

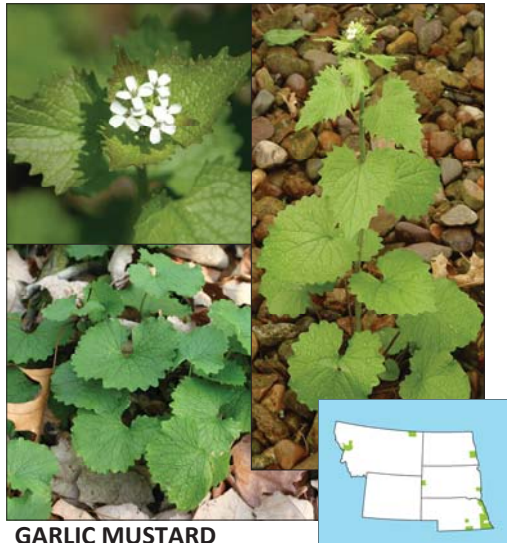
# KEEP A LOOK OUT!

for *NEW INVASIVE PLANTS* in the Northern Great Plains

*RIPARIAN & MESIC AREAS*



TREE OF HEAVEN



GARLIC MUSTARD



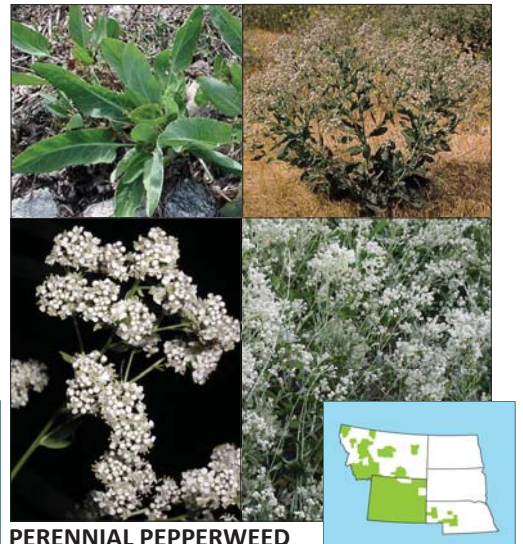
GIANT REED



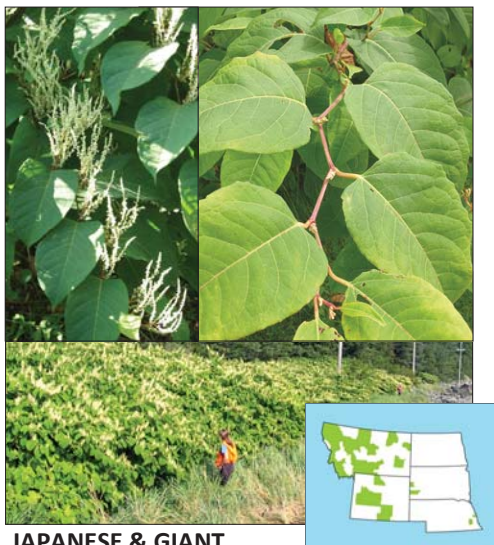
GIANT HOGWEED



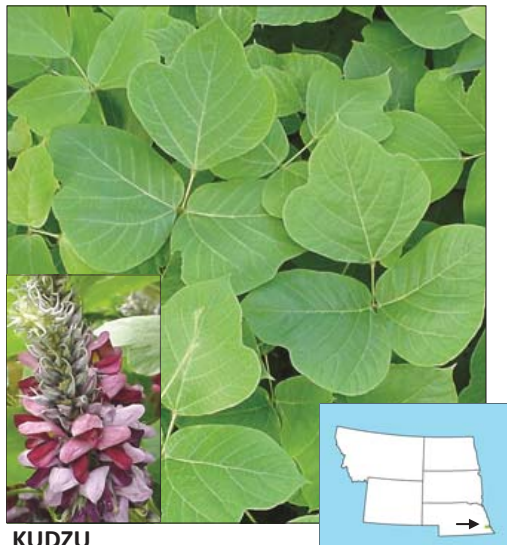
YELLOW IRIS



PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED



JAPANESE & GIANT KNOTWEEDS



KUDZU



COMMON BUCKTHORN

The maps show current reported distribution in the Northern Great Plains.  Not reported  Present  
 To report new infestations of these and other invasive species, go to [EDDMAPS.org/mrwc/](http://EDDMAPS.org/mrwc/). See reverse side for species descriptions.



# New INVASIVE PLANTS in the Northern Great Plains

## Riparian and mesic areas

### TREE OF HEAVEN (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Deciduous **tree** grows to 80' on a 1-2' diameter trunk. Bark is pale gray. Large, alternate, pinnately compound **leaves** grow 1-4' long, and are composed of 11-25 leaflets with 1 or more glandular teeth near the leaf base. Small, yellow-green **flowers** have 5-6 petals and form in dense, terminal inflorescences. Numerous papery **samaras** (dry, winged fruit) form on female trees. Samaras are yellow to red then turn tan at maturation and may persist on tree through winter. Crushed leaves and pith have a rancid peanut butter smell. Threatens fields, woodland edges, and forest openings.

### GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Herbaceous biennial grows 2-4' tall. First-year **rosette** remains green through winter. Basal **leaves** are dark green, heart-shaped, with large teeth. Stem leaves are alternate, triangular, large-toothed, and grow 2-3" across. Fresh leaves have a strong garlic smell when crushed. Abundant, small, white, 4-petaled **flowers** bloom throughout spring. Numerous, small, dark **seeds** form in long, slender capsules, up to 3,000 seeds per plant. Threatens forests and savannas.

### GIANT REED (*Arundo donax*)

9-30' bamboo-like perennial **grass**. Multiple stems grow in clumps, forming large colonies. Gray to yellowish green **stems** tough, hollow, round 1" cross section, solid joints every 1 to 8". Alternate, lanceolate, hairless **leaves** grow 1.5-2.5' long and line stem with a conspicuous white, 1-4" base. Terminal, erect, cream to brown **flowerhead** grows to 3' long. Does not produce viable seed, spreads by tuberous rhizomes. Threatens forest margins and river valleys.

### GIANT HOGWEED (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Large perennial **herb**, flowers once then dies. A single basal leaf grows the first year, then grows a larger rosette each year. In 4th or 5th year plant produces a 7-15' tall flower stalk. **Leaves** 3-part compound, 1-4' wide, deeply incised and pointed. **Flowers** white in multiple broad-domed umbels, up to 2.5' in diameter. **Flower stalk** hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple splotching. Looks similar to cow parsnip but is larger, has more deeply incised leaves, and red splotching on flower stalk. Threatens river corridors and woodland edges. Closest reported location to the northern Great Plains is in Minnesota.

**Caution! Plant sap causes severe burns when sap on skin is exposed to sunlight.**

### YELLOW IRIS (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Perennial herb that grows in thickets. Stout **rhizome**, 0.4-1.6" diameter. Leaves rise 3-4' in a fan shape. Individual **leaves** flattened, sword-shaped with a raised midrib and pointed ends.

**Flowering stem** is leafless, round, often branched, 3-4' tall. Showy, yellow **flowers** have 3 smaller, erect petals and 3 larger, outward-curving sepals with purple or brown flecks. Glossy green **seed pods** grow to 4" and contain numerous flattened brown seeds. Spreads by rhizome and seed. Threatens riparian areas and wetlands.

### PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED (*Lepidium latifolium*)

Multi-stemmed perennial **forb** grows 3-8' tall, though initially forms as **rosette**. Lanceolate, bright green to gray green **leaves** grow to 1' long at plant base with leaf size decreasing up the stem. Dense clusters of very small, 4-petaled white **flowers** form near stem tips early summer to fall. **Seed pod** is 2-chambered and slightly flattened. Semi-woody **stem base** leads to a woody root crown. Dead stems can persist for several years. Plant has a horseradish odor. Threatens wetlands, marshes, and floodplains.

JAPANESE & GIANT KNOTWEEDS (*Polygonum cuspidatum*/*P. sachalinense*) Perennial **herb** with shrub-like form grows 3-9'. **Stem** hollow, bamboo-like with swollen leaf joints. **Leaves** 6" long, 3-4" wide, leaf base straight across to bluntly right angled. **Flowers** white to pink and densely crowded on erect stalks. Threatens riparian corridors, fens, springs, ravines, forests, and streamsides.

### KUDZU (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)

Semi-woody, perennial **vine** climbs 30-90'. **Leaves** alternate, compound with 3 unlobed to deeply lobed leaflets, hairy beneath and up to 4" wide. **Flowers** purple, pea-like, grow from leaf axils in long hanging clusters, bloom in late summer. **Seedpods** brown, flattened and hairy. Threatens forest edges, woodlands, and savannas.

### COMMON BUCKTHORN (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Multi-stemmed **shrub** grows 20-25' tall. Gray to brown **bark** has prominent light flecks with an orange cambium (inner) layer. Blunt thorns form at branch tips. Ovate to elliptic **leaves** are opposite or sub-opposite, 1-2.5" long, and have prominent veins and tiny teeth. Small, fragrant, greenish-yellow, 4-petaled **flowers** form in leaf axils. Black, pea-sized **fruit** form in abundant clusters. Threatens forests and prairies.

**Map distribution data** obtained from the Biota of North America Program (<http://bonap.org>), the Black Hills Herbarium (<http://herbarium.bhsu.edu>), [EDDMaps.org](http://EDDMaps.org), the National Park Service, the Northern Prairie Herbarium (<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/herbar/>), the Nebraska Invasive Species Project (<http://neinvasives.com>), the Rocky Mountain Herbarium (<http://www.rmh.uwyo.edu>), and the Wyoming Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (<http://www.uwyo.edu/capsweb/>).

For control & management of these species, please visit

<http://mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu> & <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact.htm>

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