

# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Compiled by David H. Behm

Common Name	Species Count	Form: T=Tree, S=Shrub, V=Vine, F=Forb, A=Aquatic	Blooms First Observed (Week #)						Scientific Name	Where Found	Species Occurrence along Trail Segment						Plant Identification Tips
			April	May	June	July	August	September			Whipple Bridge to Clute's Dry Dock	East Towpath	East Pond	Shortcut (Whipple Bridge to Fort's Ferry)	West Pond	West Towpath	
Asiatic Bittersweet	1	V			1				Celastrus orbiculatus	Rich thickets and fencerows	1	1	1	1	1	1	Woody vine with nearly round, bluntly-toothed leaves; flowers in axillary clusters.
Autumn-olive	1	S		4					Elaeagnus umbellata	Spread from cultivation	1					1	Somewhat thorny shrub with green leaves speckled with numerous fine silvery spots; fruits reddish with gold flecks, juicy.
Bittersweet Nightshade	1	V			1				Solanum dulcamara	Moist thickets	1	1	1	1	1	1	Vine with leaves divided into 3 leaflets with large terminal segment; purple shooting star-shaped flowers; red somewhat poisonous berry-like fruit.
Black Locust	1	T		4					Robinia pseudoacacia	Woods and fields	1	1	1	1		1	Compound leaves with 6-20 egg-shaped leaflets; strong 1/2"-1" paired thorns along branches; white, fragrant flowers in clusters; flat 2"-6" seedpods.
Canada Thistle	1	F				2			Cirsium arvense	Pastures and waste places				1			Plant has alternate leaves with ragged irregular margins; small, numerous flower heads.
Celandine	1	F		1					Chelidonium majus	Damp soils of roadsides and waste places				1		1	Plant has pinnate leaves comprised of irregularly lobed and alternate leaflets; stalk is hairy; yellow sap.
Coltsfoot	1	F	Mar						Tussilago farfara	Damp soil of stream banks and waste places			1				Often found in colonies numbering in the dozens, this plant has scaly stalk with yellow dandelion-like flower which blooms before its leaves emerge.
Common Barberry	1	S		4					Berberis vulgaris	Thickets and pastures		1				1	Shrub with bristle-toothed leaves and gray twigs; red fruits longer than broad.
Common Buckthorn	1	S		2					Rhamnus cathartica	Hedgerows and thickets	1	1	1	1	1	1	Shrub with twigs ending in sharp spine; fine-toothed leaves elliptic and hairless; berry-like fruits are black.
Creeping Buttercup	1	F		3					Ranunculus repens	Ditches and low grounds	1						Plant creeping at its base, often forming patches; dark green leaves usually mottled.
Dame's Rocket	1	F		3					Hesperis matronalis	Fields and roadsides	1	1	1	1	1	1	Plant with lanceolate alternate leaves; fragrant 4-part flower (white or pink).
Field Sorrel	1	F			1				Rumex acetosella ssp. pyrenaicus	Dry fields	1			1			Plant with arrow-shaped leaves with flaring lobes; often grows in abundance.
Garden Loosestrife	1	F				2			Lysimachia vulgaris	Roadsides and thickets	1	1		1		1	Plant with densely downy leaves in whorls of 3 or 4; yellow 5-part flowers mostly in terminal panicle.
Garlic Mustard	1	F	4						Alliaria petiolata	Roadsides and open woods	1	1	1	1	1	1	Plant with large heart-shaped or triangular coarsely-toothed leaves; smells of garlic when crushed.
Ground Ivy	1	F		1					Glechoma hederacea	Moist waste places	1	1	1	1	1	1	Creeping stem with long-stalked bluntly-toothed kidney-shaped opposite leaves.
Japanese Barberry	1	S	4						Berberis thunbergii	Thickets and pastures	1	1		1	1	1	Shrub with non-toothed elliptical leaves and brown twigs; red fruits often persist through winter.
Japanese Knotweed	1	F					4		Reynoutria japonica var. japonica	Waste places and roadsides				1			Plant with hollow bamboo-looking stalk with alternate shield-shaped leaves; often forms dense thickets.
Moneywort	1	F			2				Lysimachia nummularia	Damp ground	1	1	1	1	1	1	Creeping plant with opposite roundish leaves and paired yellow 5-part flowers stemming from each leaf axil.
Morrow's Honeysuckle	1	S		3					Lonicera morrowii	Thickets and roadsides	1	1	1	1	1	1	Shrub with narrow or oblong leaves that are gray hairy beneath; fruits red or yellow.
Multi-flora Rose	1	S			1				Rosa multiflora	Roadsides and moist thickets	1	1	1	1	1	1	Shrub with arching stem whose thorns curve backward along stem; leafstalks partly covered by fringe or comb-like stipules.
Purple Loosestrife	1	F				4			Lythrum salicaria	Swamps and wet meadows	1	1	1			1	Square-stemmed plant with opposite paired leaves or whorls of 3 leaves and purple 6-part flowers in a dense spike; often grows in large colonies.
Ragged Robin	1	F		4					Lychnis flos-cuculi	Fields and meadows			1				Plant with untoothed opposite leaves (upper leaves are lanceolate); deep pink 5-part flowers with narrow lobes appearing tattered.
Spotted Knapweed	1	F			2				Centaurea stoebe ssp. Micranthos	Roadsides and waste places	1		1			1	Plant with greyish-green ribbed stem and alternate pinnate-lobed leaves; upper stems terminate in pink flowerheads.
Tatarian Honeysuckle	1	S		3					Lonicera tatarica	Thickets and roadsides	1	1	1	1	1	1	Shrub with hollow branchlets and elliptic to heart-shaped leaves that are nearly hairless.
True Forget-me-not	1	F			1				Myosotis scorpioides	Springs and muddy shores	1		1				Plant with sprawling or weakly erect stem; alternate oblong or lance-shaped leaves; pale 5-part blue flowers with yellow centers.
Water Chestnut	1	A				4			Trapa natans	Ponds	1		1				Floating aquatic plant with rosette of triangular leaves with saw-tooth edges and terminal cluster of small white 4-part flowers; sharp-edged triangular seed.
Yellow Iris	1	F		4					Iris pseudacorus	Marshes and banks of streams	1	1	1	1	1	1	Plant with long erect narrow leaves and flower stalk with several bright yellow 3-part flowers.
Total Species = 27											21	16	18	18	13	18	
11 species are found on ALL trails																	

