

Print the first page and then turn paper over to print page two on the back.

Cut out the pocket guide and fold where indicated.

Stick it in your wallet and refer to it when choosing landscaping plants.

**N Purple Loosestrife** *Lythrum salicaria*

An aggressive invader of wetlands, purple loosestrife forms dense monocultures and outcompetes native grasses, sedges and other wetland plants. This species poses a serious threat to salmon streams in Alaska.

**N Butter and Eggs** *Linaria vulgaris*

**AKA: common toadflax, yellow toadflax, wild snapdragon**

A problematic ornamental plant that can spread to displace native species, livestock forage and wildlife habitat. A single plant can produce up to 30,000 seeds annually. It is also reported to be mildly toxic to cattle and is generally avoided by browsers.

**N Common Tansy** *Tanacetum vulgare*

**AKA: tansy, garden tansy, golden buttons, bitter buttons, hind-head, parsley-fern, ginger-plant**

Tansy was introduced from Europe as a medicinal and ornamental plant but it has the potential to be toxic to both wildlife and humans. It is listed by Washington, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana as a noxious weed.

**N Japanese Knotweed** *Polygonum cuspidatum*

**AKA: crimson beauty, bamboo, Mexican bamboo, Japanese fleecflower.**

This plant spreads quickly along roads and streams. It will outcompete native flora readily and has already become a serious concern in Southeast Alaska. Also avoid Giant and hybrid Bohemian knotweed which are also very troublesome and difficult to remove once established.

**N Ornamental Jewelweed** *Impatiens glandulifera*

**AKA: Himalayan balsam, policeman's helmet, touch-me-not, Indian jewelweed, Washington orchid**

Listed as a noxious weed in several Western states, jewel weed reproduces vigorously with prolific seed production. It is known to damage native plant communities, wildlife habitat and even alter water flow at high densities.

**N Orange Hawkweed** *Hieracium auranticum*

**AKA: devil's paintbrush, king-devil**

This plant is a tenacious invasive weed. It has become a serious problem in Southcentral Alaska and is spreading rapidly in other areas of the state. It will overtake lawns, gardens and mountain meadows alike.

For information about invasive plants and how to control them, visit the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District website: [www.homerswcd.org](http://www.homerswcd.org) and the statewide Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) website: [www.cnipm.org](http://www.cnipm.org)

For plants not covered in this guide - search the US Dept of Agriculture's Plants Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>) for additional info about listed noxious weeds.

# Pocket Guide to RESPONSIBLE LANDSCAPING

in Southcentral Alaska



May 2007



## GREEN

Preferred alternatives to invasive ornamental plants. These hardy species do not have invasive tendencies and can be safely utilized for landscaping in Alaska. Help protect our diverse native flora and wildlife by choosing these non-invasive alternatives.

**Pot Marigold** *Calendula*

This is a stout annual with showy orange or yellow flowers growing up to 2 feet tall. Pot marigold is easy to propagate and does well in partially shaded and well-drained areas.

**Blazing Star** *Liatris*

A great low-maintenance alternative to loosestrife that forms showy, purple floral "spikes" from 1 1/2 to 3 feet tall. This perennial ornamental is also known as prairie gayfeather and makes an excellent cut flower for indoor arrangements.

**Asiatic Lily** *Lilium*

These lilies are hardy, brightly colored perennial flowers available in red, orange and yellow varieties. Grows to 3 feet or taller and makes a great border or accent to ground covers. Does well in full sun and will grow in a variety of Alaskan climates. If you are looking for a fuller flower consider using peonies that also come in a diverse collection of colors.



### PLANT KEY



ALTERNATIVES



CAUTION



INVASIVE



NOXIOUS

This pocket guide will help you select alternatives to some of Alaska's most invasive ornamental plants.



Supported by  
Homer Soil and Water Conservation District,  
the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts  
and US Forest Service- State and Private Forestry



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## GREEN (con't)

### **Shasta or Alaska Daisy** *Leucanthemum maximum* or *Leucanthemum x superbum*

This is an attractive daisy with the classic white petals and yellow centers. Ideal for landscaping and garden edges, it grows 1-3 feet tall and does very well in dry sites. Make sure you are not getting the invasive **Oxeye Daisy**,<sup>N</sup> as package labels are sometimes unclear or incorrect. There is also a native arctic daisy *Dendranthema arcticum* that is a suitable alternative.

