**Big leaf lupine**  
*Lupinus polyphyllus*  
*Flowers:* purple, blue, white, pink  
*Height:* 4-5’  
*ID:* silky hair under leaf  
*Invasive:* takes over meadows and roadssides  
*From:* western North America

**Common buckthorn**  
*Rhamnus cathartica*  
*Flowers:* yellow-green, abundant black fruits in fall  
*Height:* up to 25’  
*ID:* grey outer bark, yellow-orange inner bark  
*Invasive:* dense thickets outcompete native plants  
*From:* Europe

**Bull thistle**  
*Cirsium vulgare*  
*Flowers:* big purple flowers in 2nd year, July-Aug  
*Height:* rosette first year, 3-6’ 2nd year  
*ID:* winged, spiny stem  
*Invasive:* displaces native plants  
*From:* Eurasia

**Common tansy**  
*Tanacetum vulgare*  
*Flowers:* yellow, July-Oct  
*Height:* 2-5’  
*ID:* strong fragrance in leaves and stem  
*Invasive:* outcompetes native plants, toxic to humans and livestock, degrades habitat  
*From:* Eurasia

**Canada thistle**  
*Cirsium arvense*  
*Flowers:* small purple flowers, June-Sept  
*Height:* 3’  
*ID:* stem green and smooth  
*Invasive:* forms dense stands, shade out and displace native plants  
*From:* Eurasia

**Garlic mustard**  
*Alliaria petiolata*  
*Flowers:* white flowers during 2nd year, in May  
*Height:* rosette first year, 12-36” 2nd year  
*ID:* Garlic-onion odor  
*Invasive:* shade tolerant, displaces natives, prolific seeds,  
*From:* Eurasia

**Hawkweed**  
*Hieracium sp.*  
*Flowers:* yellow or orange  
*Height:* 1’  
*ID:* mostly basal leaves  
*Invasive:* large monocultures  
*From:* Europe

**Japanese knotweed**  
*Fallopia japonica*  
*Flowers:* greenish-white, late summer  
*Height:* over 10’  
*ID:* heart-shaped leaves, hollow stem, reddish-brown in fall  
*Invasive:* extensive roots, dense stands  
*From:* Asia

**Leafy spurge**  
*Euphorbia esula*  
*Flowers:* yellow-green, June-fall  
*Height:* 24-42”  
*ID:* milky sap in leaves  
*Invasive:* prolific, extensive roots, dense stands, shoots seeds 15-20’  
*From:* Eurasia
PLANTS TO WATCH

Invasive Species of the MN Arrowhead

**Musk thistle**
_Teratagus nutans_

- Flowers: purple-pink, July-Oct
- Height: 3-6’
- ID: nodding flowering head
- Invasive: degrades habitat, displaces native thistles
- From: Eurasia

**Purple loosestrife**
_Lythrum salicaria_

- Flowers: purple flowers on spike, July-Sept
- Height: 3-6’
- ID: opposite leaves; square, woody stem
- Invasive: outcompetes natives, poor habitat for animals, clogs waterways
- From: Eurasia

**St. John’s wort**
_Hypericum perforatum_

- Flowers: yellow, from July-Sept
- Height: 1-3’
- ID: translucent dots on leaves
- Invasive: prolific seeds, aggressive root, toxic to livestock
- From: Europe

**Wild parsnip**
_Pastinaca stoebe_

- Flowers: yellow, flat-topped cluster June-Aug
- Height: 3’
- ID: 5-15 egg shaped leaflets per leaf stalk
- Invasive: Invades forests and thickets, leaves are a skin irritant
- From: Eurasia

**Spotted knapweed**
_Centaurea stoebe_

- Flowers: purple; during 2nd year of growth, June-Oct.
- Height: 8-50”
- ID: deeply lobed, blue-green basal leaves
- Invasive: prolific seeder, not palatable to grazers
- From: Eurasia

**How you can help:**

- Clean mud and seeds from clothing, boots, and pets
- Remove mud and plants from tires and equipment
- If you see these species take a photo, note your location and report your sighting

Visit arrowheadinvasives.org for more information and to report a sighting.

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