

## As a gardener, what can you do?

Familiarize yourself with local invasive plants of concern. Help prevent their spread by making sure discarded plant materials are dead and/or contained when disposing of them. Remove seed heads after flowering or dig as much of the root as possible. Carefully place all plant material in a garbage bag, tie tightly, and leave for pickup by your local waste management. Where permitted, dry the plant material for seven to ten days and then burn. Be responsible and do not share invasive plants with other gardeners.

When acquiring new additions for your garden be aware when:

- Buying plants or seed over the internet. Plants that are considered native in one area can be invasive in another.
- Buying plants advertised as “Exotic”. Ornamental plants imported and sold under this category have become some of our worst invaders.
- Shopping at local nurseries, greenhouses, or garden centers. Do not purchase the plant if the scientific name or origin of a plant cannot be supplied.
- Sowing wildflower mixtures. Many wildflower mixes contain seeds of invasive plants. If a list of species (including scientific name) is not included on the package label then do not buy or plant the wildflower mix.

Landscapers and gardeners can now select from a wide variety of alternative perennial and annual plants- for both terrestrial and water gardens which pose no threat to the environment. Native plants such as Meadow Blazingstar (*Liatris ligulistylis*), and Blue flag (*Iris versicolor*) provide excellent alternatives.

A great source of information for growing native species can be found in the book “Naturescape Manitoba” available at local bookstores.

<http://www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com>

# Grow Me Instead



Photo of: Yellow Toadflax  
Bob Nowierski, Montana State University, Bugwood.org



Invasive Species  
Council of Manitoba  
c/o 5006 Roblin Blvd  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3R 0G7

## Why should gardeners be concerned about invasive species?

There are a number of invasive plant species which not only threaten our natural areas, but also invade your garden. These invasive plants spread far and fast by both seed and extensive root systems.

Landscape plants that seed freely like Dame's Rocket or Ox-eye Daisy, for example, often cause extra work for gardeners. Seedlings must be weeded out before they take over and displace plants that were carefully planted in your garden. Plants with creeping root systems such as Creeping Bellflower can spread quickly from your garden onto other people's property, decreasing their enjoyment of their property, and their enjoyment of having you as a neighbor.

For further information on invasive species or to sign up for our free quarterly newsletter, contact the ISCM at (204) 232-6021 or [info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com](mailto:info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com)



## Manitoba Garden Invaders What Not To Plant:

- Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- Scentless Chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)
- Common Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)
- Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*, *L. virgatum*)
- Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)
- Tamarisk or Salt Cedar (*Tamarix spp*)
- Yellow and Dalmation Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*, *L. dalmatica*)
- Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- Wildflower Mixes
- Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
- Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
- Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
- European Frog-Bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)



Shell Environmental Fund

# Grow

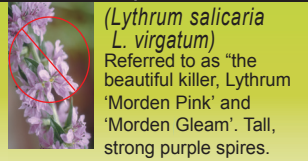
# Me

# Instead



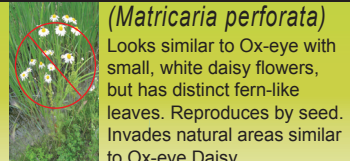
THE INVASIVE SPECIES  
COUNCIL OF MANITOBA

**Avoid: Purple Loosestrife**



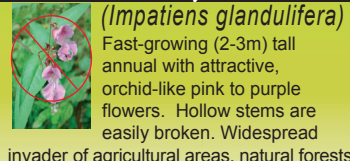
(*Lythrum salicaria*  
*L. virgatum*)  
Referred to as "the beautiful killer," Lythrum 'Morden Pink' and 'Morden Gleam'. Tall, strong purple spires. Takes over ponds, beaches, marshes, farm dugouts, irrigation canals. A mature plant can produce 2.5 million seeds. Ornamental cultivars, originally considered sterile, have proven very fertile when cross pollinated. Copious pollen sources for wild plants.

**Avoid: Scentless Chamomile**



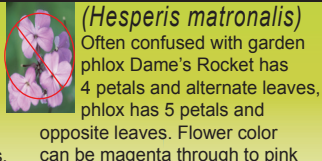
(*Matricaria perforata*)  
Looks similar to Ox-eye with small, white daisy flowers, but has distinct fern-like leaves. Reproduces by seed. Invades natural areas similar to Ox-eye Daisy.

