

Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

Herbaceous Monocarpic Perennial

WARNING: Sap of this plant is TOXIC to the skin.



Size: can grow up to 20' tall.

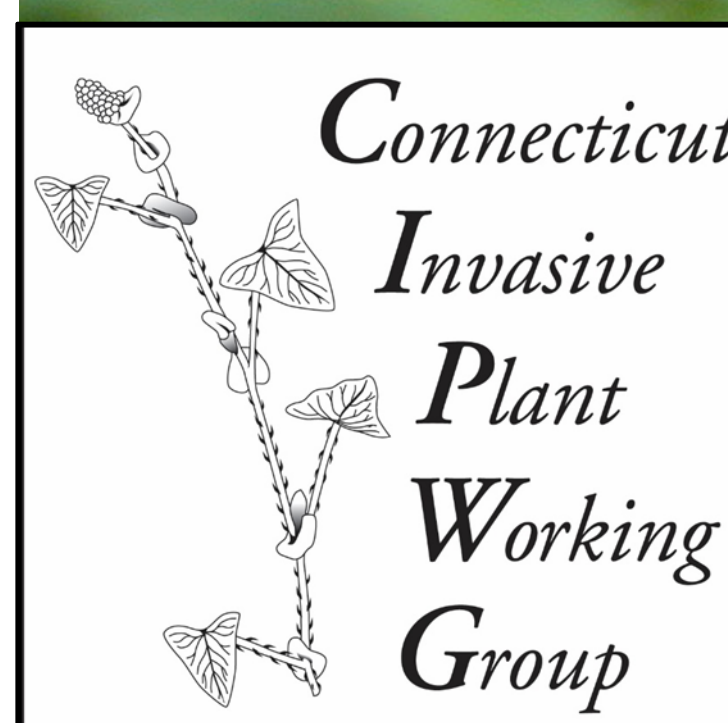
Leaves: palmately compound, with deeply lobed leaflets, up to 5' across.

Reproduction & Dispersal: seed, gardeners sharing plants.

Flowers: white clusters in June – July, up to 2.5' across.

Origin: native to Caucasus Mountains, southwest Asia.

Stems: hollow, with stiff white hairs, green with burgundy red stripes.



Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum* syn. *Fallopia japonica*

Herbaceous Rhizomatous Perennial



New growth is reddish bronze. Photo credit: Rose Hiskes

Origin: native to Asia.

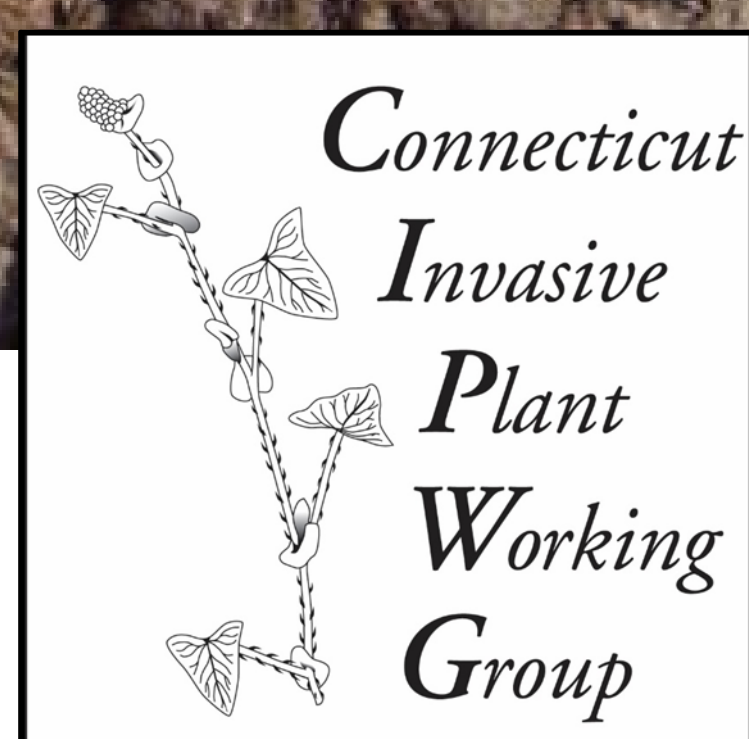
Leaves: alternate, egg-shaped, up to 6 in. long with a pointed tip.

Stems: hollow between nodes. Bamboo-like.

Flowers: white, in mid-late summer.

Size: grows to 10' or more in an ever expanding clump that dies in the center with age.

Reproduction & Dispersal: mainly rhizomes, plant fragments in soil, some seed.



Do not purchase variegated forms of Japanese knotweed that can be found in garden centers. Photo Credit: Jenn Forman Orth

Oriental Bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Deciduous Woody Vine



Fruits: dioecious, so female plants develop fruits in axils all along the stem. The yellow ovary wall encases 3 fleshy red arils. The fruits split open at maturity revealing the arils that contain the seeds.

Origin: native to East Asia: Japan, Korea and China.

Leaves: alternate, toothed, spiral evenly around the stem, ovate to round.

