**Siberian Elm**
*Ulmus pumila*

**Description**
Appearance: Deciduous tree, 30-60’ high with an open rounded crown and slender, spreading branches. Bark is dark gray and shallowly furrowed on a mature tree. Silver-gray twigs have a zigzag shape with a leaf bud at each turn.

Leaves: Alternate, small, (1-2”), elliptic, toothed, short-pointed at the tip, smooth, dark glossy and small-toothed. Leaves stay green late into fall.

Flowers: (CB&GB) Inconspicuous, appear in May or June, clustered in the axils of leaves.

Fruit: Clusters of black ¼ inch fruit ripen on female plants in late summer.

**Buckthorn**
*Rhamnus cathartica/Frangula alnus*

**Description**
Appearance: Common Buckthorn (CB) & Glossy Buckthorn (GB) Tall understory shrub or small tree, grows up to 20’ high. Has a spreading loosely branched crown, often multiple stems at the base. Brown bark with elongate shiny corky projections (Caution: native plums or cherries have a similar bark).

Branches: (CB&GB) Cut branch exposes yellow sapwood and orange heartwood. Twigs often end in stout thorns.

Leaves: (CB) Alternate, sometimes opposite; broadly elliptic pointed at the tip, smooth, dark glossy and small-toothed. Leaves stay-green late into fall. (GB) Alternate, thin, and exfoliate or elliptic smooth, dark glossy, margins are not toothed; stay green late into fall.

Flowers: (CB&GB) Inconspicuous, appear in May or June, clustered in the axils of leaves.

Fruit: Numerous reddish, two-winged, inch-long fruit mature in late summer.

**Amur Maple**
*Acer ginnala*

**Description**
Appearance: Amur maple is a small tree up to 20’ high with a broad crown, but sometimes pruned as a hedge. Twigs are smooth and light colored.

Leaves: (CB) Alternate, longer than wide and have three shallow lobes or two flowering stems on second year plants.

Seeds: Slender capsules 1-2½” long, containing a single row of oblong black seeds. Seeds are viable in the soil for 5 years.

**Garlic Mustard**
*Alliaria petiolata*

**Description**
Appearance: Biennial herbaceous plant with weak single stems 12-36” high, with flowers in its second year. The only plants of this height blooming white in wooded environments in May.

Leaves: Round, scale-edged, dark green; first year, rosettes of 3 or 2 leaves; second year plants have alternate stem leaves. Leaves and stems small like onion or garlic when crushed.

Flowers: White, small and numerous, with four separate petals. Each plant has one or two flowering stems on second year plants.

Fruit: Slender capsules 1-2½” long, containing a single row of oblong black seeds. Seeds are viable in the soil for 5 years.

**Tree Habitat:** Aggressively invades oak forests, savannas, prairies, riparian woods on well-drained soils.

**Plant Habitat:** Garlic mustard spreads also into high quality woodlands, upland and floodplain forests, not just into disturbed areas.

Garlic mustard is on the MDA “Prohibited noxious weed” list in Minnesota.

**AMUR MAPLE**
*Exotic Honeysuckle*
*Lonicera tartarica, Lonicera morrowii,*
*Lonicera x bella*

**Description**
Appearance: Upright deciduous shrubs, 5-12’ high. *L. bella* is a horticultural hybrid. Older stems have shaggy bark and are often hollow.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, oval, and untoothed. *L. tartarica* has smooth, hairless leaves, *L. morrowii* has downy leaves.

Flowers: Fragrant, tubular, bloom in May and June, white, red but most often pink.

Fruit: Fruits are red or yellow, situated in pairs in the leaf axils.

**Plant Habitat:** Exotic honeysuckle replace native forest shrubs and herbaceous plants by their invasive nature and early leaf-out. They shade out herbaceous ground cover and deplete soil moisture.

**Tree Habitat:** Amur maple displaces native shrubs and understory trees in open woods, and shades out native grasses and herbaceous plants in savanna habitat. It is still being frequently sold commercially as an ornamental, and for wildlife and shelterbelt plantings.

