Managing Invasives on Your Property

Invasives

- ▶ Can be native or non-native (exotic)
- ▶ Can be aggressive and out compete natives
- ▶ Can take over the full property
- ▶ Harmful to flora and fauna
- ▶ Removal may not be easy

Phragmites

- Found near wetlands
- Grows quickly and loves disturbance
- Rhizome roots
- Outcompetes native grasses
- Solutions:
  - Mow or cut before seed
  - Herbicide
  - Native seeds in-between treatment

Multifloral Rose

- Thorny woody, grows in fields, and forest edges
- Grows into dense patches
- Crowds out other plants
- Solutions:
  - Mow or mulch before flowering
  - Mow often over years
  - Hand pulling
  - Herbicides

Japanese Knotweed

- Tall, thick, and bamboo like
- Loves disturbance
- Removal can make worse
- **DO NOT MOW OR MULCH**
- Takes over
- Solutions:
  - Needs to be carefully removed
  - All materials needs to be picked up
  - Bagged to dry out, then burn it
  - Herbicides needed (Foliar or stem injection)
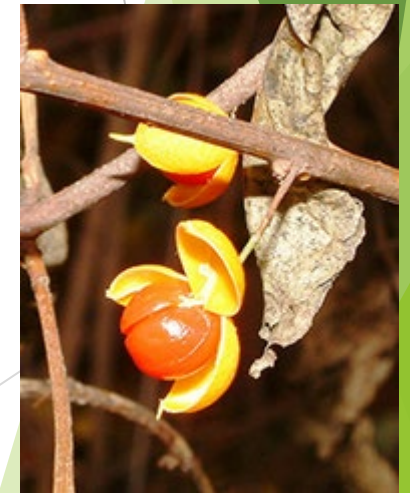 - Multi-year effort (don't give up)

Garlic Mustard

- Small, blooms second year
- Seed invades fields and woodlands
- Displaces native vegetation
- Changes soil conditions to prevents growth of other plants
- Solutions:
  - Hand pulling
  - Mowing before flowers
  - Herbicides
  - Annual work

Oriental Bittersweet

- Woody vine, climbs trees
- Fruits yellow-orange capsules, red inside
- Invades fields, forest, and forest edges
- Dense mats, smothers everything
- Solutions:
  - Hand pulling young vines
  - Repeated mowing in fields
  - Small pieces can regenerate
  - Cut vines when leaves are not present (trees)
  - Herbicides (triclopyr-based)

Others

- Autumn Olive
- Buckthorn (Common and Glossy)
- Purple Loosestrife
- Tree-of-Heaven
- Mile-a-minute Vine
- Kudzu
- Many others

- Not a complete list
- Some natives can be aggressive
- Check before you buy
- MassAudubon Website
- Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List

Tips

- **<u>DO NOT COMPOST ANY OF THESE</u>**
- Buy native plants
- Keep eye on non-native landscaping
- Check with Conservation
- Continue to manage carefully
- Do not give up as these are all long-term projects
- It can be done