



# Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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[www.ManchesterNH.gov/UrbanPonds](http://www.ManchesterNH.gov/UrbanPonds)

## Have You Seen These Culprits? Exotic Plants of McQuesten Pond



**Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*)**

- Native to China, Japan and Korea.
- Introduced to North American in 1830.
- Medium to large shrub (up to 20 feet tall).
- Upper surfaces of oval leaves are dark green to grayish-green
- Lower surfaces are silvery white.
- Small light yellow flowers bloom in late April and May.
- Small fleshy fruits range in color from pink to red and are produced in abundance each year.
- Grows in disturbed areas, fields, pastures, and roadsides, where it has been widely planted.
- Also grows in prairies, open woodlands, and forest edges.

### **Black Locust**

**(*Robina pseudoacacia*)**

- Native to Southern Appalachia and the Ozarks.
- Introduced to North American in the early 1900's for soil erosion control.
- Reproduces by root suckering and stump sprouting.
- Root suckers arise spontaneously from established root systems, sprouting new shoots and interconnecting fibrous roots to form extensive, dense groves of clones.
- Grows in upland forests, pastures, degraded woods, thickets, old fields, and roadsides.
- Because dense clonal stands shade out most understory vegetation, such tree groves can be detrimental to native vegetation.



### **Bush Honeysuckle - Tartarian spp.**

**(*Lonicera tartarica*)**

- Native to Asia and western Europe.
- Introduced to North America as an ornamental in 1752 and late 1800's.
- Grow in a broad range of habitats with varying moisture and shade levels.
- Woodlands are most susceptible to invasion, especially if the area is already disturbed.
- Grow mostly in or near large urban areas, but rural infestations have occurred where the species were introduced to provide wildlife with cover and a food source.
- Distribution is aided by birds, which consume the ripened fruit in summer and disperse the seeds over long distances.
- Their vigorous growth inhibits development of native shrub and ground layer species
- Honeysuckles may entirely replace native species by shading and depleting soil moisture and nutrients.

### **Climbing Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*)**

- Native to Asia
- Introduced to North America for cultivation in the mid 1800's.
- Deciduous twining vine with alternate, round, glossy leaves.
- Small greenish flowers occur in clusters next to the leaf stems. Leathery capsule surrounding the seed ripens to a bright orange.
- Grows in woods, roadsides, thickets, and old homesites.
- Can overrun natural vegetation by overtopping all other species and forming thick nearly pure stands.
- Can strangle shrubs and tree limbs, and weaken a tree by girdling the trunk and weighting the crown making the tree more susceptible to wind and ice damage thus threatening the integrity of the native species.



### **Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*)**

- Native to Europe.
- Erect stems can grow up to 15 feet high and end in dense floral heads.
- Floral heads are purplish when young and white or light brown and feathery when mature.
- Flowers from late July through October.
- Long, pointed green leaves grow up to 2 feet long and 2 inches wide.
- Stands of common reed disperse seeds, or pieces of underground stems, called rhizomes.
- Once established, stands grow predominately by sending up new shoots each spring from existing rhizomes, or from runners.
- If stem is knocked over it can act like a rhizome by taking root and producing new shoots.
- Grows in sunny, wetland habitats.
- Also found in fresh marshes, pond margins, swamps, and ditches.
- Can also tolerate brackish and saline waters.
- Prevalent in wet areas that have disturbed or polluted soils.
- Human activities such as road and housing development have made the invasion quite successful in adjacent wetland areas.