

Honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii, *Lonicera morrowii*, *Lonicera tatarica*, *Lonicera x bella*

Arrangement: opposite

Leaf Edge: smooth

Leaf Shape: egg shaped

Leaf Texture: soft/downy (except Tartarian)

Fruit: Twinned red or orange berries

Flowers: Twinned, fragrant, white/peach/pink



Woody Shrub: can grow to be over 15 feet tall

Bark: light brown, looks like you could peel it off on older growth

Pith: hollow, brown center



Native species of honeysuckle found in VT have a solid pith

Common Buckthorn

Rhamnus cathartica

Arrangement: alternate (subopposite)

Leaf Edge: toothed

Leaf Shape: ovate, with a pointed tip

Leaf Texture: smooth; Prominent "U" shaped veins

Leaf Color: dark, glossy green

Fruit: black berries

Flowers: yellowish green



Woody Shrub/Small Tree: can grow to be over 15 feet tall

Bark: lenticels, dark grey

Cambium: orange/yellow inner tissue

Thorn: modified stem/terminal spike



Honeysuckle Look-alikes

Bush-honeysuckle

Diervilla lonicera



Distinguishing features

Leaf Edge: serrated
Fruit: elongated woody capsules

One of the easiest ways to distinguish between native and invasive species of honeysuckle is the pith! Native species of honeysuckle found in VT have a **solid** pith and invasive species of honeysuckle have a **hollow** pith. Remember to look at the pith of older growth (not new growth).

American Honeysuckle

Lonicera canadensis



Distinguishing features

Leaf Texture: smooth

Common Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus

Distinguishing features

Fruit: white berries



Other Shrubs with Opposite Leaf Arrangement:

Border privet

(invasive)



dogwoods

(red-osier, silky, gray)



Common Buckthorn Look-alikes

Dogwoods

Cornus species

Distinguishing features

Arrangement: most species opposite

Leaf Edge: smooth

Tear Test: Gently tear the leaf in half, as indicated in the picture to the left. If fibrous strands are exposed, allowing half of the leaf to "hang" in midair, then you have dogwood!



Choke Cherry

Prunus virginiana

Distinguishing features

Arrangement: alternate

Chokecherry is just one of several species of cherry found in VT that could be mistaken for common or glossy buckthorn



Glossy False Buckthorn

Frangula alnus

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: Smooth

Leaf Texture: smooth, prominent parallel veins

Leaf Color: dark, glossy green

Fruit: red to dark purple as they ripen

Flowers: small, white, 5-petaled

This look-alike is also an **INVASIVE!**



Woody Shrub/Small Tree: can grow to be over 15 feet tall

Bark: lenticels, greyish brown

Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora

Arrangement: alternate

Leaves: pinnately compound with 7-9 leaflets

Leaf Edge: toothed leaflets

Fringed stipules (appendage at base of leaf stalk) distinguishes it from other rose species

Fruit: small, red rose hips

Flowers: clusters of numerous, white, 5 petaled flowers



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



James W. Amrine Jr., West Virginia University, Bugwood.org



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Woody Shrub: has multiple canes; can grow to be 15 ft tall

Thorns: stout, turned downward



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf shape: small, oval to spoon shaped leaves are clustered along stems

Leaf Edge: smooth

Fruit: bright red berries, often held into winter

Flowers: pale yellow, drooping below branches

A cultivar with red leaves is commonly used in landscape plantings



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Richard Gardner, UMES, Bugwood.org

Woody Shrub: has multiples arching branches – can form a dense understory

Cambium & Roots: bright yellow

Thorns: single spine at each cluster of leaves



Barry Rice, sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Multiflora Rose Look-alikes

Native Rose Species

Rosa species



Distinguishing features:

Flowers: pink to pale pink flowers compared to white flowers found on the invasive multiflora rose. They grow **singly** or in **small clusters** of flowers compared to invasive multiflora rose which has clusters of many flowers.

Stipules: are **entire** compared to the fringed stipules on the invasive multiflora rose.

