Invasive Agricultural Plants Found In New York State

**Wild Chervil** *Anthriscus sylvestris*
- Herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial
- Reproduces by seed and lateral root buds
- Reduces quality of forage and hay for grazers
- Invades hay fields, roadsides, pastures, disturbed areas, meadows, yards and gardens
- Host for virus disease that infects carrots, celery, and parsnip

**Chinese Lespedeza** *Lespedeza cuneata*
- Semi-woody, perennial forb
- Reproduces by seed and lateral root buds
- Invades fields, meadows, pastures, and cultivated crops
- May develop an extensive seed bank in the soil
- Due to a high tannin content, the plant is unpalatable to livestock grazers
- Has an extensive tap root
- A single plant may live for over 20 years

**Kudzu** *Pueraria montana*
- Herbaceous to semi-woody perennial vine
- Reproduces by seed, rhizomes, and adventitious roots
- Aggressive, climbing vine that overgrows anything in its path
- Invades abandoned fields, fence rows, and crop areas
- Massive tap root at more than 6 feet in length
- Once established, grows up to one foot a day

**Mile-a-Minute** *Persicaria perfoliata*
- Spiny summer annual vine
- Reproduces by seed
- Invades Christmas tree plantations, landscapes, nursery crops, orchards, clear-cut areas, and drainage ditches
- May restrict access to areas due spines on the stem

**Japanese Stiltgrass** *Microstegium vimineum*
- Annual grass
- Reproduces by seed
- Alters soil chemistry and shades other plants
- Not preferred by grazers
- Invades fields, lawns, and gardens in addition to other natural areas

**Japanese Barberry** *Berberis thunbergii*
- Thorny, perennial shrub
- Reproduces mainly by seed, also by creeping roots
- Invades pastures, fields, roadsides, and fence rows
- May change soil chemistry
- Grazers tend to avoid eating Japanese barberry
- Thorns in large infestations may restrict access to areas

**Oriental Bittersweet** *Celastrus orbiculatus*
- Deciduous, woody, perennial vine
- Reproduces by seed (viable for several years) and creeping roots
- Twines around trees and shrubs girdling them
- Invades roadsides, hedgerows, grasslands, field edges, fencerows, and stands of trees

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program (CCE ISP)
- Provides high quality science-based invasive species education
- Helps New Yorkers detect, prevent, and control invasive species
- Helps New Yorkers protect our agricultural and natural resources, human and animal health, and economy from invasive species

For more information on invasive species in New York visit: www.nyis.info

Weeds
NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL INVASIVE SPECIES

This publication, the Cornell Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program, and the New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse are supported by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund through a contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Created by Erin Strobl, CCE Invasive Species Program. Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity, affirmative action educator and employer. © 2012 Cornell University.
Agricultural Invasive Plant Species of High Priority to New York State: Why Should Agriculture and Agribusiness Care?

**Nationwide:**
- Invasive species (plants, insects, and pathogens) costs to U.S. agriculture: > $138 billion per year (USDA-APHIS 2001)

**What’s at Risk in New York?**
- 37,000± farms (25% of NY’s 7.65 million acres)
- Milk: third highest production in the nation ($2± billion/year)
- Major industry of field crops supporting dairy: corn, oats, wheat, soybeans
- Human consumption field crops, fruits, and vegetables ($1± billion/year)
- Apple production along southern shore of Lake Ontario, the Hudson Valley, and upper Lake Champlain Valley is 2nd highest in the nation
- Bedding and garden plants produced under 24 million square feet of glass; 5th largest in nation

**What Are the Economic Impacts of Invasive Agricultural Plants to NY?**
- Agricultural weeds cause estimated 12% crop losses = $33± billion/year
- $4± billion/year spent on herbicides to control invasive plants

**What Segments of Agriculture and Agribusiness are Impacted by Invasive Species?**
- Commodity production
- Harvesting impacts
- Price and market effects
- Production sustainability
- Food security and nutrition
- Human and livestock health

---

**Invasive Agricultural Plants Found In New York State**

**Canada Thistle Cirsium arvense**
- Rhizomatous perennial forb
- Reproduces by wind-blown seed and creeping rhizomes
- Spiny thistles can restrict access in infested areas
- Extensive, fast growing, horizontal roots, which give rise to additional shoots
- Invades perennial crops, rangeland, riparian areas, and areas of reduced tillage

**Giant Hogweed Heracleum mantegazzianum**
- Herbaceous biennial or perennial
- Reproduces by seed
- Phytotrophodermatitis: contact with sap can result in severe burns, blistering, painful sores, and blindness
- Toxic to livestock when mixed in with hay
- Found along roadsides, stream banks, and waste areas

**Leafy Spurge Euphorbia esula**
- Colony-forming perennial
- Reproduces by seeds, buds of lateral roots and root segments
- Mildly toxic to cattle
- Extensive root system may be costly to manage once established
- Invades rangeland, pastures, uncultivated perennial crops, and reduced-tillage crops

**Wild Parsnip Pastinaca sativ**
- Herbaceous biennial, sometimes perennial
- Reproduces by seed
- Invades unmanaged yards, meadows, fields, and waste places
- Toxic to livestock when mixed in hay
- Phytophotodermatitis: reddened skin in long spots or streaks with blistering and burning

**Spotted Knapweed Centaurea stoebe**
- Biennial, Short-lived perennial
- Reproduces by seed
- Important invader of rangeland, pastures, low-maintenance turf grass, landscapes, nurseries, and crops
- Reducing livestock forage
- Produces chemical that is toxic to other plants

**Hemp Dogbane Apocynum cannabinum**
- Herbaceous perennial
- Reproduces by seed, crown buds, and over-wintering rootstocks
- Each flower produced 2 seed pods, each of which produce 80-200 seeds
- Rootstocks grow rapidly
- Problematic in no-till corn, pastures, hay fields, alfalfa, and soybeans
- The milky sap of hemp dogbane is poisonous to cattle, horses, and sheep

**Japanese Knotweed Fallopia japonica**
- Herbaceous perennial
- Reproduces mainly by rhizomes, sometimes by seed
- Rhizomes bury under paved areas and are difficult to manage
- Most commonly found near water sources and low-lying areas such as ditches, waste places, and around homes

---

**Pale Swallow-wort Vincetoxicum rossicum**
- Twining, vine-like perennial
- Reproduces by seed and axillary tillers from root crown if main stem is damaged
- Invasive weed in Christmas tree plantations, nursery crops, fields, pastures, perennial crops, and along fence rows
- May restrict access to infested areas due to extensive twining
- Grazers tend to avoid swallow-wort because it is not as palatable as other plant species

**Black Swallow-wort Vincetoxicum nigrum**
- Perennial shrub
- Reproduces by seeds and stem runners, which form adventitious roots
- Tolerates a variety of soil types
- Thickets restrict human and animal access to areas
- Invades pastures, rangeland, landscapes, fence rows, and uncultivated areas

---

**Multiflora Rose Rosa multiflora**
- Perennial shrub
- Reproduces by seeds and stem runners, which form adventitious roots
- Tolerates a variety of soil types
- Thickets restrict human and animal access to areas
- Invades pastures, rangeland, landscapes, fence rows, and uncultivated areas

---

*Photos: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org*