



# Hort Notes

An educational newsletter with research-based information for businesses and individuals involved in selling, planning, designing, servicing, and enjoying landscapes and gardens.

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Current Monitoring Checklist: [http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact\\_sheets/ipmtools/50\\_99\\_GDD.html](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/ipmtools/50_99_GDD.html)  
PLANT PHENOLOGY for April: *BETWEEN 50 - 99 GROWING DEGREE DAYS*

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## Questions from You

*Q. Can you advise as to what landscape plants would be appropriate for coastal properties? In particular, my clients are interested in plants that are indigenous to the area.*

A. When selecting plants for coastal landscapes, keep in mind that few plants can survive the rugged conditions of full and direct exposure to the ocean. Proper plant selection, based on site specific conditions, as well as site preparation become critical and are basic to the success of any coastal landscape. In addition to salt spray and wind, permeable sandy soil conditions may pose problems on many properties. When preparing soil for planting, the addition of organic material to the planting area is highly recommended. A minimum of a 3" layer of organic material should be worked into the entire planting area. Trees and shrubs should be planted following correct procedures and adequate water, both at planting time and during the first season, is critical to good establishment and survival. The following list of plants are of North American origin and may be suitable for coastal planting.

### **Native Plants for Coastal Planting**

*\*suitable for exposed conditions*

#### **Ground covers, grasses and forbs**

American Beach grass - *Ammophila breviligulata*\*  
Bearberry - *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*\*  
Blue Fescue - *Festuca ovina glauca*  
Creeping Juniper - *Juniperus horizontalis*\*  
False Heather - *Hudsonia tomentosa*\*  
Hard Fescue - *Festuca ovina* var. *longifolia*  
Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparius*  
Marsh Hibiscus - *Hibiscus moscheutos*

Panic Grass - *Panicum virgatum*  
Pennsylvania Sedge - *Carex pensylvanicum*  
Lance-leaf Coreopsis - *Coreopsis lanceolata*  
Red Fescue - *Festuca rubra*  
Saltmarsh Cordgrass - *Spartina patens*  
Sea Lavender - *Limonium nashii*\*  
Seashore Mallow - *Kosteletzkya virginica*  
Seaside Goldenrod - *Solidago sempervivons*\*  
Sheep Fescue - *Festuca ovina*  
Smooth Cordgrass - *Spartina alterniflora*  
Thread-leaf Coreopsis - *Coreopsis verticillata*  
Tufted Hairgrass - *Deschampsia flexuosa*  
Virginia Creeper - *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*\*

### **Shrubs**

Arrow-wood - *Viburnum dentatum*  
Bayberry - *Myrica pensylvanicum*\*  
Beach Plum - *Prunus maritima*\*  
Chokeberry, Black - *Aronia melanocarpa*  
Chokeberry, Red - *Aronia arbutifolia*  
Coast Leucothoe - *Leucothoe axillaris*  
Eastern Ninebark - *Physocarpus opulifolius*  
Elderberry - *Sambucus canadensis*  
Groundsel Bush - *Baccharis halimifolia*  
Highbush Blueberry - *Vaccinium corymbosum*  
Inkberry - *Ilex glabra*  
Marsh Elder - *Iva frutescens*  
Northern Wild Raisin - *Viburnum cassinoides*  
Shadbush - *Amelanchier canadensis*\*  
Sumac, Fragrant - *Rhus aromatica*  
Sumac, Shining - *Rhus copallina*  
Sumac, Smooth - *Rhus glabra*  
Sumac, Staghorn - *Rhus typhina*  
Sweet Fern - *Comptonia peregrina*\*  
Sweet Pepperbush - *Clethra alnifolia*  
Sweetspire - *Itea virginica*  
Virginia Rose - *Rosa virginiana*  
Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*

### **Trees**

American Holly - *Ilex opaca*  
Eastern Arborvitae - *Thuja occidentalis*  
Atlantic White Cedar - *Chamaecyparis thyoides*  
Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*\*  
Colorado Spruce - *Picea pungens* (native to North America)  
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*\*  
Green Ash - *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*  
Oak, various species - *Quercus* spp.\*  
Pitch Pine - *Pinus rigida*\*  
Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*

Sweet Bay Magnolia - *Magnolia virginiana*  
Tupelo - *Nyssa sylvatica*  
White Spruce - *Picea glauca* (native to North America)

Roberta Clark  
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## Draft Definitions to Accompany the Criteria for Evaluating the Invasiveness of Plants in Massachusetts - Part II

(Continued from the previous issue of Hort Notes, Vol. 12, #3)

**Spatial gaps** - Spatial gaps are units of landscape that may be similar enough that individuals of a species could exist there but, for any of a myriad of reasons, do not. Likewise, spatial gaps may also be units of dissimilar landscapes or habitats. Species that can cross spatial gaps must have the ability to disperse over similar or dissimilar habitats of varying sizes. This term is used in reference to the ability to disperse away from existing occurrences. Birds, wind or water may aid dispersal. The concept of crossing spatial gaps is used to distinguish those species which can disperse over these discontinuities and become established elsewhere from species which spread across a habitat only by continual, uninterrupted growth. Examples of species that can disperse over spatial gaps are *Froelichia gracilis*, *Vincetoxicum nigrum*, *Rosa multiflora*, *Berberis thunbergii* or *Lythrum salicaria*. Examples of those species which spread over large areas but are not capable of dispersal over spatial gaps are *Vinca minor*, *Hemerocallis fulva* or in New England, *Hedera helix*.

