

Landscaping with Native Plants in Pennsylvania



Native plants help create beautiful landscapes that provide wildlife habitat and reduce maintenance costs. Their greatest benefit, though, may be the increased awareness about which plants are native and which are not, and the protection of remaining native plant communities.

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So what exactly is a Native Plant?

A native plant is one which occurred within the state before settlement by Europeans. Native plants include ferns and clubmosses; grasses, sedges, rushes, and their kin; flowering perennials; annuals which only live one year; biennials, which have a two year life cycle; and, of course, the woody trees, shrubs, and vines which covered "Penns's Woods" when the first settlers arrived. There are over 2,100 native plant species known in Pennsylvania.



An introduced or non-native plant is one that has been brought into the state and become established. At the turn of the 21st century, about 1,300 species of non-native plants existed in Pennsylvania. That is 37 percent of Pennsylvania's total plant flora (which is about 3,400 species), and more introduced plants are identified every year.

An invasive plant is a species that has become a weed pest. One that grows aggressively, spreads, and displaces other plants. Although some native plants are aggressive on disturbed areas, most invasive plants are introduced from other continents, leaving behind pests, diseases, predators, and other natural controls.



While new plants are coming into Pennsylvania, native plants are being lost to habitat destruction, invasive plants, and introduced pests and diseases. By 2000, 5 percent of Pennsylvania native plant species had been eliminated and another 25 percent were in danger of becoming so. The good news is that action can be taken to protect and enhance the remaining diversity of beautiful and often useful plant species which grace our Commonwealth: Protect native plant communities and minimize habitat destruction; Landscape with native plants; Learn more about native plants; Buy nursery-propagated native plants; Do not remove native plants from the wild; Practice

responsible landscaping techniques.



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"Go Native" with these 6 basics

1. Protect native plant communities and minimize habitat destruction

The most important guideline is to conserve already existing areas of native vegetation as a whole, functioning unit. The easiest, least expensive, and best way to conserve Pennsylvania's plant heritage is to protect existing native plant communities from further disturbance. If disturbance is necessary, strive for minimum habitat destruction. In some cases ecological restoration may be necessary, which can include planting native species, removing invasive introduced species, controlling erosion and loosening soil compaction.



2. Landscape with native plants

Native plant communities have been destroyed in many areas and therefore landscaping is required; parks, yards, streets, and campuses, for example. Well-chosen native plants perform well in these landscapes. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)-Bureau of Forestry (BOF) recommends avoiding rare, endangered, and threatened plants and instead choosing native plant species which grow commonly throughout the state. These hardy and adaptable plants do well in a wide variety of conditions and have a much better chance of success in gardens. If you do not want all natives, plant adapted introduced plants suited for the site, colorful annuals, or flowering plants that will not escape and become environmental weeds.

3. Learn more about native plants

Learn what plants are native in your area. The Resources Page lists just a few of the resources for this region, but there are many more. Many field guides can get you started.

4. Buy nursery-propagated native plants

Most retail nurseries and mail-order catalogs now offer native plants. The more consumers request native plants, the more this supply will grow. If you want guaranteed ornamental characteristics, cultivars (named varieties) are available in some cases; for instance, New England Aster has a cultivar named 'Purple Dome', which was selected for shorter height and showier flowers. Cultivars should be predictable in attributes like height, color, blooming period, or absence of seed pods/thorns--qualities many gardeners want. If your goal is genetic diversity, however, ask for straight species, not cultivars, grown from local seed sources. Plants grown from seed have much more variety than cloned cultivars.

5. Do not remove native plants from the wild

Taking native plants from the wild depletes native populations. Also, many wild-collected plants do not survive transplanting. Prevent wild-collecting of plants by making sure that plants you buy are propagated at a nursery, or by starting plants yourself from a local seed supply (Collect seed only with the property owner's permission). Ask the DCNR-BOF for a list of native plant and seed sources in

Pennsylvania.