Growth: **smaller, shorter, less extensive** shrubs compared to the invasive multiflora

Japanese Barberry Look-alike

Common Barberry

Berberis vulgaris



This look-alike is an **INVASIVE!**
Common barberry can hybridize with Japanese barberry

Distinguishing features:

Leaf Edge: toothed

Flowers: pale yellow, drooping below branches in clusters

Woody Shrub: can reach 13ft in height

Thorns: 3-pronged spine at each cluster of leaves

Other Thorny Shrubs



Roses



Raspberry/Blackberry

Japanese Knotweed

Fallopia japonica

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: smooth

Leaf Shape: broad, spade shaped leaves; flat at base

Fruit: small, triangular seeds

Flowers: form "spikes" made up of many small white flowers



US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

John Cardina, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Herbaceous Perennial: stems can grow over 10 ft tall

Stems: hollow between nodes, bamboo-like; green with pinkish red accents

Young shoots: reddish

Rusty red standing dead in winter



Tom Heutte, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: coarsely toothed

Leaf Shape: heart/triangular, vary in size

Fruit: long, slender seed pods

Flowers: small, white 4 petaled flowers



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Herbaceous Biennial: 1st year - basal rosette; 2nd year - produces flowers on 1-4 ft stalks

Roots: "S" shaped taproot

Stems: young plants have purple stems

Smell: crushed plants smell garlicky



Japanese Knotweed Look-alikes

Horsetail species

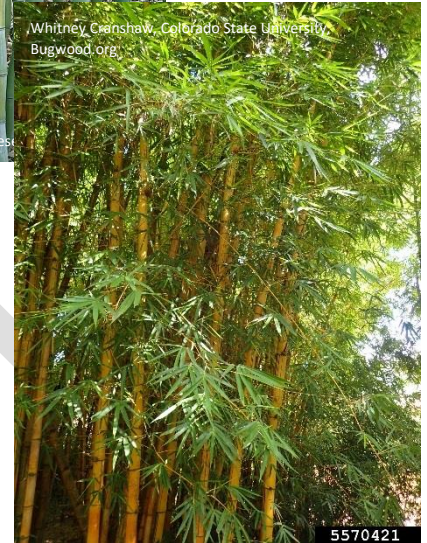
Equisetum species



Distinguishing features

- Leaves:** bush like growth, resembling a horse tail
- Height:** Superficially resembles knotweed shoots in the early spring, but do not get very tall

Bamboo species



Distinguishing features

- Leaf Shape:** long and slender
- Stems:** harder than Japanese knotweed

Garlic Mustard Look-alikes

Creeping Charlie/Ground Ivy

Glechoma hederacea

Distinguishing features

- Stem:** Square
- Leaves:** hairy upper surface; smell minty when crushed
- Growth Form:** runners (not rosettes)
- Flowers:** purple



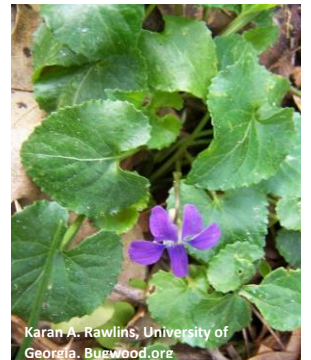
Non-native

Native Violets

Viola spp.

Distinguishing features

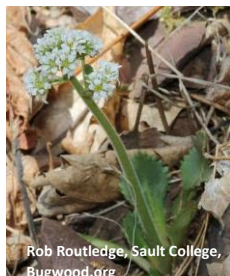
- Leaves:** heart-shaped base; Somewhat pointed tip; No distinctive garlic smell when crushed
- Flowers:** blue, violet, yellow or white



Species with White Flowers in Early Spring:



Toothwort

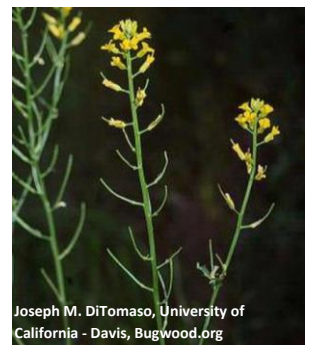


Early saxifrage



Sweet cicely

Other species in the mustard family can have similar seed pods



Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Arrangement: opposite/whorled leaves