Common glossy buckthorn are on the MDA “Restricted noxious weeds” list in Minnesota.
Common Tansy

**Tanacetum vulgare**

**Description**
- **Appearance**: Perennial herbaceous plant, 3' tall, up to 5' in shaded areas, and erect. A single stem branches extensively toward the top into short stems forming a flat-topped cluster of numerous button-like flower heads; plants have medicinal properties.
- **Leaves**: Alternate, pinnately compound (leaflets arranged on both sides of a common stalk), irregularly lobed. Leaves become smaller towards the top of the stalk, and are strongly aromatic when crushed.
- **Flowers**: Bright yellow daisy-like discs up to ½" wide, lacking rays, blooming from July through October.

Common tansy is on the MDA “Prohibited noxious weeds” list in Minnesota.

Wild Parsnip

**Pastinaca sativa**

**Description**
- **Appearance**: Monocarpic perennial herbaceous plant (plant spends one or more years in rosette stage, blooms under favorable conditions, and then dies, 6’ high in the rosette stage and 4’ high on stout, grooved stems in the flowering stage).
- **Leaves**: Alternate, leaf is made up of 5-15 egg-shaped leaflets along both sides of a common stalk; leaflets sharply-toothed or lobed at the margins; upper leaves smaller.
- **Flowers**: Flat-topped brown flower cluster 2-6’ wide, numerous five-petaled yellow flowers; blooms from June to late summer.

Wild parsley is on the MDA “Prohibited noxious weeds” list in Minnesota.

Spotted Knapweed

**Centaurea maculosa**

**Description**
- **Appearance**: Biennial or short-lived perennial herbaceous plant, 2-3’ tall. Basal leaves form a rosette the first year from which grow 1-2” wide, heavy, branched stems during the second year. Leaves: Alternate, grayish, hoary, and divided into lance-shaped lobes decreasing in size at the top.
- **Flowers**: Thistle-like pink to purple flowers sit at the tips of terminal and axillary stems, bloom from July through September.
- **Seeds**: Small, flat, round, slightly ribbed, straw-colored, abundant take 3 weeks to ripen before they can reseed; viable in the soil for 4 years.

Spotted knapweed is on the MDA “Prohibited noxious weeds” list in Minnesota.

Leafy Spurge

**Euphorbia esula**

**Description**
- **Appearance**: Perennial herbaceous plant, 2-3½ tall, erect branching, smooth stems growing from a deep vertical root. Stems, flowers, and leaves emit a white milky sap when broken.
- **Leaves**: Alternate, small, oblong to lance-shaped, on the upper part of the stem; scale-like on the lower part of the stem.
- **Flowers**: Small, borne by showy yellow-green bracts which open in late May; flowers bloom from June into fall. Umbrella-shaped flower cluster, 7-10, at the top of each stem, single, stemmed flowers from leaf axils below.
- **Seeds**: Explosive dispersal from a seed capsule up to ½; high germination rate; seeds remain viable in the soil for 7 years.

Leafy spurge is on the MDA “Prohibited noxious weeds” list in Minnesota.

Orange Hawkweed

**Hieracium aurantiacum**

**Description**
- **Appearance**: Perennial herbaceous plant, 10-20” tall; each hairy stem bears one or a dense cluster of dandelion-like, orange or yellow flowerheads. The stem grows from a basal rosette of hairy leaves. Hawkweeds colonize and can rapidly dominate a site. They grow well on disturbed, dry low-productivity soils.
- **Leaves**: Hairy rosette made up of entire or minutely toothed leaves, spathula shaped, 4-6” long. They are dark green above and lighter green beneath.
- **Flowers**: Bright yellow or orange dandelion-like, ½” to ¾” in diameter; arranged in a dense flat-topped cluster of flowers.

Orange hawkweed is on the MDA “Prohibited noxious weeds” list in Minnesota.

**Invasive Plants And Animals**

Help Prevent The Spread Of
Invasive Plants And Animals
- Arrive with clean gear.
- Burn local or certified firewood.
- Don’t kelp or seed; try hay.
- Stay on the trails.
- Before leaving, remove mud and seeds.

Play Clean Go is sponsored by the State of Minnesota and USDA Forest Service, equal opportunity employers.