Identification Guide to Invasive Horticultural Plants Banned from Sale in Nassau and Suffolk Counties of New York in 2010

Banned species found for sale can be reported to:
Suffolk County Department of Consumer Affairs
Print and mail the complaint form located at:
http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/upload/consumeraffairs/pdfs/plantcomplaint.pdf
or in Nassau County file an on-line complaint at:
http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/vendor_lookupWeb/Complaint_fillup.jsp

Common Buckthorn  *Rhamnus cathartica*

- *R. cathartica* (common): Leaves minutely serrulate (toothed), third as wide as long.
- Grows as a shrub or small tree
- Clusters of small, 4-petaled yellow-green flowers appearing in the spring.
- The stem that connects the flower to the branch has many fine hairs.
- Leaves opposite to almost opposite.
- Spine often present at end of branches.
- Lateral veins strongly upcurved.

**Rosa multiflora**

- Densely spreading perennial shrub.
- Arching canes red to green in color, glabrous (no hairs) with recurved thorns.
- Leaves alternate, pinnately compound with 5 - 11 serrated leaflets (1-1.5in.) long; smooth and dark above, pale with small hairs below.
- Feathery or comb-like margin on its stipules.
- Flowers white to pink in May or June.
- Small bright red hips develop in the summer.

Autumn Olive *Elaeagnus umbellata*

- Deciduous shrub or small tree up to 20’ tall
- 1-3” untoothed, oval to lancelate leaves, alternate
- Leaves are dark green with silvery underside
- Flowers are light yellow, found in clusters of 1-3 or more (May-June)
- Abundant small (>1cm) round fruit dotted with silver or brown scales, red when ripe (in Sept.)

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata

- Deciduous 10-20’ climbing woody vine
- Hard, spherical fruit (.25-.3”) vary from white to yellow, green, and lilac, sky blue at maturity
- Dark green leaves (2.5-5”) are alternate, and with serrated edges
- Tendrils grow opposite of leaves
- Young twigs, petioles, and undersides of leaves (at least main veins) are coarsely hairy
- Green flowers develop in flat-topped clusters (w/ terminal flower blooming first)
- Flower petals are separate and spreading
- Resembles native grape Vitus labrusca and other Vitus sp., but native grapes have bark that peels. Porcelain-berry bark will not peel and has lenticels (lens shaped or narrow pores) while grapes do not.

Lesser celandine (Fig buttercup)  
*Ranunculus ficaria*

- Herbaceous perennial, ground cover
- Symmetrical, bright yellow flowers with a slightly darker center
- Most of its life is spent underground in the form of small fingerlike tubers
- Threat to early blooming spring plants (emerges even earlier)
- Plants consist of a basal rosette of tender, succulent, dark green, shiny stalked kidney-to heart-shaped leaves
- Flowers typically have 8-12 petals

Herbaceous perennial (3 - 10 feet tall).

Showy spike of numerous pink-purple flowers, 5 - 7 petals.

Leaves opposite or whorls of 3.

Stem stiff, 4- or 6-sided.

Square woody stem

Plants are covered by small downy hairs

Stems are arching biennial canes. The stem is a bristly biennial cane, bearing fruit and flower in the second year.

Leaves alternate, most divided into 3-5 leaflets with a hairy petiole (leaf stalk); serrated margins, light green above and white below.

Small, white flowers, blooms in June, fruits in July and August; Bright red raspberry fruit.

The overall appearance of the plant is fuzzy and red to purplish red.
Ligustrum obtusifolium

- Deciduous semi-evergreen, or evergreen shrub in the olive family (Oleaceae)
- Grows to 10 to 12 feet in height with spreading or arching stems.
- Distinguished from other privets by its minutely fuzzy twigs, by its hairy leaf midrib, and by its flower clusters which are about 1 to 2 inches in length.
- Leaves are oblong-ovate shaped, opposite, 1-2 inches long, dull dark green (not waxy or shiny)
- Leaves turn red to purple in fall
- Small white fragrant flowers appear in June; flower tube (not including divided petals) is 3-5 mm (0.2-0.3”) long.
- Berries are green in summer, turn blue-black when mature in the fall, and persist into the winter.

USDA Forest Service Invasive Plants website: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants
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Lespedeza cuneata

- Warm season, perennial herb
- 3-5½ feet in height
- Each leaf has three leaflets
- Leaflets are covered with densely flattened hairs, giving a grayish-green or silvery look
- Small (¼ in.) cream white to pale yellow flowers emerge either singly or in clusters of 2-4 from the axils of the upper median leaves
- Pea-Type Flowers
- Mature stems are woody and fibrous with sharp, stiff, flattened bristles.

Contributors to ID slides

Marilyn Jordan (TNC)
Andy Senesac (Cornell Coop Extension)
Sarah Uihlein (volunteer)
Elisha Gibson (weed interns)
Susan Dobbertin (weed interns)
Brian Henry (Volunteer)
Alex Entrup (TNC)
Kathy Schwager (TNC)
Alpa Pandya (TNC)
Laura Bavaro (TNC)

This identification guide will be updated as the prohibition of sales of additional species takes effect.