

Autumn Olive

(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



National Park Service



Chris Evans

The Autumn Olive is an invasive species, which was introduced for landscaping, erosion control, and wildlife food. It grows from six to twenty feet tall. It has egg-shaped leaves and pale yellow flowers. This species is native to Asia and Southern Europe. It is very competitive with native species, and thrives near streams, fields, roadsides and woodlands.

Oriental Bittersweet

(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Martin LaBar



Vital Signs ME

The bittersweet plant is an invasive species that originates from Korea, China, and Japan. This plant grows in forests, woodlands, fields, coastal areas and salt marshes. It is woody and has a twining vine. The plant has small green flowers and yellow and green fruit. This plant also has seed outgrowth that are a red-orange color. These seeds are spread by birds.

Black Raspberry

(Rubus occidentalis)



World Seed Supply

Many people eat black raspberries raw, use them to make jam, or bake them into delicious treats. To identify this bush look for five-petaled white flowers with three to seven leaves on a single stem. Early in the growing season, the fruit will be red but will turn black throughout the summer. These plants grow best in sunny areas or on the edge of farmland and meadows.

Burning Bush

(*Euonymus alatus*)



National Park Service



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The Burning Bush (Winged Euonymus) is an invasive species that originates from Northeastern Asia, Japan and Central China. It was first introduced to the United States around 1860. This plant's leaves have winged stems and are yellowish-green and turn an intense bright red in the autumn. The species is invasive in many eastern and Midwestern states and competes with native vegetation. The plant typically grows in length and width from 5 to 10 feet.

Cattail

(Typha angustifolia)



Caryn Green

Cattails are common in shallow water through marshes or ponds. The leaves of this plant are long and parallel to the veins. The flowers will have a brown, sausage-like shape on top of the stem. They are used for salads, and can be cooked or even pickled. Most of the uses for cattails require you to cook or store the flowers first.

Common Burdock

(*Arctium minus*)



Charles Pence

The common burdock can be eaten cooked or raw, commonly in salads. The young leaves are often added to salads or boiled. When the rind is removed, the roots can be boiled for 30 minutes. The leaves are large and slightly wooly at the base. The stalks of lower leaves are hollow. Purple flowers are formed the first year it blooms. Common burdock habitats are usually roadsides, fields, and vacant lots. This plant has been used medicinally to treat sprains, joint pain, ulcers, scurvy, and other minor ailments.

Common Dandelion

(*Taraxacum officinale*)



MinnesotaSeasons.com

The common dandelion is mostly used as a cooked green, cooked vegetable, fritter, coffee, or in salads. The young leaves can be boiled or eaten raw. The young flower buds can also be boiled and the the flowers are used for fritters. When baked or ground, the roots can be steeped to make a coffee like drink. The flowers of the common dandelion are solitary and yellow, found at the end of the stalk. The fruits are clustered into whitish, downy seed balls. This plant is often found in disturbed areas, lawns, and roadsides throughout the United States.

Evening Primrose

(*Oenothera biennis*)



Jim Rathert

The Evening Primrose will grow tall and will have flowers throughout the months of June to October. The leaves will be hairy and will have yellow flowers. It would be best to plant these on the roadside and in dry soil. This plant can be used for cooking or to put in a salad.

False Soloman's Seal

Edible Forest

(*Smilacina* or *Maianthemum racemosa*)



Illinois Wildflowers



Missouri Department of Conservation

The Seal can be used by cooking or putting the leaves into salads. The berries can even be eaten raw. To identify this plant look for parallel design on the leaves and arranged on a stem. At first the fruit will be white but then they will turn red when it's ripe. The ideal location for the Seal would be in the woods, clearings, and even the river-banks. The best season for this plant is early spring.

Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Ironwood is also known as American Hornbeam and Musclewood. These names originate from the tree's exceptionally hard wood, which has been used to manufacture small and sturdy tools such as mallets, levers, and handles.



Murrysville Recreation



Barrett Wilson

This species is prized for its many distinct features, including its blue-grey bark color, tapering toothed leaves, and its mostly smooth bark with muscle-like ridges.

Found throughout the bottomlands of the eastern United States, Ironwood trees are an understory species. This means that they typically grow only 20-40 feet tall, and grow best in the shade of larger tree species such as oak, maple, and hickory.



New England Wild Flower Society

Japanese Barberry

(*Berberis thunbergii*)



Vital Signs ME

Japanese Barberry is a native plant of Japan. It came to the United States in 1875 as an ornamental. This plant thrives when in either full sun or full shade and grows in open woodlands, wetlands, and fields. It grows from three to six feet and has narrow oval shaped leaves. The plant produces berries from July through October and the berries remain throughout the winter. This species is invasive and displaces native herbaceous and woody plants. It also provides habitat for ticks.

Jerusalem Artichoke

(Helianthus tuberosus)



Daley's Fruit Tree Nursery



Peaceful Valley Farm Supply

The Artichoke can be used for a root vegetable and the tubers can be pickled to make a wine vinegar. This plant creates a beautiful yellow to brownish center with yellow petals. The stem is hairy and the leaves are a dark green. This grows best in fields and roadsides. The best time to pick the tubers is from fall to early spring.

Common Reed

(Pharagmites australis)



The common reed originated in Europe and was introduced through ballast in ships. This plant commonly grows in wet areas such as wetlands, swamps, freshwater marshes, river edges, shores and roadsides. This invasive species takes up potential growing spaces for native species, and provides minimal food for animals. The reeds can grow up to fifteen feet tall and have long leaves. This plant's structure also increases the potential for fast-spreading fires.

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

Speckled Alder

(*Alnus incana* or *Alnus Rugosa*)



Morton Arboretum



Marcy Cunkelman



Morton Arboretum

Speckled alders are a native species present in the HEEP. They are small trees that typically grow to about 30 feet in height, with small leaves and cone shaped fruit. Speckled Alders grow best in damp areas with nutrient rich soil, such as near bodies of water and wetlands. This species is generally used for site rehabilitation in order to stop erosion. It also provides a cover for animals such as rabbits and woodcocks.

Wintergreen

(*Gaultheria procumbens*)



Mother Earth Living

The Wintergreen can use all of its materials for eating. The leaves can be made into a tea and the berries can be eaten plain, both the leaves and the berries can be used in salads. To find this plant look for small, dark green oval shaped leaves. The flowers will hang from underneath the leaf. The fruit is a small red berry that has a minty taste. The best area for this plant is in the woods and in poor waste soil. The wintergreen is a year round plant.

Wrinkled Rose

Edible Forest

(Rosa rugosa)



Claudia Daggett

The wrinkled rose has multiple parts that can be used for food. The fruit can be eaten raw or made into tea and jelly. The petals can be put into a salad, made into a jelly, and even candy. The wrinkled rose is a shrub with bristly stems. The flowers can be pink to white and will have five petals. The fruits, rosehip, are bright red and can be harvested year round. The best place for this plant is in sand dunes and disturbed land, like roadsides.