

## Look for recommended plants.

### Learn about the threat of invasive plants.

#### Lead by example and telling others.

#### What is an invasive plant, and are all plants from other areas invasive?

- An invasive plant is one that has negative effects on our economy, environment, or human health.
- The term “invasive” applies to the most aggressive species that grow and reproduce rapidly, growing or seeding beyond their planting beds and into nearby woods and wetlands. While some plants can be aggressive within our gardens, the term “invasive” applies only to those which escape into natural lands and harm the habitat of our native plants and animals.
- Almost all invasive plants are non-native, but it’s also true that most plants that come from other places are not invasive.



#### What are some commonly known invasive plants?

- Two well-known examples of invasive plants include
  - purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
  - garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Both of these plants are from regions with climates similar to the Midwest, and both produce seeds by the thousands that can spread rapidly over long distances.
- Neither one is vigorously fed upon by native Midwest insects or other animals.
- Many other examples of plants like these were originally introduced as garden flowers or herbs and have now become invasive.



#### Is a non-native plant always invasive?

- Most non-native plants do not compete well with native plants in the wilds of the Midwest, so they don’t become invasive.
- They may find the growing season too short or their seeds may not be able to germinate properly here, or they may not have adequate defense against herbivores in the Midwest.
- Some of these may occasionally escape cultivation, but do not grow well enough here to negatively effect Midwest ecosystems.



#### Why is it important to avoid planting invasive plants?

- Whether introduced intentionally or accidentally, invasive plants can quickly overwhelm native plants by reducing the availability of light, water, nutrients, and space.
- Destructive invasives damage forests, fields, wetlands, and waterways, causing erosion and depriving wildlife of food and habitat.
- The U.S. spends \$137 billion annually on the control and impacts of more than 800 invasive species infestations. This does not account for the values of species extinctions and losses in biodiversity, ecosystems, services and aesthetics.



## Stop in the Garden Center and look for Recommended Non-Invasive plant tags.



The Nature Conservancy

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This plant is not known to be invasive in natural areas at this time.

Autumn Blaze® Maple  
‘Jeffersred’  
Acer freemanii

6+ HOURS SUN

Snap code with smartphone to learn more about The Nature Conservancy and Meijer

BLOOM TIME  
SPRING SUMMER FALL

SHRUB

## The Nature Conservancy Mission

The Nature Conservancy's mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

## The Partnership of Meijer and The Nature Conservancy

- Meijer chose to partner with The Nature Conservancy to highlight species that are not known to be invasive and encourage consumers to seek out these species.
- Experts with The Nature Conservancy have helped Meijer identify species that we can confidently promote as highly unlikely to become invasive.
- Our customers can be confident in choosing plants recommended by The Nature Conservancy, including many which are native to our region. They are not likely to become the next invasive plant that could take over the woods and wetlands near their homes.

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