



The Monarch Journey

Creating Communities of Biodiversity

Monarch Awards Applicant Newsletter

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Journey Notes

Most of us have plants in our gardens that were already there or planted before we realized they could spread into natural areas and cause harm. Some may remind us of a person, place or time in our lives. When plants are sold at nurseries or shared by well-meaning friends, it's natural to assume they're safe choices for our gardens. This week, we'll look at which invasive plants and noxious weeds are problematic, why, and what we can do when we find them in our gardens.

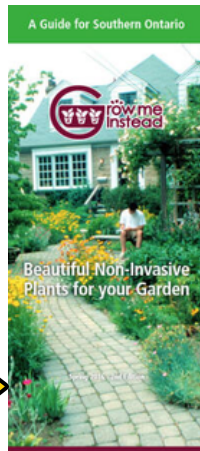
In the Garden

[Invasive plants](#): can spread beyond our gardens and crowd out native plants, reduce habitat and disrupt the food webs that support insects, birds and other wildlife. [Ontario's Noxious Weed list](#) has a different purpose: it identifies plants that may threaten agriculture, livestock or nearby horticultural land. The two terms are not interchangeable, but both help us recognize that some plants that may cause harm.

Resources to Explore

The [Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation \(CCIPR\)](#) explains how invasive plants enter the horticultural trade, how they spread and why gardeners are encouraged to choose native or non-invasive alternatives.

Check out the [Grow Me Instead Resource](#).



Wild Ginger (bottom), *Asarum canadense*, is a great substitute for Periwinkle (top), which can aggressively spread into natural areas disrupting ecosystems (Images: CCIPR & JMackey, Dundas)

Eco-Gardening Tips

Problem Plants:

Take a Look at Your Garden

Are any invasive plants spreading into nearby beds, under fences or toward neighbouring properties? Notice whether they are spreading by seeds, runners, roots or plant fragments.

Ask: Do I know what this plant is and the best way to control it? Different plants require different methods, and established patches may take several years of repeated effort (See article below). Use a plant ID app to identify.

Try This: Start with a manageable area. After checking effective removal methods, work from the outer edge.

One Small Action: Bag flowers, seed heads, roots and other plant material that could regrow. Do not compost it. Seal it in a black plastic bag, allow it to heat in the sun, and dispose of it according to local waste guidelines.

Resource: Read [Invasive Plants](#) from Halton Region Master Gardeners for help identifying problem plants and choosing an appropriate removal method.

