

## AGGRESSIVE/ INVASIVE PLANTS

The term “invasive” is a relative one. To some it means any plant that spreads at all. However, groundcovers are meant to spread and wildflowers in a meadow are meant to reseed. An invasive plant is defined as one that not only spreads but is aggressive and difficult to control.

Cultivation or division can control those plants that merely spread. Deadheading the flowers, removing seed heads or cultivation of small seedlings will give some control over plants that reseed. Very hard-to-control weeds may require repeated cultivation or application of herbicides.

Aggressive root-spreading perennials can be controlled by planting them in containers and making sure that roots do not go through the drain holes or over the top of the container into surrounding soil. Lining containers with weed barrier fabric works well for this purpose.

In some species, cultivars of a perennial are not as invasive as others. Use this list to check into the plants you are considering for your garden.

*Achillea* spp. (Yarrow) - invasive roots

*Aegopodium* spp. (Goutweed) - reseeds, invasive roots, use in confined areas

*Ajuga* (Bugleweed) - invasive roots, excellent ground cover in shade, use in confined areas

*Anchusa* spp - reseeds, invasive roots

*Artemisia* spp. (esp. Wormwood) - invasive roots

*Borago officinalis* (Borage) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Campanula rapunculoides* (Creeping bellflower) – invasive roots

*Centaurea cyanus* (Bachelor button) – reseeds

*Cerastium tomentosum* (Snow in the summer) - invasive roots, can overwhelm desirable plants in a rock garden.

*Chrysarrthenium parthenium* (Feverfew) - reseeds

*Convollaria majalis* (Lily of the Valley) - invasive roots, excellent ground cover if confined

*Coronilla varia* (Crownvetch) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Echinops ritro* (Small globe thistle) - reseeds

*Euphorbia spp.* (Spurge) - reseeds

*Filipendula rubra* 'Venusta' (Queen of the Prairie) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Galium odoratum* (Sweet woodruff) - invasive roots, excellent groundcover in shade and over tree roots

*Geranium pratense* (Johnson's Blue) - reseeds

*Gypsophila spp.* (Baby's Breath) - reseeds

*Hieracium aurantiacum* (Orange hawkweed) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Hypericum* (St. John's Wort) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Leucanthamum sp.* (Oxeye daisy, Shasta daisy) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Lunaria annua* (Money plant) - reseeds

*Lysimachia nummularia* (Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie) - invasive roots

*Lythrum salicaria* (Purple loosestrife) – noxious weed, DO NOT PLANT

*Macleaya cordata* (Plume poppy) - reseeds, invasive roots, use in large containers

*Mentha* (Mints, esp. Catnip) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Monarda didyma* (Beebalm) - invasive roots

*Myosotis* (Forget-me-not) - reseeds

*Oenothera spp.* (Evening Primrose, esp. *speciosa* 'Rosea') - invasive roots

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper) - reseeds

*Phalaris arundinacea var. picta* (Ribbon grass) - invasive roots, confine in a container

*Physalis alkekengi* (Chinese lantern) - invasive roots

*Physostegia virginiana* (Obedient plant) - reseeds, invasive roots

*Polygonum cuspidatum* (False bamboo, Japanese Knotweed) - invasive roots

*Rosa* (Roses, esp. wild roses, brambles) - invasive roots, use in native plantings or where the roots can be confined

*Sedum spp.* esp. 'Golden Acre' - this and other sedums drop pieces that will re-root

*Stach's bysantina* (Lamb's ear) - creeping stems root and spread

*Tradescantia virginiana* (Spiderwort) - invasive roots

*Veronica spp.* (Speedwells, esp. creeping speedwell) - invasive roots, pieces drop off and re-root

*Viola spp.* (esp. *Viola odorata*) - reseeds and becomes a problem in lawns

*Yucca spp.* - invasive roots