KEEP A LOOKOUT! for NEW INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest!

Early detection and eradication can prevent an invasion. The maps show current reported distribution in the Midwest, including Ontario.*

To report a sighting, please contact: www.GLEDN.org

**For Chinese silvergrass, please report escaped populations only, not intentional plantings.

*Updated May 2012

See reverse side for species descriptions
New INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest

ASIAN BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)  
Woody, perennial vine. Leaves alternate, toothed, shape variable; tear drop-shaped to round with a pointed tip. Flowers small and greenish-yellow; male and female flowers on separate plants. Blooms in early summer, fruits in fall. Fruit greenish to yellow, grows in clusters of 3 - 7 along stem at leaf axils. Fruit splits open to reveal a bright red inner-fruit. Threatens woodlands, forests, savannas and floodplains.

BLACK SWALLOW-WORT (*Cynanchum louiseae*)  
Herbaceous, perennial vine reaches lengths of 3 - 8 feet high. Leaves opposite, 2 - 5 inches long, toothless, narrowly to broadly oval with pointed tips, dark green and shiny. Flowers tiny, dark purple with 5 pointed, downy, triangular petals that are as long as wide. Seed pods milkweed-like, slender and tapered, 1.5 - 3 inches long. Seed on silky filaments. Threatens woodlands, forests, grasslands and savannas.

CHINESE SILVERGRASS (*Miscanthus sinensis*)  
Perennial grass, grows in large clumps 5 - 10 feet high. Leaves elongate, up to 3 feet long and 1 inch wide with a silver white midrib, leaf edges rough, leaf tips are sharp and recurving. Inflorescence showy at the end of a stalk, fan-shaped, 6 - 24 inches long, silvery to pale pink. Seeds 0.1 inch long, with a twisted bristle tip. Threatens forest margins and disturbed areas.

CHINESE YAM (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*)  
Herbaceous, perennial vine twines clockwise, climbs to 15 feet. Leaves opposite (upper nodes alternate) reddish where leafstem joins leaf, shape is variable, but often shield- or heart-shaped. Flowers small and white with a cinnamon odor, arranged in spikes. Reproductive bulbils (small potato-like tubers in leaf axils) present June to September. Threatens streamside, floodplains and ravines.

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 foot tall flower stalk. Leaves 3-part compound, 1 - 4 feet wide, deeply incised and pointed. Flowers white in multiple broad-domed umbels. Flower stalk hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple spotting. Threatens river corridors and woodland edges. Caution! Plant sap causes severe phytophotodermatitis.

JAPANESE CHAFF FLOWER (*Achyranthes japonica*)  
Perennial, herb grows up to 6 feet tall. Stems of seedlings are reddish, larger plants have red nodes. Leaves opposite, simple, and smooth-edged with deeply incised leaf veins. Flowers in small spikes, lack petals, and have a bottle-brush appearance. Fruits lay flat against the spike with a pair of stiff bracts and remain on stalks during winter. Threatens wet forests and riparian areas.

JAPANESE HEDGEPARSLEY (*Torilis japonica*)  
Biennial herb grows 2 - 4 feet tall when flowering in second year. First year rosette leaves are parsley-like and stay green into fall, second year alternate, fern-like, 2 - 5 inches long and slightly hairy. Flowers tiny and white, clustered in small spikes, lack petals, and have a bottle-brush appearance. Fruits lay flat against the spike with a pair of stiff bracts and remain on stalks during winter. Threatens wet forests and riparian areas.

JAPANESE HOP (*Humulus japonicus*)  
Herbaceous annual vine twines counter-clockwise. Leaves opposite, 2 - 5 inches long, toothed, and palmately divided, usually with 5 lobes. Leaf stem as long or longer than leaf length. Leaves and stem with hooked climbing hairs. Flowers mid to late summer (male and female flowers on separate plants). Threatens floodplains, wet forests, stream banks and lakeshores.

JAPANESE STILT GRASS (*Microstegium vimineum*)  
Annual, sprawling grass to 12 - 24 inches tall, resembling miniature bamboo. Leaves wide, alternate, pale green, lance-shaped, 2 - 3 inches long with a pale silvery stripe of reflective hairs along midrib of upper surface. Flower spikes 1 - 3 inches long. Blooms late summer into early fall. Prolific seed production. Threatens river and stream corridors, floodplains, moist woodlands and forested wetlands.

JAPANESE WINEBERRY (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)  
Deciduous, perennial shrub. Stems upright, arching, up to 9 feet long with glandular red hairs and small spines. Leaves divided into 3 sharply toothed leaflets with dense silvery-white hairs on the underside. Flowers small with white petals and hairy sepals arranged in clusters. Fruit bright red and raspberry-like. Threatens forests, savannas, prairies, wetland edges, and open woodlands.

KUDZU (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)  
Semi-woody, perennial vine climbs 30 - 90 feet. Leaves alternate and compound with 3 unlobed to deeply lobed leaflets, hairy beneath and up to 4 inches wide. Flowers purple, pea-like and grow from leaf axil in long hanging clusters; blooming in late summer. Seed pods brown, flattened and hairy. Threatens forest edges, woodlands and savannas.

LESSTER CELANDINE (*Ranunculus ficaria*)  
Perennial herb, forms a dense carpet. Leaves in rosette, shiny, dark green, kidney- to heart-shaped. Flower one inch wide, 8 - 12 petals, bright yellow with slightly darker center on single stalk above leaves. Roots with finger-like tubers, cream-colored bulbils in stem axils. Fruit hairy seeds held in round heads. Threatens floodplain forests, low open woods, and meadows.

MILE-A-MINUTE WEED (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)  
Annual, herbaceous vine that climbs to 15 feet tall. Stem with hooked barbs; circular, cup-shaped, leafy structures around the stem at nodes. Leaves alternate, shaped like an equilateral triangle with barbs on undersides, leaf bases arrow- to heart-shaped. Flowers small, white and inconspicuous. Fruit a fleshy, blue, pea-sized berry. Threatens woodland edges, wetlands and riparian corridors.

NARROWLEAF BITTERCRESS (*Cardamine impatiens*)  
Annual or biennial forb, 6 - 31 inches tall. First year rosette, leaves pinnately divided with 3 - 11 round lobed leaflets. Second year (bolted) leaves have 6 - 20 lance-shaped leaflets with asymmetrical bases, edges may be smooth to sharply-toothed. Base of second year leaves clasps stem (auricles). Flowers white, 0.1 inch long. Fruit erect, slender silique, many per plant, 0.6 - 0.8 inches long. Seeds orange to brown, 10 - 24 in each fruit. Threatens wet woods and floodplains.

PALE SWALLOW-WORT (*Cynanchum rossicum*)  
Herbaceous, perennial vine twines 3 - 6 feet high. Leaves opposite (similar to black swallow-wort). Flowers maroon to pink with 5 pointed, hairless, triangular petals that are twice as long as wide. Seed pods milkweed-like (similar to black swallow-wort). Seed on silky filaments. Threatens woodland edges, forests grasslands and savannas.

PORCELAINBERRY (*Ameloposis brevipedunculata*)  
Perennial, deciduous, woody vine. Stem pith is white and continuous across nodes. Bark does not peel. Leaves alternate with a heart-shaped base, 3 - 5 lobed, hairy with rounded teeth on edges. Flowers greenish-white, occur opposite the leaves. Fruit colorful, lavender to green or bright blue. Native vine, *Vitis riparia*, has brown pith and peeling bark. Threatens forest edges, pond edges and stream banks.

For control and management of these species, please visit the following Internet links:  

PHOTO CREDITS:  