



AGGRESSIVE/INVASIVE PLANTS

The term “invasive” is a relative one. To some it means any plant that spreads at all. However, groundcovers are meant to spread and wildflowers in a meadow are meant to reseed. An invasive plant is defined as one that not only spreads but is aggressive and difficult to control.

Cultivation or division can control those plants that merely spread. Deadheading flowers, removing seed heads or cultivation of small seedlings will give some control over plants that reseed. Very hard-to-control weeds may require repeated cultivation or application of herbicides.

Aggressive root-spreading perennials can be controlled by planting them in containers and making sure that roots do not go through the drain holes or over the top of the container into surrounding soil. Lining containers with weed barrier fabric works well for this purpose.

In some species, some cultivars of a perennial are not as invasive as others. Use this list to check into the plants you are considering for your garden, and consult the noxious weed list at Spokane County [Noxious Weed Control Board](#).

<i>Plant</i>	Common Name	Notes
<i>Achillea spp.</i>	Yarrow	invasive roots
<i>Aegopodium spp.</i>	Goutweed	reseeds, invasive roots, use in confined areas
<i>Ajuga</i>	Bugleweed	invasive roots, excellent ground cover in shade, use in confined areas
<i>Anchusa spp</i>		reseeds, invasive roots, some species are noxious weeds, check before planting.
<i>Artemisia spp.</i>	esp. Wormwood	invasive roots
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	reseeds, invasive roots
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Bachelor button	reseeds
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in the summer	invasive roots, can overwhelm desirable plants in a rock garden
<i>Chrysarrhenium parthenium</i>	Feverfew	reseeds
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley	invasive roots, excellent ground cover if confined
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crownvetch	reseeds, invasive roots
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Small globe thistle	reseeds
<i>Filipendula rubra</i> ‘Venusta’	Queen of the Prairie	reseeds, invasive roots

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 e-mail your garden questions to: mastergardener@spokanecounty.org

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Plant	Common Name	Notes
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet woodruff	invasive roots, excellent groundcover in shade and over tree roots
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Johnson's Blue	reseeds
<i>Gypsophila spp</i>	Baby's Breath	reseeds, some are noxious weeds, check before planting
<i>Hieracium auranatiacum</i>	Orange hawkweed	noxious weed DO NOT PLANT
<i>Hypericum</i>	St. John's Wort	reseeds, invasive roots, some are noxious weeds, check before planting
<i>Leucanthamum sp</i>	Oxeye daisy, Shasta daisy	noxious weed DO NOT PLANT
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Money plant	reseeds
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie	invasive roots
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	noxious weed, DO NOT PLANT
<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	Plume poppy	reseeds, invasive roots, use in large containers
<i>Mentha</i>	Mints, esp. Catnip	reseeds, invasive roots
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Beebalm	invasive roots
<i>Myosotis</i>	Forget-me-not	reseeds
<i>Oenothera spp</i>	Evening Primrose, esp. speciosa 'Rosea'	invasive roots
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia creeper	reseeds
<i>Phalaris arundinacea var. picta</i>	Ribbon grass	invasive roots, confine in a container
<i>Physalis alkekengi</i>	Chinese lantern	invasive roots
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient plant	reseeds, invasive roots
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	False bamboo, Japanese Knotweed	noxious weed, DO NOT PLANT
<i>Rosa</i>	Roses, esp. wild roses, brambles	invasive roots, use in native plantings or where the roots can be confined
<i>Sedum spp.</i>	esp. 'Golden Acre'	this and other sedums drop pieces that will re-root
<i>Stach's bysantina</i>	Lamb's ear	creeping stems root and spread
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	Spiderwort	invasive roots
<i>Veronica spp.</i>	Speedwells, esp. creeping speedwell	invasive roots, pieces drop off and re-root
<i>Viola spp.</i>	esp. <i>Viola odorata</i>	reseeds and becomes a problem in lawns
<i>Yucca spp.</i>		invasive roots