Stems: twining stems of this botanical python have dark brown to brown striated, almost corky, bark with many lenticels. Small spines are found just above each node.

Roots: fibrous roots are orange in color.

Size: vines can grow up to 60' tall and 4" in diameter.

Reproduction & Dispersal: fruit is eaten by birds and dispersed when they defecate.

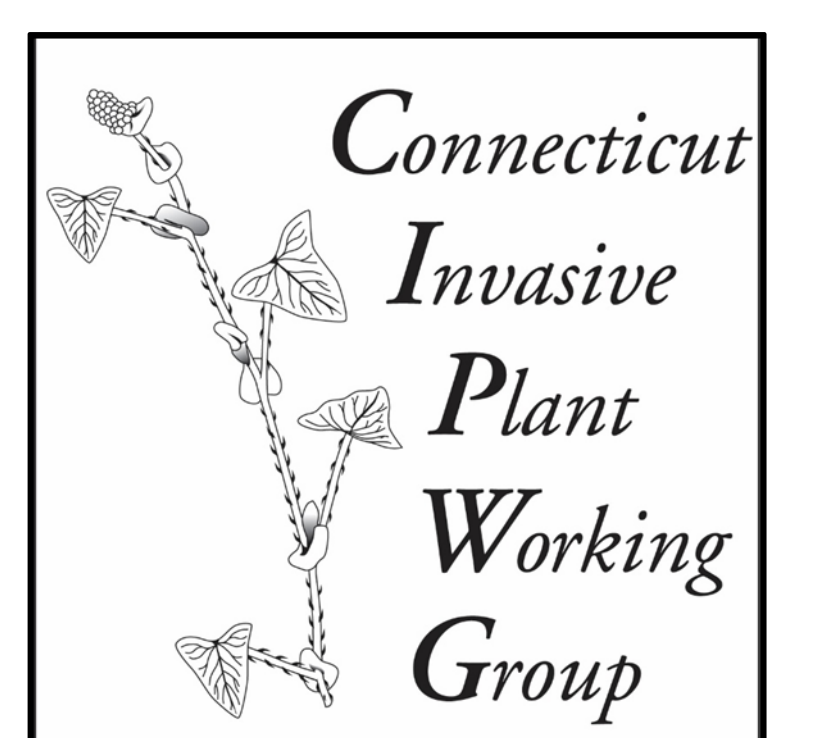


Photo credits: IPANE, Rose Hiskes



Autumn-Olive, *Elaeagnus umbellatus*

Deciduous Woody Shrub



Origin: eastern Asia.

Leaves: simple, elliptical to oval, yellow-green leaves are silvery underneath.

Flowers: creamy white, fragrant flowers in May attract bees.

Fruit: red, speckled fruit, high in lycopene, with a pit; that ripens in September.

Stems: young stems rusty red, older stems silver-brown with large spines.

Size: up to 20' – 30' tall and wide, forming thick stands.

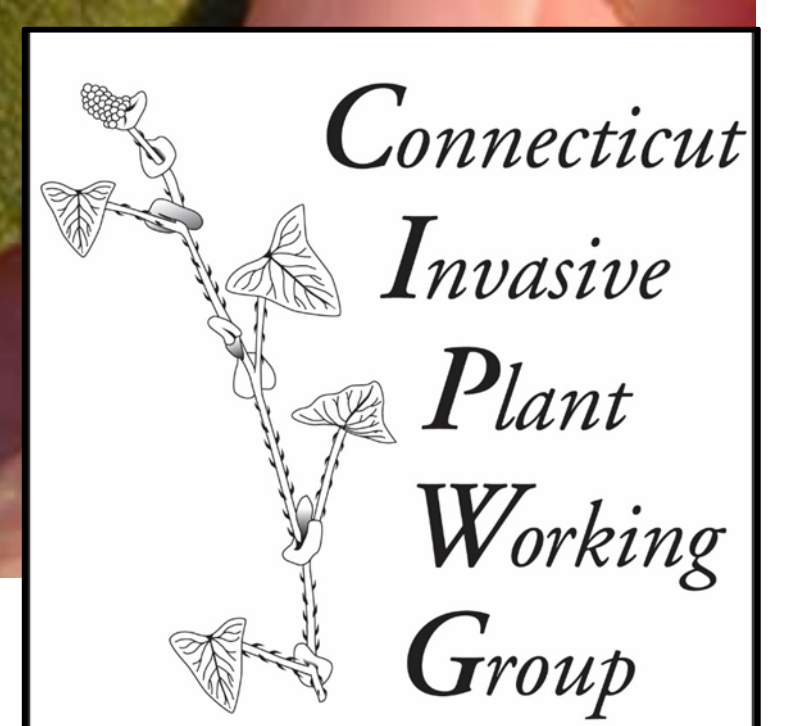
Reproduction & Dispersal: this plant fixes nitrogen and can produce berries prolifically. Birds eat the berries and defecate the seed wherever they happen to be perched.



Autumn olive growing out of a holly.