6. Practice responsible landscaping techniques

The first rule of responsible landscaping is to plant the right plants in the right environment: never introduce invasive plants to your landscape that will aggressively spread off your property and invade native plant communities. They can drastically alter ecosystems and give you and your neighbors maintenance headaches for years to come. Ask the DCNR-BOF for the brochure "Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania." When landscaping with native plants it is important to choose plants that will grow well at the site: wet or dry, shade or sun, acid or neutral soil. A good trick is to notice which native plants are thriving nearby, and to use those clues to guide plant selection. Other information can be found from plant nurseries, catalogs, books, or the Internet. For soil fertility, compost and mulch of leaves or grass clippings provide slow release nutrients. Chemical fertilizers often provide too many nutrients too quickly for native plants, and this flush of nutrients gives weeds a competitive edge. Proper site preparation begins with a soil test before applying fertilizer. Try organic pest control. Keep the soil covered to prevent weeds. Remove invasive plants nearby. Take out severely diseased plants, or ones with insect infestations. Many native plants attract beneficial insects which help control pests, so try creating habitat for "good bugs."



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Herbaceous Perennials: Showy Flowers


















































































































Common Name: since there often are many common names for the same plant, these species are arranged by scientific name

Scientific Name: Scientific name from Rhoads and Klein, 1993, *The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania*

Zone Preference: Pennsylvania is generally divided into two horticultural zones: USDA Zone 5 in the northern half of the state and higher elevations where the average minimum temperature may reach -10 to -20F. USDA Zone 6 is in the southern half of the state and lower elevations where the average coldest temperature is 0 to -10F. A dash (--) indicates the plant grows partially in both zones, but not throughout the entire area.

Water: - Wet - Moist - Dry
Light: - Full Sun - Medium Sun - Shade

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Period	Bloom Color	Height	Zone	Water	Light
Doll's eyes	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	Apr-Jun	white	1-3 ft	5		
	Notes: Interesting berries						
Wild columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Apr-Jun	red & yellow	1-3 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Commonly cultivated; spreads by seed; hummingbirds						
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Apr-Jun	green-purple	1-3 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Unusual flower; bright red berries						
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Apr-May	maroon	< 1 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Edible and herbal uses						
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Jul-Aug	rose	2-4 ft	6		
	Notes: Butterfly plant; needs wet-moist soils						
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Jun-Aug	pink	2-6 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Butterfly plant; interesting seed pods						
Butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	May-Sep	orange	1-3 ft	6		
	Notes: Butterfly plant; tolerates dry conditions; taproot						
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	Aug-Oct	purple	2-6 ft	6		
	Notes: Showy and frequently cultivated						
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Jul-Sep	whitish	1-3 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Tolerates wet; strong grower; herbal uses; hummingbirds						
Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	Aug-Sep	purple	3-6 ft	6		
	Notes: Good for insects in the garden; herbal uses						
White snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	Jul-Oct	white	2-3 ft	6		
	Notes: Tough plant; can grow in dry shade; cultivars available						
Gaura	<i>Gaura biennis</i>	Jul-Sep	white	1-6 ft	6		
	Notes: Attractive flowers						
Wood geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Apr-Jul	rose	1-2 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Adaptable plant; long bloom time; spreader; herbal uses						
Common sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Aug-Oct	yellow	2-6 ft	6		
	Notes: Tolerates wet areas; showy flowers; herbal uses						
Sunflowers	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	Jul-Sep	yellow	4-6 ft	6		
	Notes: Perennials; often aggressive; showy flowers; good for birds						
Oxeye sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Jul-Sep	yellow	1-5 ft	6		
	Notes: Long bloom time; butterfly plant						
Alum-root	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	May-Aug	greenish	1-2 ft	6		
	Notes: Long bloom time; many cultivars and hybrids						
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Jul-Sep	scarlet	2-5 ft	6		
	Notes: Long bloom time; butterfly and hummingbird plant						
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Jul-Oct	blue	1-3 ft	6		

Monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Jul-Sep	violet	2-3 ft.	5-6	 	 
	Notes: Long bloom time; white cultivars; hummingbirds<						
Partridge-berry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Jun-Jul	white	< 1 ft.	5-6	 	 
	Notes: Grows in moist places; interesting flowers						
Bee-balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Jul-Aug	red	2-5 ft.	5		  
	Notes: Evergreen; ground cover; berry edible and showy						
Bee-balm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Jul-Aug	violet	2-5 ft.	--	 	 
	Notes: Showy flowers; aromatic; butterfly plant; herbal uses						
Sundrops	<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	Jun-Sep	yellow	1-3 ft.	6		 
	Notes: Aromatic; tolerates dry soils; herbal uses						
Sundrops	<i>Oenothera perennis</i>	Jun-Aug	yellow	1-2 ft.	5-6	 	
	Notes: Bright flowers; long bloom time						
Beard-tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	May-Jul	white	2-5 ft.	6	 	
	Notes: Colored cultivars; hummingbirds						
Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	May-Jun	lilac	1-2 ft.	--	 	  
	Notes: Aromatic; butterflies						
Phlox	<i>Phlox maculata</i>	Jun-Sep	purple	1-3 ft.	6	 	  
	Notes: Aromatic; showey flowers; butterflies						
Phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Jul-Oct	pink	2-5 ft.	6	 	  
	Notes: Aromatic; showy flowers; butterflies						
May-apple	<i>Podophyllum petatum</i>	May	white	1-2 ft.	6		 
	Notes: Ground cover; edible fruit; mottled foliage						
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Apr-Jun	blue	1-2 ft.	--		  
	Notes: Attractive flowers; slow spreaser; herbal uses						
Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	Apr-Jun	yellow	1-3 ft.	6		  
	Notes: Not fussy; blue berries; herbal and edible uses						
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	May-Sep	orange	2-3 ft.	5-6	 	  
	Notes: Bright daisy-like flowers; long bloom time; many cultivars						
Cutleaf coneflower	<i>Rudeckia lacianata</i>	Jul-Sep	yellow	2-6 ft.	5-6	 	 
	Notes: Tall daisy; tolerates wet soil; herbal						
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Mar-May	white	< 1 ft.	6		 
	Notes: Red juice; herbal uses						
Golden ragwort	<i>Senecio aureus</i>	May-Jul	yellow	1-2 ft.	6	 	  
	Notes: Wetland plant; long bloom time; early daisy-like flowers						
False Solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	May-Jul	white	1-2 ft.	5-6	 	 
	Notes: Plume like flower; red berries; herbal uses						
Wrinkle-leaf goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Jul-Nov	yellow	2-6 ft.	5-6		  
	Notes: Aggressive; tough plant; butterflies						
Nodding ladies-tresses	<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	Aug-Oct	white	1-2 ft.	--	 	 
	Notes: Likes moist, acid soils; orchid flowers; herbal uses						
Tall meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>	May-Jun	white	2-8 ft.	5-6	 	  
	Notes: Wet to moist soil; tall plant; delicate flowers						
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Apr-Jun	white	< 1 ft.	5		 
	Notes: Attractive, long-blooming flower; many cultivars						
Trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	Apr-Jun	white	1-2 ft.	--		
	Notes: Showy flowers; common in western PA						
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Jun-Sep	blue	2-5 ft.	5-6	 	 
	Notes: Wet-moist soils; bright flowers; herbal uses						
New York ironweed	<i>Veronica noveboracensis</i>	Jul-Sep	purple	3-6 ft.	6	 	 
	Notes: Tall plant of wet-moist soils;brilliant flowers						
American dog violet	<i>Viola conspersa</i>	Apr-May	violet	< 1 ft.	6	 	  
	Notes: Delicate plant and flower; edible						
Common blue violet	<i>Viola sororia</i>	Apr-May	violet	< 1 ft.	6		  
	Notes: Delicate plant and flower; edible						
Golden-Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Apr-Jun	gold	1-2 ft.	--		  
	Notes: Not fussy; attracts good insects						

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Herbaceous Perennials: Ferns



Common Name: since there often are many common names for the same plant, these species are arranged by scientific name

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Zone Preference: Pennsylvania is generally divided into two horticultural zones: USDA Zone 5 in the northern half of the state and higher elevations where the average minimum temperature may reach -10 to -20F. USDA Zone 6 is in the southern half of the state and lower elevations where the average coldest temperature is 0 to -10F. A dash (-) indicates the plant grows partially in both zones, but not throughout the entire area.

