores eat it, and it is very hard to kill. Roots (rhizomes) extend as far as 50 feet! Height 10 feet. If you cut them monthly and especially in October, they will decline.

Common Reed (below) known as Phragmites are those 12-15' tall, tasseled grasses seen in wet areas. "Phrag" means fence in Greek because they grow so tightly together a bird can barely pass through them. They rapidly crowd out cattails – have you seen any lately? If you drive north into Maine, you can see the reduction of cattails as you go north. Many birds, including Redwing blackbirds, Marsh wrens and waterfowl nest in cattails, and amphibians, mammals and fish flourish among them. Excess fertilizer pollution stimulates them.



Removal of
invasive plants
can be a challenge.



For more information about how to remove invasive plants, Mass Audubon has created a 29-page *Invasive Plant Guide*. Scan the QR code above or go to: massaudubon.org/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants-in-massachusetts to download a copy.

For additional information about invasive plants in Massachusetts visit:

Grow Native Massachusetts:
grownativemass.org/Know-Your-Landscape/invasive-plants

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife:
mass.gov/info-details/invasive-plants

Pale Swallow-Wort and Black Swallow-Wort

(far left) are spreading rapidly in Nahant. These thin vines are in the Milkweed family so Monarch Butterflies lay their eggs on them, but the caterpillars cannot eat the leaves as they are toxic. They form long pointed pods with fluffy material inside like native milkweeds. This is a serious threat. See this website: www.canr.msu.edu/news/black_and_pale_swallow_worts



Goutweed (left) is a "groundcover" which was planted (and still is) in yards. It forms a dense mat 8-15" tall. It is also known as Bishop's Weed.