

## Invasive and Harmful Plants

Despite their beauty, in many cases there are certain invasive plants that are spreading and can choke out more beneficial species. Invasive species reduce biodiversity, alter habitats for birds, amphibians, insects, mammals and fish.

The pretty pink common loosestrife is one of those plants that can choke marshes and virtually prevent any other species from growing and eventually destroy a marshland. *Phragmites australis* is another common species in the area that is causing problems along with *Fallopia japonica* and *Phalaris arundinacea*. Also becoming problematic is coltsfoot which is a broadleaf plant invading roadsides. Of course ragweed causes huge asthmatic problems for 10% of the population and hogweed can be very dangerous inflicting third degree burns.

Before transplanting any wild plant, do your homework and consult a specialist. You could be doing more harm than good. Know your plants! For more info check [www.glu.org](http://www.glu.org).



*phalaris arundinacea*



*fallopia japonica*



*phragmites australis*



pink common loosestrife



coltsfoot