Water: - Wet - Moist - Dry
 Light: - Full Sun - Medium Sun - Shade

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Zone	Water	Light
Maidenhair fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i> Notes: Grows in clumps; delicate texture; herbal uses	1 - 2 ft	5 - 6		
Evergreen shield fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> Notes: Evergreen; clump-former; attractive	1 - 3 ft	5 - 6		
Interrupted fern	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> Notes: Grows in clumps; distinctive fronds	2 - 4 ft	5 - 6		
Christmas fern	<i>Polystichum achrostichoides</i> Notes: Evergreen; grows in clumps	1 - 2 ft	5 - 6		

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Herbaceous Perennials: Grasses



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Water: - Wet - Moist - Dry
Light: - Full Sun - Medium Sun - Shade

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Period	Height	Zone	Water	Light
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gorardii</i>	Jun-Sep	3 - 5 ft	--		
	Notes: Clump forming; attractive, with winter interest					
Lurid sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i>	Jun-Oct	1 - 2 ft	5 - 6		
	Notes: Wetland plant; interesting seeds					
Bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	Jun-Aug	2 - 4 ft	6		
	Notes: Grass which grows in shade					
Riverbank wild-rye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Jul-Sep	3 - 5 ft	5 - 6		
	Notes: Good for streambank conditions					
Virginia wild-rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Jul-Sep	2 - 4 ft	5 - 6		
	Notes: Grass which tolerates a wide range of conditions					
Switch grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Aug-Sep	3 - 6 ft	--		
	Notes: Clump grass; can help control erosion					
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Jul-Sep	2 - 4 ft	6		
	Notes: Clump grass; tolerates poor soil; winter interest					
Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Aug-Sep	3 - 6 ft	--		
	Notes: Clump grass; tall with beautiful flowers					

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Woody Plants: Small Trees and Shrubs





















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Zone Preference: Pennsylvania is generally divided into two horticultural zones: USDA Zone 5 in the northern half of the state and higher elevations where the average minimum temperature may reach -10 to -20F. USDA Zone 6 is in the southern half of the state and lower elevations where the average coldest temperature is 0 to -10F. A dash (--) indicates the plant grows partially in both zones, but not throughout the entire area.

Water: - Wet - Moist - Dry
Light: - Full Sun - Medium Sun - Shade

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Period	Wildlife Value	Height	Zone	Water	Light
Smooth alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	Mar-Apr	high	6-10	6		
	Notes: Yellow catkins; multi-stemmed; needs wet soil						
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Mar-May	high<	15-25	6		
	Notes: White flowers in spring; edible berries; fall color						
Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Mar-Jul	intermediate	3-6	--		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; berries; fall color						
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	May-Sep	intermediate	< 3	6		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; tough; fixes nitrogen						
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Jun-Sep	intermediate	6-15	6		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; interesting fruit						
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	April	very low	20-35	--		
	Notes: Purple flowers in spring; fixes nitrogen						
Alternate-leaved dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	May-Jun	very high	15-25	5-6		
	Notes: White flowers in early summer; blue berries						
Silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	May-Jul	very high	6-12	6		
	Notes: White flowers in summer; blue berries; multi-stemmed						
Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Apr-Jun	very high	10-30	6		
	Notes: White bracts in spring; red berries; diseases						
Witch-hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Sep-Nov	low	20-30	5-6		
	Notes: Yellow flowers; multi-stemmed; fragrant; medicinal						
Wild hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Jun-Jul	low	3-5	6		
	Notes: White blooms in mid-summer; multi-stemmed						
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	May-Jun	high	6-10	6		
	Notes: Showy berries in winter; multi-stemmed						
Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	May-Jul	very low	7-15	6		
	Notes: White flowers; evergreen; multi-stemmed; PA state flower						
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Mar-May	high	6-12	6		
	Notes: Berries and foliage in fall; multi-stemmed; herbal uses						
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	May-Jul	intermediate	5-10	6		
	Notes: Pink flowers; papery bark; multi-stemmed						
Wild plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	Apr-May	high	15-25	6		
	Notes: White flowers; edible fruit; multi-stemmed						
Rosebay	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Jun-Jul	very low	10-30	--		
	Notes: Rose flowers; evergreen; multi-stemmed						
	<i>Rhododendron</i>						