### **Bride's Feathers or Goat's Beard** *Aruncus*

This is a nice substitute for knotweed with similar plumes of cream-colored flowers. It grows best in moist areas with partial to full sun. It is clump-forming and will grow from 4 to 8 feet tall depending on the variety and site conditions.

### **Lupine** *Lupinus* including 'Russell Hybrids'

A striking variety of colors make lupines a wonderful perennial to add to your landscaping. However, lupines grow best in drier sites. Two native species *L. nootkatensis* and *L. arcticus* can also be successfully propagated but avoid the "Bigleaf" lupine that may hybridize with native lupines.

## **Alternative shrubs and trees**

Some shrubs and trees that have been reported to be invasive include: **Scotchbroom**,<sup>N</sup> Siberian Peashrub, European Bird Cherry ("mayday tree") and European Mountain Ash. Consider some of the following options.

### **Shrubby Cinquefoil or Buttercup Shrub**

*Potentilla fruticosa*

Potentilla is an eye-catching, low maintenance shrub with attractive flowers that are available in a variety of colors. They will grow from 1 to 6 feet tall in areas of full and partial sun. Avoid **Sulfur Cinquefoil** (*Potentilla recta*)<sup>N</sup> which is a known noxious weed.

### **Peking Cotoneaster** *Cotoneaster acutifolius*

A fast-growing, Alaska hardy shrub with pinkish white flowers. The foliage is dark green and turns a brilliant orange and red in the fall, it will add a splash of color to your landscape and can be trimmed into hedges. Does best in moist but well-drained soils and can grow to 6 feet tall. Watch for and avoid planting other Cotoneasters, as some are invasive.

### **Mugo or Dwarf Mountain Pine** *Pinus mugo*

A great landscaping tree, with shrubby varieties growing from 4 to 6 feet tall. Taller varieties are also available. It has dark green needles and is great for shrubby edges. Very tolerant of a variety of soil types and will grow in full sun.

<sup>N</sup> *Currently listed as a noxious weed by one or more states in the US.*

## YELLOW

Species are known to be problematic elsewhere and should generally be avoided. These are known to have invasive characteristics and may be considered noxious weeds in some states. Consider an alternative.

### **Cornflower or Bachelors Buttons**

*Centaurea spp.*

Several of the most troublesome weeds in the Western US are within this genus including **Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed**,<sup>N</sup> and **Yellow Starthistle**.<sup>N</sup> Several related ornamental plants are sold as "bachelors buttons" or "mountain corn flower". The annual bachelors button is less hardy but still considered invasive by some sources. Consider an alternative.

### **The Pearl** *Achillea ptarmica*

This plant, also called sneezeweed or Russian daisy, is widely planted but has become a pest in a hayfield on the lower Kenai Peninsula and has become naturalized in over 18 states.

### **Purple Foxglove** *Digitalis purpurea*

Has spread outside cultivation in Southeast Alaska and become a naturalized plant elsewhere. Plants are very poisonous and though poisonings are rare, should generally be avoided.

### **Variegated Ribbongrass** *Phalaris arundinaceae*

An ornamental variety of **Reed Canary Grass**<sup>N</sup> which has been responsible for the destruction of countless acreage of lost wetland habitat. This variety is reported to have similar habits and is virtually impossible to remove once established.

### **Honeysuckle** *Lonicera spp.*

Some honeysuckle plants, such as **Tatarian honeysuckle**,<sup>N</sup> are a serious problem elsewhere where they overtake forest edges and road right of ways. Seeds may be carried into remote areas by birds.

## RED

**These are known invasive or noxious ornamental plants. They quickly spread to invade natural areas, cause declines in biodiversity and damage native habitats and agricultural production. Don't propagate or spread these aggressive weeds**

### **Oxeye Daisy** *Leucanthemum vulgare*

Commonly planted as an ornamental or as a component in "wildflower" seed mixes, Oxeye daisy is an invasive perennial that can alter nutrient cycles and poses a serious threat to forage crop production. This plant can be very difficult to remove and seeds remain viable for over six years.

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