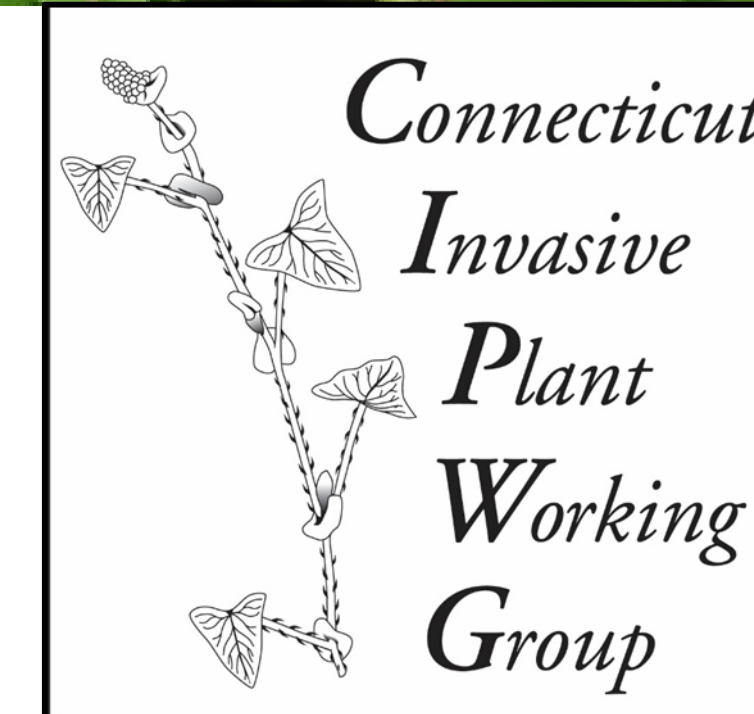


Photo credits: CAES, Rose Hiskes, Donna Ellis.



Mile-A-Minute, *Polygonum perfoliatum* syn. *Persicaria perfoliata*

Herbaceous Annual Vine



Size: can grow up to 26' in one season.

Origin: native to East Asia.

Leaves: alternate, up to 3" equilateral triangle, pale green, recurved barbs on lower midrib, petiole attaches on the back side of the blade (as in nasturtium leaves). A skirt-like structure, the ocrea, encircles the stem at each node.

Stems: wiry, thin, weakly rooted, white to green in color with tinges of red. Recurved barbs allow the plant to climb up and over shrubs and trees.

Flowers & Fruit: white terminal flowers begin in June and mature to bright blue fruits July through November. The ripe fruit cluster resembles grape hyacinth.

Reproduction & Dispersal: birds eat the fruit and disperse the seeds when they defecate.



Photo credits: IPANE, Donna Ellis

Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*

Herbaceous Biennial



Origin: native to Europe.

Stems: second year a smooth green flowering stalk emerges.

Leaves: evergreen basal rosette has rounded leaves up to 4 in. across. Venation is palmate and margins are toothed. When crushed they give off a garlic odor. Leaves on flower stalk are triangular and smaller.

Flowers: white flowers with four petals in May to June held above the foliage.

Fruit: erect slender pods follow flowers, darken and open to drop seed in fall.

Size: grows to 3' the flowering year.

Reproduction & Dispersal: seed.

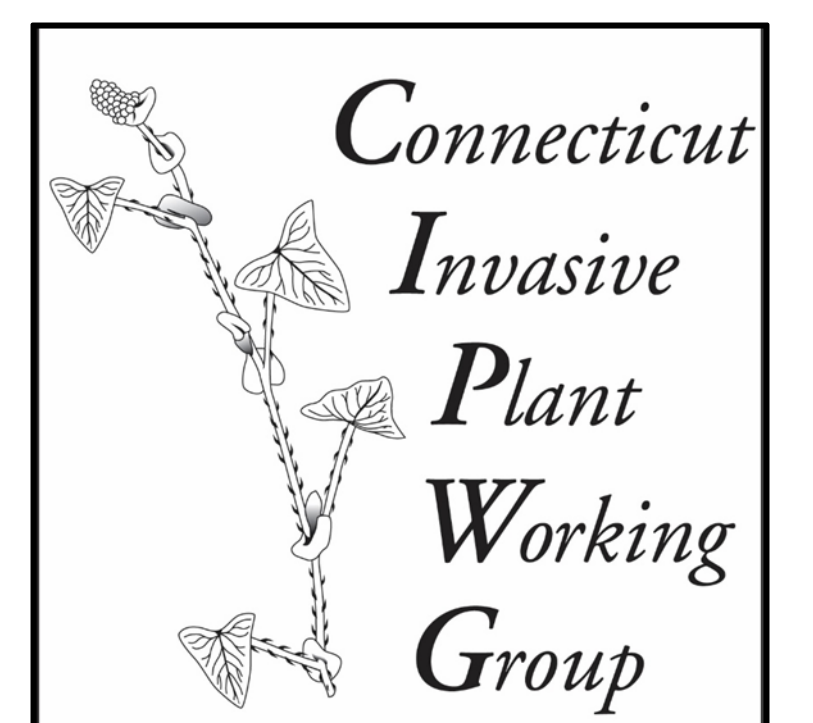


Photo credits: IPANE, Chris Evans, Bugwood.