## References:

Mehrhoff, L.J., J.A. Silander, Jr., S.A. Leicht, E.S. Mosher and N.M. Tabak. 2003. **IPANE: Invasive Plant Atlas of New England** (<http://www.ipane.org>). Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Asiatic Bittersweet  
(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Woody vine with nearly round, bluntly-toothed leaves; flowers in axillary clusters.

Autumn-olive  
(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

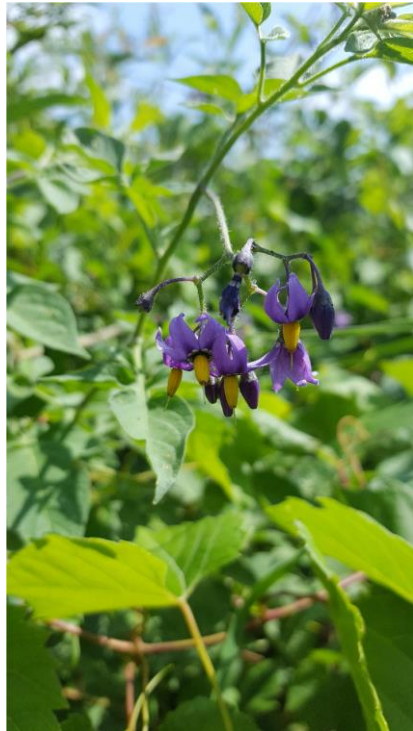


Somewhat thorny shrub with green leaves speckled with numerous fine silvery spots; fruits reddish with gold flecks, juicy.



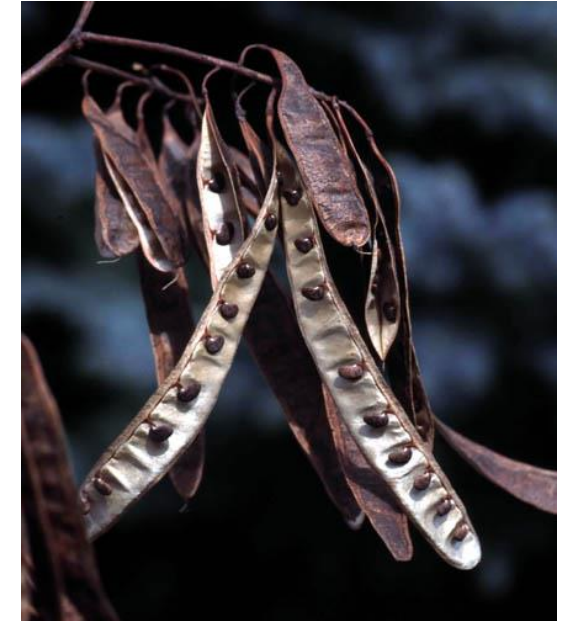
# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Bittersweet Nightshade  
(*Solanum dulcamara*)



Vine with leaves divided into 3 leaflets with large terminal segment; purple shooting star-shaped flowers; red somewhat poisonous berry-like fruit.