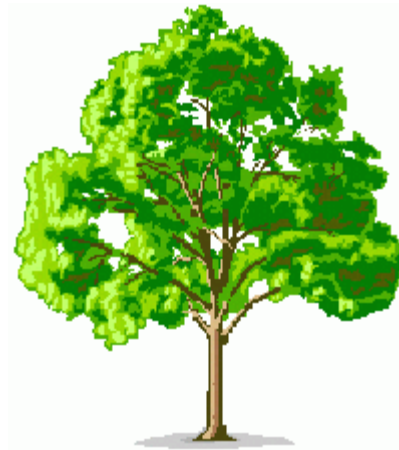
Pinxter-flower	<i>periclymenoides</i>	May-Jun	low	4-8	6		
	Notes: White-pink flowers; multi-stemmed						
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	Apr-May	intermediate	30-50	6		
	Notes: Catkins in spring; needs wet to moist soil						
Silky willow	<i>Salix sericea</i>	May	intermediate	< 12	5-6		
	Notes: Catkins; needs wet conditions; multi-stemmed						
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Jun-Jul	very high	5-15	5-6		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; edible berries & flowers						
Lowbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	May-Jun	very high	1-2	--		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; edible berries						
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	May-Jun	very high	6-12	--		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; edible berries; fall colors						
Maple-leaved viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	May-Jun	intermediate	4-6	5-6		
	Notes: White flowers; multi-stemmed; edible berries; fall color						
Arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	May-Jun	very high	3-15	--		
	Notes: White flowers in late spring; multi-stemmed						
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	July	high	10-40	--		
	Notes: Fall color; berries important for wildlife; considered a vine						

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Woody Plants: Medium to Large Trees



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Water: - Wet - Moist - Dry
Light: - Full Sun - Medium Sun - Shade

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Period	Wildlife Value	Height	Zone	Water	Light
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Mar-Apr	very high	40-60 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Red flowers; adaptable; fall color						
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Apr-May	very high	60-75 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Yellow flowers in spring; fall color; maple syrup						
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Apr-May	very high	60-80 ft	5		
	Notes: Catkins in winter						
Black birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	Apr-May	very high	45-55 ft	--		
	Notes: Catkins in winter						
River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	Apr-May	very high	60-80 ft	--		
	Notes: Catkins; striking bark; grows in eastern & central PA						
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	Apr-May	high	50-70 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Beautiful tree; edible nuts; attractive bark						
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	Apr-May	intermediate	50-80 ft	6		
	Notes: Fast growth; fall color						
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Apr-May	intermediate	30-50 ft	--		
	Notes: Fast growth; fall color						
Tulip poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>		intermediate	75-100 ft	6		
	Notes: Green flowers in early summer; fast growth						
Black-gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Apr-May	high	30-60 ft	6		
	Notes: Outstanding fall color						
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		very high	50-80 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Evergreen conifer						
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Apr-May	low	75-100 ft	--		
	Notes: Showy bark; drops fruits						
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	Mar-Jun	very high	50-100 ft	6		
	Notes: Edible nuts; majestic						
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus montana</i>	May-Jun	very high	40-75 ft	6		
	Notes: Fall color; nuts attractive to wildlife						
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Apr-May	very high	60-70 ft	6		
	Notes: Common ornamental street trees; fall color						
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Apr-May	very high	60-80 ft	5-6		
	Notes: Hardy and long-lived tree; fall color						
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	April	high	30-50 ft	6		
	Notes: Edible and medicinal uses; fall color						



Other Sources

Places and Organizations in Pennsylvania

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Washington Crossing Historic Park, PO Box 685, New Hope, PA 18938-0685, Tel (215) 862-2924, Fax (215)862-1846, Native plant reserve, plant sales, native seed, educational programs, www.bhwp.org

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Bureau of Forestry; PO Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552, Tel (717)787-3444, Fax (717)783-5109, Invasive plant brochure; list of native plant and seed suppliers in PA; list of rare, endangered, threatened species.