Leaf Edge: smooth

Leaf Shape: lance-shaped leaves

Leaf Color: dark green

Fruit: capsules containing several reddish-brown seeds

Flowers: brilliant magenta flowers grow in long spikes; flower have 5-7 petals



Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Herbaceous Perennial: multiple stems, can grow to be 5 ft tall

Stems: square on younger stalks, many angled on mature plants

Often found in wet areas



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

5535248

Common Reed

Phragmites australis

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Shape: long, flat, pointed leaves

Leaf Texture: smooth

Fruit: seeds are light brown

Flowers: dense, featherlike inflorescence; gray or purple in color



Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Ohio State Weed Lab, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Perennial Grass: stems can grow over 10 ft tall

Stems: thick, round hollow stems

Ligule: 0.1 – 0.4 mm with dense, thick hairs

Dead leaves adhere to brown dead stems thru winter



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

5426607

Purple Loosestrife Look-alikes

Fireweed

Chamerion angustifolium

Distinguishing features

Arrangement: opposite

Stems: round

Flowers: pink/magenta with 4 petals



Blue Vervain

Verbena hastata

Distinguishing features

Flowers: bluish purple with 5 fused petals



Winged Loosestrife

Lythrum alatum

Distinguishing features

Arrangement: upper opposite, lower alternate

Stems: winged

Flowers: solitary, 6 petals, pink-purple



Swamp-loosestrife

Decodon verticillatus

Distinguishing features

Flowers: pink/purple whorled in a dense cluster around stem; 8-10 white-tipped pink stamens

Common Reed Look-alikes

Ornamental Grasses



Native Phragmites



Stem Color: green to maroon, bright maroon on lower portions of culm where sheath is removed

Leaf Sheaths: pull off easily from dead stems (most fall away on their own)

Wild Parsnip

Pastinaca sativa

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: coarsely toothed

Leaf Shape: compound, 5-11 diamond shaped leaflets

Fruit: seeds are light brown

Flowers: hundreds of small yellow flowers form a flat top (umbel)



CAUTION! Exposure to sap causes extreme skin irritation!



Herbaceous Biennial/Perennial: can grow to be 5 ft tall

Stems: hollow, except at nodes; ridges

Root: taproot, smells like parsnip



Burning-bush

Euonymus alatus

Arrangement: opposite

Leaf Shape: rounded with a point

Leaf Edge: toothed

Leaf Color: dark green, turning crimson in the fall

Fruit: reddish capsules split to reveal fleshy orange seeds

Flowers: inconspicuous; greenish yellow; 4 petals



Woody Shrubs: grows up to 20 feet

Stems: 2-4 corky ridges, or wings, grow on younger stems



Wild Parsnip Look-alikes

Golden Alexander

Zizia aurea

Distinguishing features

Size: smaller; grows to be 2 ½ feet tall

Leaves: 3-5 leaflets



American Cow-parsnip

Heracleum maximum

Distinguishing features

Flowers: white umbel



Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Distinguishing features

Flower: Large, white umbel

Stems: purple blotches

This look-alike is also an **INVASIVE!**



Queen Anne's Lace

Daucus carota

Distinguishing features

Stems: fine, bristly hairs

Flowers: White cluster of flowers, often with 1 purple flower in the center of the cluster

Burning Bush Look-alikes

European Spindle-tree

Euonymus europaeus

This look-alike is also an **INVASIVE!**



Fruit: pink capsules open to reveal orange seeds

Stems: slight ridges on younger stems

Shrubs with Brilliant Red Fall Foliage



Highbush Blueberry



Arrowwood Viburnum



Fragrant Sumac

Asiatic Bittersweet

Celastrus orbiculatus

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: toothed

Leaf Shape: elliptical to circular

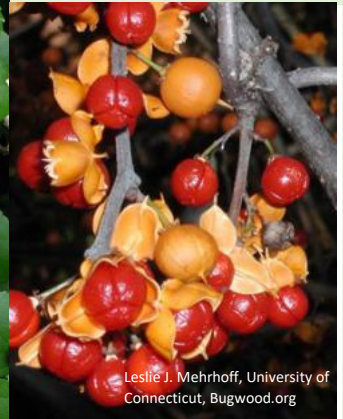
Fruit: red berries with yellow/orange casing

