Invasive Plant Species distributed by

the Ledyard Conservation Commission.

Taken from the **Connecticut Invasive Species Working Group.** http://www.cipwg.uconn.edu/ *The Ledyard Conservation Commission encourages you to visit the CISWP site for more information and photographs. Always refer to a specialist when handling herbicides.*

Autumn Olive/Russian Olive Elaeagnus umbellata Oleaster Family (Elaeagnaceae)

Description: Autumn olive is a small, spiny deciduous shrub-like tree capable of reaching 20 feet in height. It has alternate oval leaves with silvery undersides. The leaves are simple and lack marginal teeth, but the margins are often crisped or wavy. The small, yellowish-white flowers reach the peak of bloom around mid-May and are highly fragrant. The fleshy fruits are brown at first and mature to a reddish hue with minute metallic dots. Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) is similar in appearance but its leaves are silvery on both sides and its fruits are yellow. Habitat: Autumn olive spreads rapidly from cultivation into old fields, thickets and forest edges. It is extremely hardy and tolerant of drought, wind, and air pollutants. **Management**: best controlled by cutting in late September and October, followed immediately by application of an herbicide to the cut stems. Spring cutting may actually promote additional growth. Prescribed burning is a good control method in areas where it is feasible.

Mile-A-Minute or Invasive Devil's Tearthumb Polygonum perfoliatum Smartweed Family (Polygonaceae)

Description: This annual weed has elongated, branched stems that can reach lengths over 20 feet. Mile-A-Minute can climb into trees. Branches and stems are covered with small spines and can have a reddish color. The leaves are simple, alternate, triangular and 1"-3" wide. The mid-vein of the leaf also has spines. There is a very distinct saucer-shaped bract that encircles the stems at each node. New plants can be seen in late April or early May. The metallic-blue colored fruits ripen from September to November. **Management:** Mowing, cutting or hand removal can be used to manage this weed. To avoid the spines, remember to wear gloves for hand removal of this plant.

Action should be taken before large, dense areas form and before seed set. All plant debris should be removed from the site to ensure that no viable seeds are left behind. In agricultural settings, there are registered herbicides that will kill Mile-A-Minute.

Multiflora rose Multiflora Rose Rosa multiflora Rose Family (Rosaceae)

Description:Mulitflora Rose is an extremely prolific shrub that forms dense, impenetrable thickets which crowd and shade out native species. Individual plants can produce up to 500,000 seeds per year, many of which germinate near the parent. Seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years. Fruits are sought after by birds and mammals, which subsequently disperse the seeds. The shrubs are highly competitive for soil nutrients and can lower crop yields in adjacent fields. **Management:** The most effective control method for Multiflora rose is to prevent establishment by annually monitoring for and removing small plants. Repeated cutting and/or mowing over several consecutive years will reduce plant vigor and help prevent spread. However, herbicide use in combination with cutting may be more effective for larger plants.

Asiatic Bittersweet, Oriental Bittersweet Celastrus orbiculatus Staff Tree Family (Celastraceae)

Description: Asiatic bittersweet is a rapidly spreading deciduous vine that threatens all vegetation in open and forested areas. It overtops other species and forms dense stands that shade out native vegetation. Trees and shrubs can be strangled by twining stems that twist around and eventually constrict the flow of plant fluids. Trees can be girdled and weighed down by vines in the canopies, making them more susceptible to damage by wind, snow, and ice storms. There is evidence that Asiatic bittersweet can hybridize with American bittersweet (Celastrus scandens),which occurs in similar habitats. Hybridization will destroy the genetic integrity of the native species. **Management:** The most effective control method for Asiatic Bittersweet is to prevent establishment by annually monitoring for and removing small plants. Eradication of established plants is difficult due to the persistent seed bank in the soil. Larger plants are best controlled by cutting combined with herbicide treatment.

Phyllostachys aurea or golden bamboo, a type of running bamboo,

Description: Bamboo is NOT considered an invasive plant in Connecticut. However, there have been many questions about bamboo control and bamboo laws from homeowners and gardeners. Bamboos are perennial members of the grass family and are often one of the most difficult to control escaped ornamentals. They are distinguished from other grasses by their woody stems, branched growth, and often large size. They can grow anywhere from one to seventy feet tall. While often considered beautiful, they can quickly turn into a homeowner's worst nightmare if not properly maintained. Once established, bamboo can take over landscapes, stream banks and woodlands. **Management**: Every effort should be taken to control a bamboo infestation in its entirety. Because bamboo is so aggressive, it can re-establish rapidly if any small section is left untouched. Homeowners with bamboo infestations must be patient, as this weed requires an intensive control program over several years. The first step in controlling bamboo should be to remove as much of the root mass and rhizomes of the plant as possible. This can often be done by hand with small infestations but larger problem areas may require the use of power equipment. Power containment is also a fairly effective method of controlling bamboo, but must be monitored regularly. Because the rhizomes of bamboo are fairly shallow, growing less than one foot deep in the soil, a barrier made of concrete, metal, plastic, or pressure-treated wood installed about 18 inches deep has proven to be effective. Bamboo rhizomes are not stopped by barriers but are merely reflected. Because of this behavior, the areas surrounding the barriers should be monitored regularly for escaped rhizomes that should be cut back. Regular mowing is another method that can help control bamboo over time. Because bamboo is a grass, it can tolerate occasional mowing but does not tolerate frequent mowing. Mowing practices, similar to that in a home lawn can eventually deplete the bamboo rhizomes and offer some control. Two to three years of regular mowing are often needed to see results. A final, and often necessary, method of control for bamboo is the use of herbicides.