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania; 9414 Meadowbrook Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118, Tel (215)247-5777, www.upenn.edu/morris, PA Flora Project Website: Arboretum and gardens (some natives), educational programs, PA Flora Project, www.upenn.edu/paflora

Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, 1001 East College Avenue, State College, PA 16801 www.pawildflower.org

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; 209 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, Tel (412)288-2777, Fax (412) 281-1792, www.paconserve.org

Other Internet Sites

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, www.wildflower.org

The New England Wildflower Society, www.newfs.org/index.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Landscaping with Native Plants, www.epa.gov/greenacres/

Books

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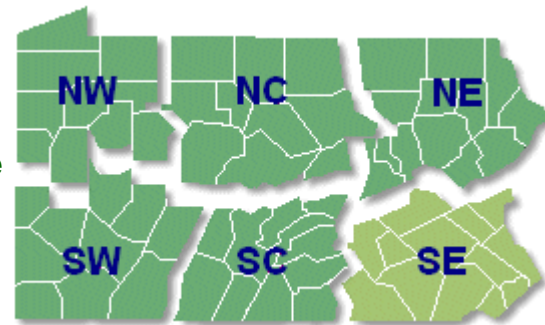
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Moderate Threats

The following species are invasive plants that are known to invade our native plant communities and are deserving of our vigilance.



Pennsylvania Regions

Six Pennsylvania Regions were used to show state distribution:

SE = Southeast **SC** = Southcentral **SW** = Southwest

NE = Northeast **NC** = Northcentral **NW** = Northwest

Freq. = Frequent Occ. = Occasional Rare

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Form	Pennsylvania Distribution
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed	Flower	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, SW, NE, NC, NW Notes: Commonly planted in the past and escaped; spreads aggressively by roots
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass	Grass	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW, NE, NW; Rare: NC Notes: Annual grass; very invasive throughout the west; spreads by seed
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's rocket	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW, NE; Occ: NC, NW Notes: Planted in gardens; escaped and naturalized along roads; spreads by seed
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water-milfoil	Flower	Freq: SE, NW; Occ: NE; Rare: SC, SW Notes: Invasive in many states; aquatic
<i>Ornithogallum nutans, umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW Notes: Common garden plant which has widely escaped
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Occ: NE, NC, NW Notes: Found commonly along roadsides; widespread and abundant; spread by seed
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Beefsteak plant	Flower	Freq: SE, SC Notes: Garden escape; widespread mostly along roadsides; spread by seed
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass	Grass	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Occ: NE, NC, NW Notes: Aggressive wetland grass; native and introduced strains; widespread and abundant
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine	Flower	Freq: SE; Rare: SC, SW Notes: Spreads by roots and shoots; can be very aggressive in wetlands
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC, NE; Occ: SW, NC, NW Notes: Escaped from cultivation and invasive in many states; spread by birds
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	European barberry	Shrub	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, SW, NE, NC, NW Notes: Escaped from cultivation; spread by birds
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	Shrub	Occ: SE, SC, SW Notes: Escaped from plantings and invasive in many states; spread by birds
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Border privet	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW, NE, NW; Rare: NC Notes: Escaped from cultivation; seeds spread by birds
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common privet	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW, NE Notes: Planted very commonly in the past and escaped; invasive in many states
<i>Lonicera morrowii x tatarica</i>	Bell's honeysuckle	Shrub	Occ: SE, SC, NW Notes: Escaped from cultivation
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Common buckthorn	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW

Notes: Becoming a problem in PA			
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Glossy buckthorn	Shrub	Occ: SE, SC, SW, NE, NC, NW
Notes: Becoming a problem in PA			
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW
Notes: Common bramble; not cultivated; spread by seed			
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm	Tree	Occ: SE, SC; Rare: SW
Notes: Escaped from cultivation			
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Fiveleaf akebia	Vine	Occ: SE; Rare: SC
Notes: Escaped from cultivation			
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain-berry	Vine	Occ: SE, SW
Notes: Escaped from cultivation			

