

# MOST-WANTED INVASIVE PLANTS OF RAMSEY COUNTY

EARLY DETECTION & CONTROL WILL PRESERVE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Yellow iris



Japanese knotweed



Common tansy



Wild parsnip



Miscanthus



Hydrilla



Grecian foxglove



Flowering rush



Cut-leaved teasel

TO REPORT A SIGHTING OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE RAMSEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(651) 266-7277 or [paul.erdmann@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:paul.erdmann@co.ramsey.mn.us)

Website: [www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/cwma.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/cwma.htm)

Some images courtesy [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org) and Minnesota Department of Agriculture

MORE INFO →

# MOST-WANTED INVASIVE PLANTS OF RAMSEY COUNTY

*The RCCWMA is working to locate populations of these plants in Ramsey County. Early detection and control can prevent an invasion.*

*These species are not yet found in Ramsey County, or occur in small, isolated populations. Early detection of new populations can prevent invasions.*

**YELLOW IRIS** (*Iris pseudacorus*) Perennial wetland plant, grows 1-3'. **Leaves** sword-like, flat leaves 0.75" wide. **Flowers** are yellow, showy, 3" wide, two or three at tops of rounded stalks. **Fruit** are oblong 2" capsules. Spreads by **rhizomes** (underground stems) and **seeds**. Also known as yellow flag iris or water flag iris. Planted as a water garden ornamental, it escapes to wetlands, shorelines, ditches, and areas of shallow water.

**JAPANESE KNOTWEED** (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) Perennial with **shrub-like** form grows from 3'-11'. **Stems** are 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. Spreads primarily by **rhizomes**, root system can reach 6' deep and 65' wide. Threatens riparian corridors, fens, springs, ravines, forests and stream banks. Extremely difficult to eradicate once established.

**COMMON TANSY** (*Tanacetum vulgare*) Perennial plant, 3'-5' tall. **Stems** are smooth or slightly hairy, woody, purplish red near the ground. **Leaves** are alternate, pinnately compound, irregularly lobed, fernlike. Strongly aromatic when crushed. **Flowers** are bright yellow, up to 0.5" wide, in button-like clusters. Spreads by **seeds** and short **rhizomes** (underground stems). Introduced for medicinal and horticultural purposes, it is now spreading into wild areas in the Upper Midwest and Canada.

**WILD PARSNIP** (*Pastinaca sativa*) Monocarpic perennial (flowers once and then dies) up to 4' high in flowering stage. **Leaves** are alternate, made up of 5-15 oval leaflets along both sides of a common stalk, leaflets are sharply-toothed. **Flowers** are flat-topped, broad clusters 2-6" wide, numerous five-petaled yellow flowers. Produces numerous large **seeds** that remain viable for four years. Thick, long, edible **taproot**. Invades disturbed areas, edges, and open areas. **CAUTION! Plant sap can cause burns if exposed to sunlight.**

**MISCANTHUS** (*Miscanthus sinensis*, *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*) Also known as Amur or Chinese silver grass, pampas grass. A perennial warm season grass, 6-8' tall, very showy. **Flowers** are silky and plume-like. Reproduces via rhizomes, eventually forming a dense stand. A very popular ornamental grass, over 50 varieties are available. It is now spreading into road sides, woodland borders, and open areas.

**HYDRILLA** (*Hydrilla verticillata*) Submerged aquatic plant that grows in water from a few inches to 20' deep. **Leaves** are 0.5-0.75" triangular, pointed and occur in **whorls of 4-8 leaves** along the stem. Leaves have **serrated edges** and one or more protruding barbs or bumps along the midrib on the underside. Small **tubers** are present at the rooted base of the plant. Hydrilla has not been found in Minnesota, but is widespread in southern states and has been found as far north as Washington, Wisconsin, and Iowa. A serious threat to lakes and streams.

**GRECIAN FOXGLOVE** (*Digitalis lanata*) Biennial plant, 1st year rosette, 2nd year single to multiple coarse erect stems 2-5' high. **Leaves** 1st year dark green and spear-shaped, 2nd year alternate along stem. Elongated **flower** clusters, cream colored tubular flowers with purplish-brown veins. **Seeds** are in pods with small hooks that cling to fur and clothing. Creates dense stands that threaten savanna and prairie communities. **CAUTION! Toxic to humans and animals.**

**FLOWERING RUSH** (*Butomus umbellatus*) Perennial wetland plant, 1-5' tall. **Leaves** are sword-like, triangular in cross-section. **Flowers** are rose-colored, pink, or white, 0.75-1" wide, arranged in umbels. Spreads by **seeds** and by **rhizomes** (underground stems). Flowers in shallow water, in deeper water it grows submerged without flowering. Range is rapidly expanding in the Midwest.

**CUT-LEAVED TEASEL** (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) Monocarpic perennial (flowers once and then dies). **Leaves** are simple, opposite, and have feathering deep lobes. **Stems and leaves** are prickly. White **flowers** are small and packed in dense, oval-shaped heads. Can reach 3-7'. One plant can produce 2,000 **seeds**. Teasel grows in open sunny areas that can be wet or dry. Infests roadsides and disturbed areas, but sometimes occurs in high quality prairies, savannas, seeps, and sedge meadows.

**For control, management, and more info on these species, please visit the following websites:**

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html)  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/plants.asp](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/plants.asp)  
[www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm)  
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>

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