**Avoid: Himalayan Balsam**



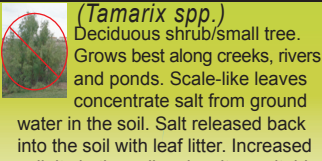
(*Impatiens glandulifera*)  
Fast-growing (2-3m) tall annual with attractive, orchid-like pink to purple flowers. Hollow stems are easily broken. Widespread invader of agricultural areas, natural forests, disturbed areas, rangelands, riverbanks, wetlands and gardens. It should not be used to beautify natural areas. Brittle seed capsules explode upon contact, sending seeds (2500 per plant) 6 meters or more. Shallow root system makes it easily controlled by hand-pulling.

**Avoid: Dame's Rocket**



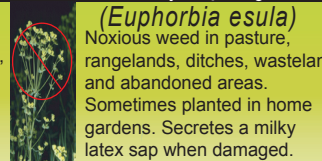
(*Hesperis matronalis*)  
Often confused with garden phlox Dame's Rocket has 4 petals and alternate leaves, phlox has 5 petals and opposite leaves. Flower color can be magenta through to pink or white. Considered a "traditional" garden flower. Prolific seed producer often found in "wildflower" mixes. Especially problematic near woodlands.

**Avoid: Salt Cedar or Tamarisk**



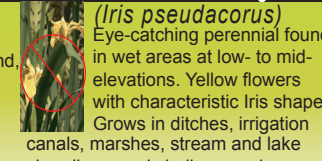
(*Tamarix spp.*)  
Deciduous shrub/small tree. Grows best along creeks, rivers, and ponds. Scale-like leaves concentrate salt from ground water in the soil. Salt released back into the soil with leaf litter. Increased salinity in the soil makes it unsuitable for many native plants and shrubs. Deep rooted. Consumes as much as 750 litres of water/day. Grows 3-4 metres in a single season. Mature plant can produce 600,000 seeds annually. Seeds easily dispersed by wind and water. Severed stems and shoots root readily in moist soil.

**Avoid: Leafy Spurge**



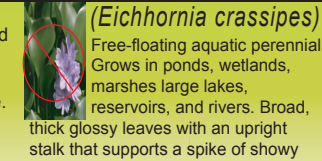
(*Euphorbia esula*)  
Noxious weed in pasture, rangelands, ditches, wasteland, and abandoned areas. Sometimes planted in home gardens. Secretes a milky latex sap when damaged. Flowers are in numerous small clusters around green to yellow heart-shaped bracts. Lower leaves are smooth, green and narrow. Spreads easily through seed and root fragments. Dominates habitats it infests and causes economic impacts around \$34 million per year in Manitoba.

**Avoid: Yellow Flag Iris**



(*Iris pseudacorus*)  
Eye-catching perennial found in wet areas at low- to mid-elevations. Yellow flowers with characteristic Iris shape. Grows in ditches, irrigation canals, marshes, stream and lake shorelines, and shallow ponds. Reproduces quickly through seed dispersal and horizontal root systems, creating thickets in the water like cattails. Dense stands exclude native wetland species, threatening plant and animal diversity. Sold in garden centres and on the Internet for wet areas.

**Avoid: Water Hyacinth**



(*Eichhornia crassipes*)  
Free-floating aquatic perennial. Grows in ponds, wetlands, marshes large lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Broad, thick glossy leaves with an upright stalk that supports a spike of showy flowers lavender to pink in colour. According to the Global Invasive Species Database, it is on the list of 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species. Can displace native vegetation, reduce biological diversity, and clog irrigation canals. Widely sold as a pond plant due to its exotic appearance and attractive flowers.