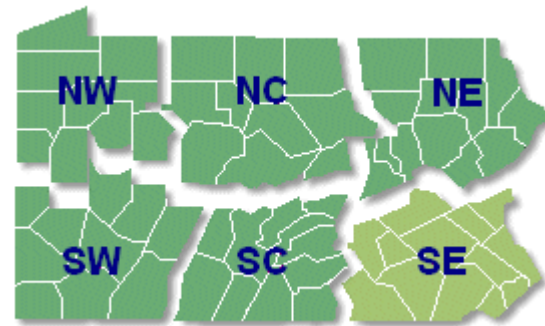
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Serious Threats

The species below are the most serious threats or worst offenders to our native ecosystems. Many have been designed as "Noxious Weeds" by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and are also a major concern to our agricultural community.



Pennsylvania Regions

Six Pennsylvania Regions were used to show state distribution:

SE = Southeast **SC** = Southcentral **SW** = Southwest

NE = Northeast **NC** = Northcentral **NW** = Northwest

Freq. = Frequent Occ. = Occasional Rare

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Form	Pennsylvania Distribution
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW, NW; Occ: NE Notes: Invasive in many states; spreading aggressively in woodlands by seed
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW, NE, NC, NW Notes: PA noxious Weed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW, NE, NC, NW Notes: PA noxious Weed
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW, NE, NC, NW Notes: PA noxious Weed
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimsonweed	Flower	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Occ: NE Notes: Sometimes cultivated; spreads by seed, PA Noxious Weed
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goatsrue	Flower	Rare: SE Notes: PA and Federal Noxious Weed, on location in SE PA
<i>Heraclium mantegazzianum</i>	Giant hogweed	Flower	Rare: NW Notes: PA and Federal Noxious Weed, sap can cause burning blisters
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> , <i>L. virgatum</i>	Purple loosestife	Flower	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, SW, NE, NC, NW Notes: Garden escape which has become invasive in many states; PA noxious Weed
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stilt grass	Grass	Freq: SE; Occ: SC Notes: Annual grass; invasive in many states; spreading through woodlands by seed
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	Grass	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, SW, NE, NW Notes: Native and introduced strains; wetland grass which can form huge colonies
<i>Polygonum (Falopia) cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed	Flower	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, SW, NE, NW; Rare: NC Notes: Invasive in many states; difficult to control; spreads by roots and seeds
<i>Sorghum bicolor ssp. drummondii</i>	Shattercane	Grass	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, NC Notes: Grass; PA noxious Weed
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson grass	Grass	Freq: SE; Occ: SC, SW, NE, NW Notes: Grass; PA noxious Weed; spreads by roots and seeds
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW; Rare: NE, NW Notes: Escaped from plantings and invasive in many states; rapidly spread by birds
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur honeysuckle	Shrub	Occ: SE, SC, NW Notes: Escaped from plantings; seeds spread by birds

<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Occ: NE, NC, NW
Notes: Escaped from plantings and invasive in many states; seeds spread by birds			
<i>Lonicera standishii</i>	Standish honeysuckle	Shrub	Occ: SE
Notes: Escaped from plantings; seeds spread by birds			
<i>Lonicera tartarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Occ: NE, NW
Notes: Escaped from plantings; seeds spread by birds			
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose	Shrub	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Occ: NE, NC, NW
Notes: Invasive in many states; seeds spread by birds; PA noxious Weed			
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	Tree	Freq: SE; Occ: SE, SW
Notes: Commonly planted and escaped; invasive in many states; wind spreads prolific seeds			
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven	Tree	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW
Notes: Invasive in many states; wind spreads prolific seeds			
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental bittersweet	Vine	Freq: SE, SC, SW; Rare: NE, NW
Notes: Escaped from cultivation and invasive in many states; spreading rapidly (by birds)			
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	Vine	Freq: SE, SC; Occ: SW, NE
Notes: Invasive in many states			
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	Mile-a-minute vine	Vine	Freq: SE; Rare: SW
Notes: Range expanding; PA Noxious Weed			
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Kudzu	Vine	Freq: SE; Rare: SW
Notes: Invasive in many states; PA Noxious Weed			

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