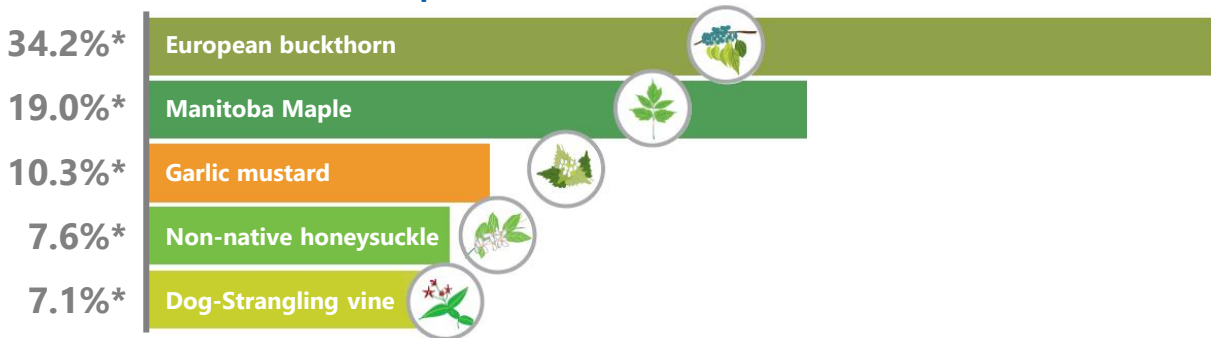


Invasive Species in Whitchurch-Stouffville



An invasive species is an organism – animal, plant, insect, fungus or pathogen – that is introduced to a new environment where it is not native and causes harm. As well as threatening ecological integrity, some invasive species pose health risks to people and communities, can damage public and private property, threaten food security and cost Ontario’s economy and governments billions of dollars each year.

Five Most Abundant Invasive Plant Species in Whitchurch-Stouffville



* % of total study area with the invasive species present

Three Most Abundant Invasive Plant Species Observed in Whitchurch-Stouffville



European buckthorn

- In fields and forests, buckthorn grows very densely. It outcompetes native plants by releasing a toxin into the soil. Buckthorn can establish nearly anywhere in urban or rural settings because of its tolerance to stressors such as drought or poor soil conditions.
- Buckthorn can be managed by manually pulling seedlings and saplings by hand or weed wrench. For larger trees, professionals should be consulted for removal and treatment.



Manitoba Maple

- The Manitoba maple is native to Canada, but is considered invasive in Ontario due to its expanding range, fast growth, and ability to outcompete other native species.
- When selecting a tree for your property, select a native tree species as they provide much more value to the Town’s urban forest. Alternatively, if considering a non-native tree species, ensure it is not considered invasive.



Garlic Mustard

- Historically introduced as a garden herb, garlic mustard has spread into mature forests and surrounding areas. It outcompetes and limits the growth of native species by changing the chemistry of soil around it.
- Garlic mustard can be managed by carefully hand-pulling smaller populations or mowing larger populations prior to flowering on an annual basis for several years until the seed bank is exhausted.

Three Most Impactful Pests and Diseases in Whitchurch-Stouffville



Emerald ash borer (EAB)

- EAB is an invasive beetle that is native to eastern Asia and China. The species bores into native ash trees and feeds on the inner bark. Once EAB has infested an ash, the tree typically dies within 2 to 3 years.
- Ash wood should never be moved to a new location since larvae can survive in firewood and start a new infestation.



Spongy moth

- Spongy moth (also known as *Lymantria dispar dispar* or LDD moth) is a naturalized invasive insect found throughout southern Ontario that feeds on a variety of tree species such as oak, birch and maple.
- Spongy moth caterpillars eat leaves causing trees to lose some or in extreme cases, all of their leaves. Since deciduous trees can regrow their leaves after being damaged by spongy moth, long term effects can be reduced or prevented through a number of control options.
- Management techniques include removing egg masses in spring and fall or using burlap bands around tree trunks beginning in May to help collect and dispose of caterpillars.



Beech bark disease (BBD)

- BBD is the product of an insect and fungus interaction. An invasive beech scale insect, introduced from Europe, creates openings for fungus to infect beech trees. This disease causes cankers along the trunk of beech trees, eventually leading to the tree's death.
- Efforts should be made to limit the spread of BBD by not moving firewood.

Species to Look Out For



Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA)

- HWA is an aphid-like insect native to Japan that targets and kills hemlock trees by attaching to branches and feeding at the base of needles taking nutrients and sap. This characteristic powdery white egg sac, which look like cotton or snow, are the main sign of HWA presence, most obvious in April and May.
- HWA was first detected in Etobicoke in 2012 and most recently in Northumberland County and the City of Hamilton in 2023. This pest has not yet been detected in York Region.



Oak wilt

- Oak wilt is a disease that affects the vascular system of oaks, caused by a fungus that grows in the sapwood of a tree, decreasing the water and nutrients received by the tree.
- Oak wilt was first detected in Ontario in the city of Niagara Falls in May 2023, and then in Springwater, Simcoe County.

Please report any suspected sightings of either HWA or oak wilt to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency **through the form at inspection.canada.ca/ or 647-790-1100.**

Stop the spread of invasive species - Do not move firewood



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority



For more information visit TownofWS.ca