**Instead**



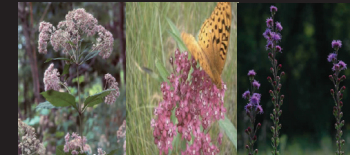
**Blazing Star** (*Liatris ligulistylis*)  
**Blue Vervain** (*Verbena hastata*)  
**Obedient Plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*)

**Instead**



**False Sunflower** (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)  
**Flat-top White Aster** (*Doellingeria umbellata*)  
**Prairie Sunflowers** (*Helianthus spp.*)

**Instead**



**Joe Pye-Weed** (*Eupatorium maculatum*)  
**Swamp Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*)  
**Meadow Blazing Star** (*Liatris ligulistylis*)

**Instead**



**Wild Flax** (*Linum lewisii*)  
**Purple Prairie Clover** (*Dalea purpurea*)  
**Fireweed** (*Epilobium angustifolium*)

**Instead**



**Common Juniper** (*Juniperus communis*)  
**Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*)  
**Common Bearberry** (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

**Instead**



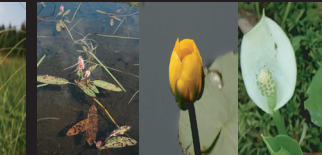
**Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)  
**Prairie Sage** (*Artemisia ludoviciana*)  
**Canada Milkvech** (*Astragalus canadensis*)

**Instead**



**Marsh Marigold** (*Caltha palustris*)  
**Sweet Flag** (*Acorus calamus*)  
**Blue Flag Wild Iris** (*Iris versicolor*)

**Instead**



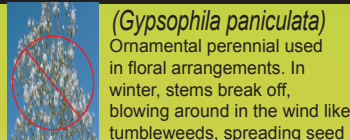
**Water Smartweed** (*Polygonum amphibium*)  
**Yellow Pond Lily** (*Nuphar variegatum*)  
**Water Arum** (*Calla palustris*)

**Avoid: Ox Eye Daisy**



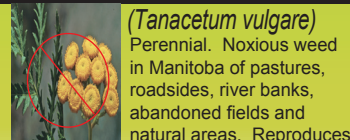
(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)  
European origin. Widespread invader in North American pastures and natural areas. Classic white daisy. Lower leaves toothed, upper leaves have wavy margins. Reproduces by seed, or by shallow creeping roots (rhizomes). Single plants quickly become large patches. Unpalatable for grazing by livestock or wildlife, giving it a competitive advantage. Has become a serious invasive problem in natural areas. Some cultivars sold as 'Shasta Daisy' are in fact Ox-eye Daisy. Seeds are often included in wildflower seed mixes.

**Avoid: Common Baby's Breath**



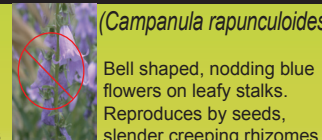
(*Gypsophila paniculata*)  
Ornamental perennial used in floral arrangements. In winter, stems break off, blowing around in the wind like tumbleweeds, spreading seed to pastures and natural areas. Widespread infestations across Canada and northern US.

**Avoid: Common Tansy**



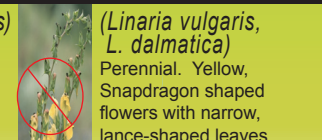
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)  
Perennial. Noxious weed in Manitoba of pastures, roadsides, river banks, abandoned fields and natural areas. Reproduces by seed and short rhizomes. Forms dense stands. Pungent, aromatic foliage used medicinally, as an insect repellent, and historically was used for embalming. Contains compounds toxic to humans and livestock, if consumed in large quantities. Unpalatable to grazing animals, gives it a competitive advantage in natural areas and rangelands.

**Avoid: Creeping Bellflower**



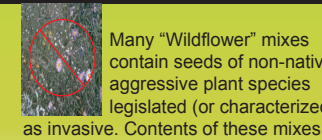
(*Campanula rapunculoides*)  
Bell shaped, nodding blue flowers on leafy stalks. Reproduces by seeds, slender creeping rhizomes and tuberous root pieces. Rhizomes can travel under fences, sidewalks and concrete. Produces up to 15,000 seeds/plant. Can displace and dominate lawns and perennial sun or shade garden. Survives periods of drought. Tuberous roots, creeping rhizome system and resistance to some herbicides make it extremely difficult to eradicate.