Black Locust  
(*Robinia pseudoacacia*)



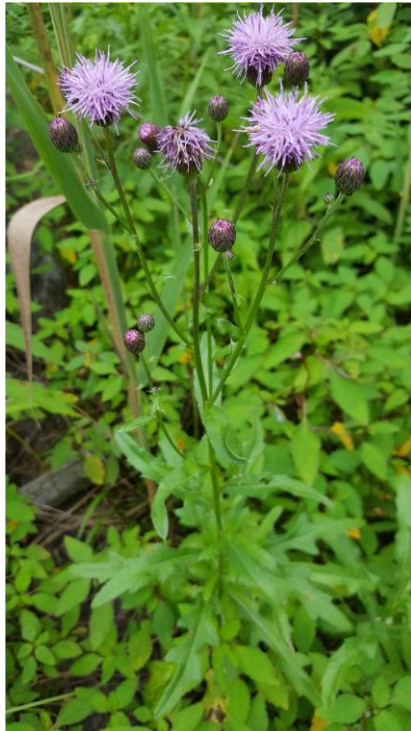
[http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/display\\_photo.php?id=65&photo=422](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/display_photo.php?id=65&photo=422)

Compound leaves with 6-20 egg-shaped leaflets; strong 1/2"-1" paired thorns along branches; white, fragrant flowers in clusters; flat 2"-6" seedpods.



# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Canada Thistle  
(*Cirsium arvense*)



Plant has alternate leaves with ragged irregular margins; small, numerous flower heads.

Celandine  
(*Chelidonium majus*)



Plant has pinnate leaves comprised of irregularly lobed and alternate leaflets; stalk is hairy; yellow sap.

Coltsfoot  
(*Tussilago farfara*)



Often found in colonies numbering in the dozens, this plant has scaly stalk with yellow dandelion-like flower which blooms before its leaves emerge.

Common Barberry  
(*Berberis vulgaris*)



Shrub with bristle-toothed leaves and gray twigs; red fruits longer than broad.

# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Common Buckthorn  
(*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Shrub with twigs ending in sharp spine; fine-toothed leaves elliptic and hairless; berry-like fruits are black.

Creeping Buttercup  
(*Ranunculus repens*)



Plant creeping at its base, often forming patches; dark green leaves usually mottled.

Dame's Rocket  
(*Hesperis matronalis*)



Plant with lanceolate alternate leaves; fragrant 4-part flower (white or pink).



# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Field Sorrel

*(Rumex acetosella ssp. pyrenaicus)*



Plant with arrow-shaped leaves with flaring lobes; often grows in abundance.

Garden Loosestrife  
*(Lysimachia vulgaris)*



Plant with densely downy leaves in whorls of 3 or 4; yellow 5-part flowers mostly in terminal panicle.

Garlic Mustard  
*(Alliaria petiolata)*



Plant with large heart-shaped or triangular coarsely-toothed leaves; smells of garlic when crushed.

Ground Ivy  
*(Glechoma hederacea)*



Creeping stem with long-stalked bluntly-toothed kidney-shaped opposite leaves.

# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Japanese Barberry  
(*Berberis thunbergii*)



Shrub with non-toothed elliptical leaves and brown twigs; red fruits often persist through winter.

Japanese Knotweed  
(*Reynoutria japonica* var. *japonica*)



[https://www.thebotanist.com/sites/default/files/styles/serve\\_detail/public/knotweed.JPG?itok=MeTIM6lB](https://www.thebotanist.com/sites/default/files/styles/serve_detail/public/knotweed.JPG?itok=MeTIM6lB)

Plant with hollow bamboo-looking stalk with alternate shield-shaped leaves; often forms dense thickets.



# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Moneywort

(*Lysimachia nummularia*)



Creeping plant with opposite roundish leaves and paired yellow 5-part flowers stemming from each leaf axil.

Morrow's Honeysuckle

(*Lonicera morrowii*)



[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/photos/morrow\\_hs3.jpg](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/photos/morrow_hs3.jpg)

Shrub with narrow or oblong leaves that are gray hairy beneath; fruits red or yellow.

Multi-flora Rose

(*Rosa multiflora*)



Shrub with arching stem whose thorns curve backward along stem; leafstalks partly covered by fringe or comb-like stipules.



# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Purple Loosestrife  
(*Lythrum salicaria*)



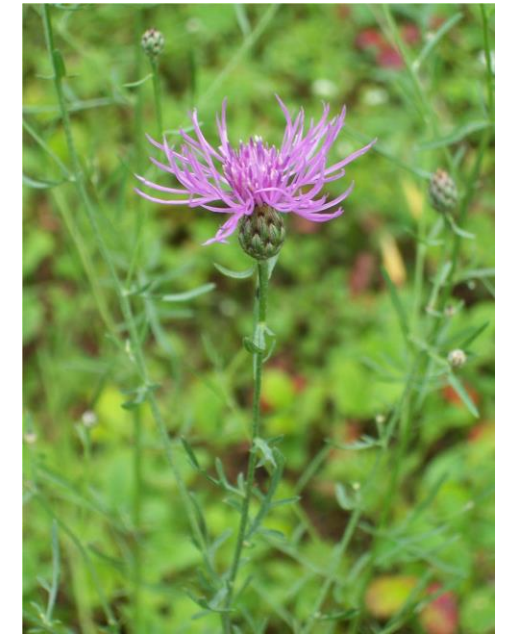
Square-stemmed plant with opposite paired leaves or whorls of 3 leaves; purple 6-part flowers in a dense spike; often grows in large colonies.

Ragged Robin  
(*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)



Plant with untoothed opposite leaves (upper leaves are lanceolate); deep pink 5-part flowers with narrow lobes appearing tattered.

Spotted Knapweed  
(*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*)



Plant with greyish-green ribbed stem and alternate pinnate-lobed leaves; upper stems terminate in pink flowerheads.

# Invasive Plants Observed at Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve

Tatarian Honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera tatarica*)



<http://plants.oaklandnursery.com/Content/Images/Photos/F265-12.jpg>

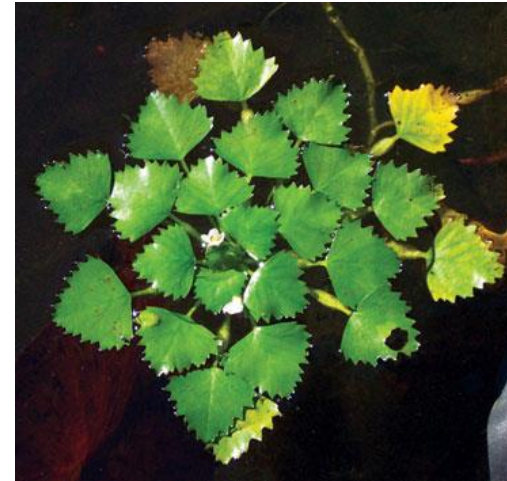
Shrub with hollow branchlets and elliptic to heart-shaped leaves that are nearly hairless.

True Forget-me-not  
(*Myosotis scorpioides*)



Plant with sprawling or weakly erect stem; alternate oblong or lanceolate leaves; pale 5-part blue flowers with yellow centers.

Water Chestnut  
(*Trapa natans*)



[https://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/img/trna-Mike\\_Naylor.jpg](https://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/img/trna-Mike_Naylor.jpg)

Floating aquatic plant with rosette of triangular leaves with saw-tooth edges and terminal cluster of small white 4-part flowers; sharp-edged triangular seed.

Yellow Iris  
(*Iris pseudacorus*)



Plant with long erect narrow leaves and flower stalk with several bright yellow 3-part flowers.