Flowers: small, greenish-white

native bittersweet has flowers/berries only at terminal ends of branches. The invasive bittersweet has flowers/berries scattered along the entire stem.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



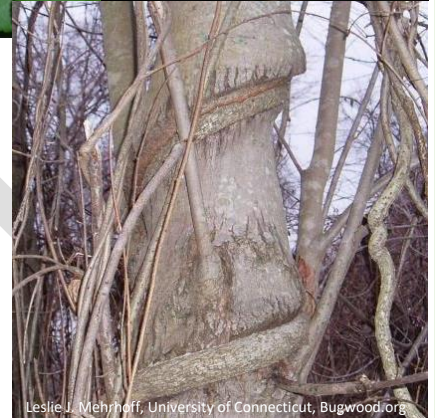
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



Woody Vine: climbs trees to over 60 ft

Bark: tan/grey furrowed bark on older growth

Roots: reddish brown



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Autumn Olive

Elaeagnus umbellata

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: smooth; wavy margins

Leaf Shape: long oval with pointed tips

Leaf Texture: smooth

Leaf Color: silver scales on the underside

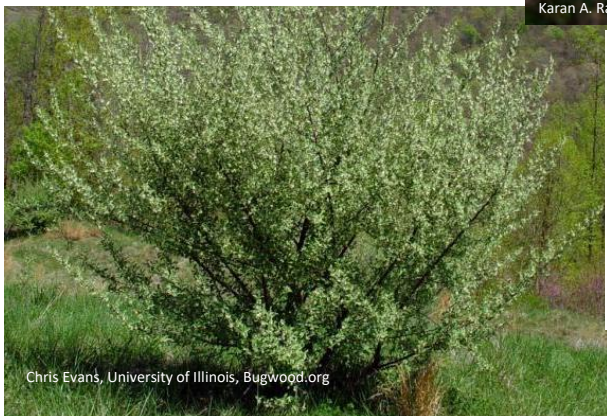
Fruit: pink, silver speckled berries

Flowers: abundant, yellowish tubers



Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

5408142



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Woody Shrub/Small Tree: can grow up to 20 ft

Bark: young twigs silver scaled

Thorns: pointed stems



James R. Allison, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Asiatic Bittersweet Look-alikes

American Bittersweet

Celastrus scandens

Distinguishing features

Fruit/Flower: clumped at the end of the stem (terminal) as opposed to the invasive bittersweet which has auxiliary clumps along the vine

Fruits: orange when ripe



Other Vines Found in Vermont:



Wild Grape



Virginia Creeper



Poison Ivy

Autumn Olive Look-alikes

Arrangement: alternate

Leaf Edge: smooth

Leaf Shape: long oval

Leaf Texture: smooth

Leaf Color: silver scales on both sides

Fruit: yellow, silver speckled berries

Flowers: silver outside, yellow within

Russian Olive

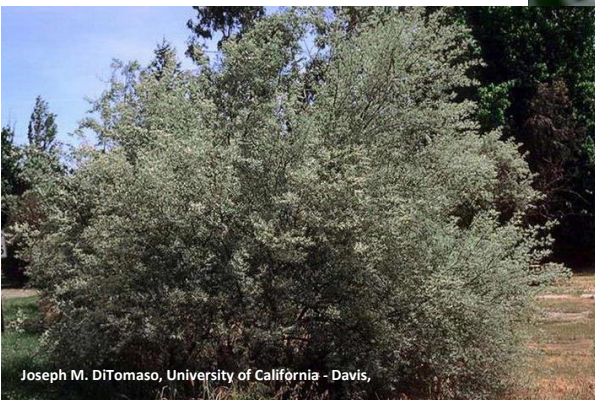
Elaeagnus angustifolia



Tree: can grow up to 35 ft

Bark: young twigs silver scaled, older growth brown

Thorns: pointed stems



This look-alike is also an **INVASIVE!**