**Avoid: Yellow & Dalmation Toadflax**



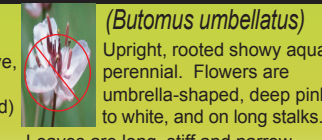
(*Linaria vulgaris*, *L. dalmatica*)  
Perennial. Yellow, Snapdragon shaped flowers with narrow, lance-shaped leaves (Yellow toadflax) or broad, heart-shaped leaves (Dalmation toadflax). Spreads by seed- up to 500,000/plant- and creeping rhizomes. Strong competitors for soil moisture. Can form dense patches that replace native vegetation. Difficult to eradicate once established due to extensive root system. Often included in wildflower seed mixes.

**Avoid: Wildflower Mixes**



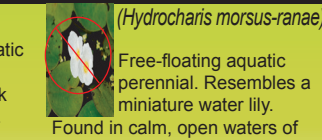
Many "Wildflower" mixes contain seeds of non-native, aggressive plant species legislated (or characterized) as invasive. Contents of these mixes are rarely listed accurately by their scientific names. The wide variety of common names used for some plants adds to the confusion. Never purchase a seed mix without the packet being clearly labeled with scientific names. Some seed packets with contents labeled may still contain surprise invaders not listed.

**Avoid: Flowering Rush**



(*Butomus umbellatus*)  
Upright, rooted showy aquatic perennial. Flowers are umbrella-shaped, deep pink to white, and on long stalks. Leaves are long, stiff and narrow. Lives in wetlands, sedge meadows streams, riverbanks, ditches and lake shores. Brought to North America as an ornamental and has escaped cultivation. Spreads by seeds and creeping roots. Can displace native vegetation, reduce biological diversity, and clog irrigation canals. Sold in local garden centres as a pond plant.

**Avoid: European Frog Bit**



(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)  
Free-floating aquatic perennial. Resembles a miniature water lily. Found in calm, open waters of marshes and ditches. Round, heart-shaped leaves and white flowers with a yellow centre. Roots are horizontal stems that entwine to form dense mats in the water. Becomes the dominant plant in wetlands and reduces native plant diversity. Interferes with swimming, boating fishing, and waterfowl hunting. Sold on the Internet and in garden centres as a pond plant.

**Instead**



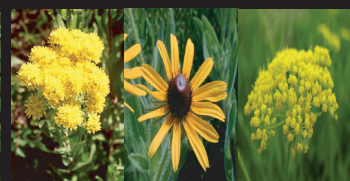
**False Sunflower** (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)  
**Flat-top White Aster** (*Doellingeria umbellata*)  
**Prairie Sunflowers** (*Helianthus spp.*)

**Instead**



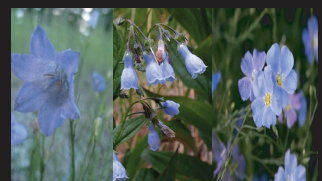
**Common Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)  
**Pearly Everlasting** (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)  
**Flat-top White Aster** (*Doellingeria umbellata*)

**Instead**



**Stiff Goldenrod** (*Oligoneuron rigida*)  
**Black-eye Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*)  
**Alexanders** (*Zizia aptera*, *Z. aurea*)

**Instead**



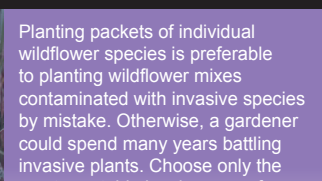
**Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*)  
**Tall Bluebells** (*Mertensia paniculata*)  
**Wild Flax** (*Linum lewisii*)

**Instead**



**Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*)  
**Helenium** (*Helenium autumnale*)  
**Canadian Milkvech** (*Astragalus canadensis*)

**Instead**



**Blue Flag Wild Iris** (*Iris versicolor*)

**Instead**



**Swamp Milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*)  
**Obedient Plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*)

**Instead**



**Water Smartweed** (*Polygonum amphibium*)  
**Duckweed** (*Lemna minor*, *L. trisulca*)  
**Water Arum** (*Calla palustris*)

Planting packets of individual wildflower species is preferable to planting wildflower mixes contaminated with invasive species by mistake. Otherwise, a gardener could spend many years battling invasive plants. Choose only the most reputable local sources for seed to ensure species planted are actually native to, and adapted for, a specific area.