**Intensively managed habitats** - Intensively managed habitats (IMH) are habitats or land systems where management efforts and investments of time, money and work are relatively high. Examples of IMHs are manicured lawns, landscaped grounds, gardens, roadsides or agricultural lands for crops or livestock.

**Minimally managed habitats** - Minimally managed habitats (MMH) are habitats where management efforts and investments of time, money and work are relatively low or non-existent. MMHs may have been intensively managed for anthropogenic reasons at one time in their history. In some instances, management may be more intense but management is done for conservation purposes and is primarily aimed at preserving elements of biological diversity such as imperiled species or critical natural communities. MMHs are similar to "natural areas" but the distinction is made in order to remove bias, misconceptions or ambiguities that surround the term "natural area".

**Population** - A population is difficult to define because of the biological ramifications of interbreeding vs. not interbreeding, which often is not clear. Occurrence is suggested as an alternative. While interbreeding is assumed, it is not necessarily demonstrable.

**Natural plant community** - A natural plant community is an association or assemblage of plant species that repeatedly occur together in reoccurring patterns in a specific type of habitat. This assemblage can be characterized by dominant species and biological properties. A natural plant community implies a minimally managed situation where all or most of the species that make up

the assemblage are indigenous to the defined area.

**GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTORS** - boundaries of the area must be predetermined. There is no implied degree of invasiveness in the use of these modifiers.

**Widespread** - A widespread species occurs widely throughout the defined area and equally likely to be found in any subdivision or region of the entire area.

**Restricted** - A restricted species occurs in only a portion of the defined area or in particular subdivisions, regions or habitats that are geographically limited to some subdivision or subdivisions of the defined area. Usually, a restricted species occurs in a particular habitat type(s) that has (have) a restricted distribution within the defined area.

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#### Reference

Sorrie, Bruce A. and Paul Somers. 1999. The Vascular Plants of Massachusetts: A County Checklist. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Westborough, MA 01581. 187 pp.

*From Draft Definitions to Accompany the Criteria for Evaluating the Invasiveness of Plants in Massachusetts.*

*March 9, 2000. Les Mehrhoff, Univ. of Connecticut*

*Ron Kujawski*

*UMass Extension Educator - Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry*

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## **Invasive Plants of Cape Cod Conference**

Saturday, April 28 - 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Barnstable High School, Barnstable, MA

Invasive plants species pose a real threat to our precious natural heritage. Perhaps nowhere is this more true than on Cape Cod, where many of Massachusetts' rarest species and habitats exist, and where the unique landscape is being rapidly transformed. Join us for a conference with a regional and local perspective as we learn how we can shape the Cape's future landscape by preventing the spread of invasive plants. *Co-sponsored by Cape Cod Extension, the Cape Cod National Seashore, Cape Cod Commission, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Wellfleet Bay Audubon Sanctuary, Wildflower Meadow Council of Cape Cod, Botanical Club of Cape Cod and the Islands, New England Wild Flower Society, Orleans Conservation Trust, SE Reg'l District of the Garden Club Federation of MA.*

**Registration Fee: \$25** includes lunch and conference handouts. Register by phone (508-877-7630 ext. 3303). A map and directions will be sent upon registration. For more information about the conference, contact Seth Wilkenson at the Cape Cod Commission (508) 362-3828.

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**9:05 Keynote** *Dr. Les Mehrhoff, Director of the Torrey Herbarium, U. of CT - Les Mehrhoff,*

one of New England's foremost experts on invasive plants, will give an overview of the problem in New England and focus on some of the worst invasive plant species (especially those on Cape Cod).

**10:00 Focus on Cape Invaders** - A series of short slide presentations will focus on some of the worst offenders on the Cape with information on their identification, how they spread, and what is known about their control.

**11:15 Breakout Field Sessions** - Choice of two sessions: Identification Field Walks to look for and learn how to identify invasives in the field, and Demonstrations of Effective Invasive Control Methods for the most problematic Cape invaders.

**1:15 Panel on Development of Management Plans that include Invasives**

A moderated panel on how to evaluate properties for invasives and how to develop management plans that include invasive plant management.

**2:05 What We as Citizens, Landowners, Town Officials Can Do** - A moderated panel on how to make invasives a higher priority for local conservation attention. The focus will be on advocacy, funding, volunteer coordination, and alternative plantings.

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