**Curly pondweed (Potamogeton crispus)**

A submerged aquatic plant with alternating leaves having wavy margins that are distinctly sharp toothed when examined closely. Leaves are also green to rust brown in colour. Curly pondweed spreads primarily by plant fragments and seeds. Flowers are not showy; are rust-brown in colour and appear on an emergent spike above the water surface.

**English ivy (Hedera helix)**

This is a herbaceous vine and ground cover. Alternating leaves are three lobed with lighter leaves having wavy-like edges. It spreads by root fragments, bulbils and seed. Flowers are small, green-white and arranged on elongated clusters along the stem.

**Norway Maple (Acer platanoides)**

This deciduous tree is sometimes difficult to distinguish from native sugar maple. Leaves are opposite and five lobed, often with a slight purple tinge, often affected by black spot fungus late in the season. Milky sap can be seen exuding from leaf stem if picked and squeezed. Winged seeds can be seen to form a T-like shape when attached to the stem.

**Spreading ironweed (Helenium autumnale)**

This is an aggressive plant that spreads primarily through seed and has irregular white and green variegation. It spreads by root fragments and seed. Young stems are often affected by black spot fungus late in the season. Seedheads are often confused with these species. See CVC website for more detail and a list of specific species considered invasive.

**Goutweed (Aegopodium podagraria)**

This is a herbaceous plant and ground cover. The plant has variegated white and green leaves that alternate along the stem. Naturalized plants often lose this variegation. It spreads primarily by roots, but also by seed. Goutweed has small white flowers in a bowl-like cluster on a stalk.

**Himalayan balsam (Impatiens glandulifera)**

This is a tall (1 to 2 m) herbaceous plant with feisty pink-red stems and a lance-shaped alternating leaf with saw-tooth-like edges. It spreads primarily by seed and has irregular cone-shaped pink flowers.

**Polygonum cuspidatum**

This is a tall (1 to 2 m) herbaceous plant with a flat, spear-shaped leaf that has a flattened bottom. Leaves are alternate. Stems are robust and look like bamboo when mature. Japanese knotweed spreads primarily by roots, but also by seed. Flowers are small, green-white and arranged on elongated clusters along the stem.

**European frog-bit (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)**

This is a tall clumping grass with root-like stems that can be 1 to 4 m high. The flowers heads are bottlebrush, or spike-like. In late summer the flower heads turn reddish, then turn into masses of a dark colour. Leaves blades are approximately 2.5 cm wide and have a distinct white midrib. In the fall, leaves turn to a fawn/yellow colour. Cultivated varieties, such as ‘Portulipine’ and ‘Zebra’, which grow taller than 2 m, are not known to produce viable seed and therefore don’t spread.

**Curly pondweed (Potamogeton crispus)**

This is a submerged aquatic plant with feather-like leaves that are triangular in cross-section and corkscrew slightly at the tip. It spreads by root fragments, bulbils and seed. Attractive small pink flowers are in a bowl-like cluster on separate stalks.

**Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)**

This is a tall (2 to 4 m) herbaceous plant with very large (1 to 2 m) deeply divided lobed alternating leaves. The stem is hairy and very robust with purplish spots. It is poisonous to touch (phototoxic burns) and spreads primarily through seed. It has small white flowers in a bowl-like cluster atop each individual plant. Can be confused with the native plant, Cow parsley.

**Goutweed (Aegopodium podagraria)**

This is a herbaceous plant and ground cover. The plant has variegated white and green leaves that alternate along the stem. Naturalized plants often lose this variegation. It spreads primarily by roots, but also by seed. Goutweed has small white flowers in a bowl-like cluster on a stalk.

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**Miscanthus, Eulalia (Miscanthus sinensis and M. reedcaniflorus)**

This is a tall clumping grass with root-like stems that can be 1 to 4 m high. The flowers heads are bottlebrush, or spike-like. In late summer the flower heads turn reddish, then turn into masses of a dark colour. Leaves blades are approximately 2.5 cm wide and have a distinct white midrib. In the fall, leaves turn to a fawn/yellow colour. Cultivated varieties, such as ‘Portulipine’ and ‘Zebra’, which grow taller than 2 m, are not known to produce viable seed and therefore don’t spread.

**Non-native honeysuckles**

These are tall woody shrubs (2 to 4 m) with brittle/weak stems. Bark is light coloured and papery and can be scraped off easily with a fingernail. Opposite leaves are egg-shaped or lance-shaped and hairy on some species. This plant spreads primarily through seed, but also by roots. Flowers are irregular and showy and a variety of colours. Fruits appear as two small red berries fused together. There are also many non-native honeysuckles that could be confused with these species. See CVC website for more detail and a list of specific species considered invasive.

**Norway Maple (Acer platanoides)**

This deciduous tree is sometimes difficult to distinguish from native sugar maple. Norway maple spreads by seed. Leaves are opposite and five lobed, often with a slight purple tinge, often affected by black spot fungus late in the season. Milky sap can be seen exuding from leaf stem if picked and squeezed. Winged seeds can be seen to form a T-like shape when attached to the stem.

**Perwinkle** (Vinca minor)

This is a distinctive herbaceous groundcover with opposite bright green, lance-shaped shiny leaves. Periwinkle spreads primarily by roots and has purple flowers with five petals.

**Rough mamma (Glycyrrhiza maxima)**

This is a tall grass (1 to 2 m) often sold in a variety of mix, most often for aquatic gardens. Rough mamma grass loses this variegation when naturalized. Stem shafts near the base have a slightly rough/sticky feeling to the touch and are oval or flattened in cross-section. Base of the plant is often red/purple in spring. It spreads by seeds and roots. Flowering heads of this grass are fine and cascading, not showy.

**Winged euonymus (Euonymus alatus and E. europaeus)**

These are woody shrubs with opposite lance-like toothed leaves. Young stems are distinctly green in colour. Winged euonymus have distinct ridges/wings on stem and spread primarily by seed. Flowers are not showy and are whitish/greenish. Seeds are distinctive with an ovoid achene with a cap-like appendage that is attached to each seed.

**Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)**

This is a tall (2 to 4 m) herbaceous plant with very large (1 to 2 m) deeply divided lobed alternating leaves. The stem is hairy and very robust with purplish spots. It is poisonous to touch (phototoxic burns) and spreads primarily through seed. It has small white flowers in a bowl-like cluster atop each individual plant. Can be confused with the native plant, Cow parsley.

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*Spreads primarily by roots; can be contained if planted and managed away from a natural area.

The other plants spread by root and seed. They are a risk if planted anywhere.

To report one of these invasive plants or for assistance and possible funding to remove contact CVC at 1-800-488-5537, 603-870-1615 or visit [www.creditvalleyca.ca](http://www.creditvalleyca.ca).