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			April	May	June	July	August	September			Whipple Bridge to Cure's Dry Dock	East Towpath	East Pond	Shortcut (Whipple Bridge to Fort's Ferry)	West Pond	West Towpath	
Asiatic Bittersweet	1	V			1				Celastrus orbiculatus	Rich thickets and fencerows	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015111.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015111.pdf</a>
Autumn-olive	1	S		4					Elaeagnus umbellata	Spread from cultivation	1					1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081635.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081635.pdf</a>
Bittersweet Nightshade	1	V			1				Solanum dulcamara	Moist thickets	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/bittersweet-nightshade.pdf">https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/bittersweet-nightshade.pdf</a>
Black Locust	1	T		4					Robinia pseudoacacia	Woods and fields	1	1	1	1		1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015112.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015112.pdf</a>
Canada Thistle	1	F				2			Cirsium arvense	Pastures and waste places				1			<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_018027.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_018027.pdf</a>
Celandine	1	F		1					Chelidonium majus	Damp soils of roadsides and waste places				1		1	<a href="https://curiousbynature.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/methods-to-control-or-eradicate-celandine.pdf">https://curiousbynature.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/methods-to-control-or-eradicate-celandine.pdf</a>
Coltsfoot	1	F	Mar						Tussilago farfara	Damp soil of stream banks and waste places			1				<a href="http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/Documents/Environmental%20Management/pestplants/Total%20-%20Coltsfoot.pdf">http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/Documents/Environmental%20Management/pestplants/Total%20-%20Coltsfoot.pdf</a>
Common Barberry	1	S		4					Berberis vulgaris	Thickets and pastures		1				1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015219.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015219.pdf</a>
Common Buckthorn	1	S		2					Rhamnus cathartica	Hedgerows and thickets	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/797Buckthorn.pdf">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/797Buckthorn.pdf</a>
Creeping Buttercup	1	F		3					Ranunculus repens	Ditches and low grounds	1						<a href="http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm/pdf/creepbcup.pdf">http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm/pdf/creepbcup.pdf</a>
Dame's Rocket	1	F		3					Hesperis matronalis	Fields and roadsides	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/invasiveplants/factsheets/pdf/dames-rocket.pdf">https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/invasiveplants/factsheets/pdf/dames-rocket.pdf</a>
Field Sorrel	1	F			1				Rumex acetosella ssp. pyrenaicus	Dry fields	1			1			<a href="http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_R/Rumex_acetosella.pdf">http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_R/Rumex_acetosella.pdf</a>
Garden Loosestrife	1	F				2			Lysimachia vulgaris	Roadsides and thickets	1	1		1		1	<a href="http://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/27065">http://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/27065</a>
Garlic Mustard	1	F	4						Alliaria petiolata	Roadsides and open woods	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/invasiveplants/factsheets/pdf/garlic-mustard.pdf">https://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/invasiveplants/factsheets/pdf/garlic-mustard.pdf</a>
Ground Ivy	1	F		1					Glechoma hederacea	Moist waste places	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="http://extension.psu.edu/plants/master-gardener/counties/chester/how-to-gardening-brochures/ground-ivy">http://extension.psu.edu/plants/master-gardener/counties/chester/how-to-gardening-brochures/ground-ivy</a>
Japanese Barberry	1	S	4						Berberis thunbergii	Thickets and pastures	1	1		1	1	1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015219.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_015219.pdf</a>
Japanese Knotweed	1	F					4		Reynoutria japonica var. japonica	Waste places and roadsides				1			<a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/797JapaneseKnotweed.pdf">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/797JapaneseKnotweed.pdf</a>
Moneywort	1	F			2				Lysimachia nummularia	Damp ground	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/monewart.pdf">https://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/monewart.pdf</a>
Morrow's Honeysuckle	1	S		3					Lonicera morrowii	Thickets and roadsides	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081648.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081648.pdf</a>
Multi-flora Rose	1	S			1				Rosa multiflora	Roadsides and moist thickets	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_014999.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_014999.pdf</a>
Purple Loosestrife	1	F				4			Lythrum salicaria	Swamps and wet meadows	1	1	1		1		<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081652.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081652.pdf</a>
Ragged Robin	1	F		4					Lychnis flos-cuculi	Fields and meadows			1				N/A
Spotted Knapweed	1	F			2				Centaurea stoebe ssp. micranthos	Roadsides and waste places	1		1			1	<a href="https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/SpottedKnapweedMN.pdf">https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/SpottedKnapweedMN.pdf</a>
Tatarian Honeysuckle	1	S		3					Lonicera tatarica	Thickets and roadsides	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081648.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1081648.pdf</a>
True Forget-me-not	1	F			1				Myosotis scorpioides	Springs and muddy shores	1		1				<a href="https://curiousbynature.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/methods-to-control-or-eradicate-true-forget-me-not.pdf">https://curiousbynature.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/methods-to-control-or-eradicate-true-forget-me-not.pdf</a>
Water Chestnut	1	A				4			Trapa natans	Ponds	1		1				<a href="https://curiousbynature.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/methods-to-control-or-eradicate-water-chestnut.pdf">https://curiousbynature.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/methods-to-control-or-eradicate-water-chestnut.pdf</a>
Yellow Iris	1	F		4					Iris pseudacorus	Marshes and banks of streams	1	1	1	1	1	1	<a href="http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/images/weeds/YellowFlagIris_Control_Whatcom.pdf">http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/images/weeds/YellowFlagIris_Control_Whatcom.pdf</a>
Total Species =		27									21	16	18	18	13	18	

11 species are found on ALL trails

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