

Stewardship: caring for trails and removing invasive plants.

Age Group 1 – recognize litter along the trails and remove if able, and determine how long it will take to decompose (list below). Help clear sticks and small debris from trails that people can trip on. Let the Land Trust know what you have found and removed, and what trail you were on (or name of property).

Age Group 2 – recognize litter along the trails and remove if able, and determine how long it will take to decompose (list below). Find one invasive plant (from list below) to identify and pull up. Invasive plants are plants not from North America that out-compete native plants and ultimately alter their habitats. Track how many you removed and where along trail. Let the Land Trust know what you have found and pulled, and what trail you were on (or name of property).

In this list you will find some items and their decomposition times. Decomposition will vary depending on weather and site conditions.

Item	Average Decomposition Time
Orange or banana peel	3 to 5 weeks
Paper	2 to 6 weeks
Cardboard	3 to 6 months
Carry-out food bag	4 to 8 months
Cigarette butt	10 to 12 years
Plastic bag	10 to 20 years
Nylon fabric	30 to 40 years
Tin can	50 years
Plastic six-pack holder	450 years
Aluminum can	200 to 250 years
Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Glass bottle	1 million years
Styrofoam container	never

Common Invasive Plants in Massachusetts

Asian bittersweet
Black swallow wort
Burning bush
Common Buckthorn
Garlic mustard
Glossy Buckthorn
Japanese barberry

TIP: You can find more photos by looking up these plant names on GoBotany (<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/>)

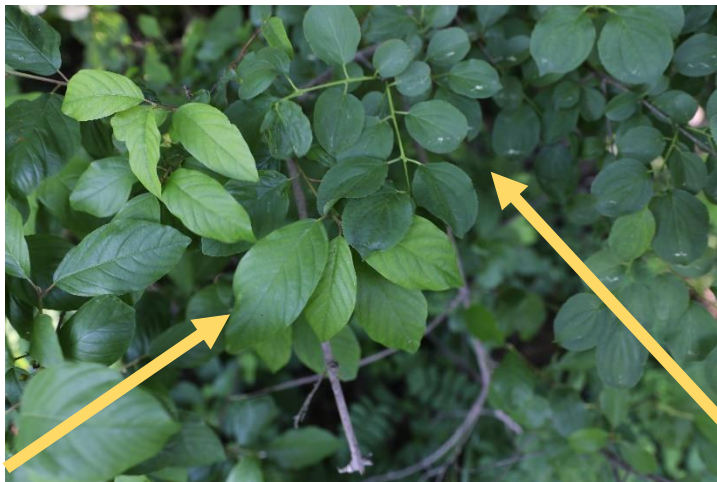
Photo examples of 3 species on next page!



Asian bittersweet



Burning Bush



Glossy buckthorn

Common buckthorn