

<p style="text-align: center;">1 Asiatic Dayflower <i>Commelina communis</i></p> <p>The very common Asiatic dayflower is a native of Asia. The plants are 1-3 feet tall and have swollen nodes along the stem. The nodes will often produce roots where they come in contact with the ground. The leaves are 2-4 inches long, about an inch wide, and the base encloses the stem. The flowers have two large blue upper petals and a smaller white lower petal. Each flower appears for only a single day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 Japanese Knotweed <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i></p> <p>Japanese knotweed was introduced from Japan. It can grow up to 8 feet in height and prefers moist locations. The hollow stems resemble those of bamboo when mature. The broad, egg-shaped leaves surround the stem at their base and are 4-6 inches long by 2-4 inches wide. The small flowers are borne in clusters measuring 4-5 inches in length and are white in color. The flowers increase in size as they mature.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 Morrow's Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera morrowii</i></p> <p>Morrow's honeysuckle is an erect shrub, introduced from Japan, that is 2-8 feet in tall. The leaves are oval, fairly thick, 1-2 inches long, and have a grayish cast. The flowers are white in color, changing to yellow, and less than 1 inch in length. The flower petals surround the mouth of a nectar-producing tube. In the fall, the shrub produces juicy red berries that are a favorite of many birds.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 Coltsfoot <i>Tussilago farfara</i></p> <p>Coltsfoot is a very common plant seen along virtually all roadsides. It is a native of Europe and flowers very early in the spring. The basal leaves appear long after the flowers and are roughly heart-shaped, irregularly toothed, and from 2-8 inches long. The erect stem, which is up to 8 inches high and has reddish scales, supports a yellow flower head. The flowers mature into white balls of tufted seeds similar to those of dandelions.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i></p> <p>Tree of heaven is a large, fast-growing tree introduced from China, that can reach heights of up to 60 feet. The flowers are tiny but occur in large groups at the tips of the branches. Each seed is contained within a flat, twisted, papery winged structure, allowing it to be dispersed by the wind. Large clusters of seeds may persist on the tree throughout the winter. All parts of the plant omit an offensive odor.</p>	<p>The term <i>invasive</i> is used to describe a plant species that aggressively competes with and eventually dominates local plant communities. Typically, an invasive plant is a non-indigenous species (also known as <i>exotic</i> or <i>non-native</i>) that has been successfully introduced to a new more favorable environment having better resources or lacking its native predators. Highway, railway, and utility rights-of-way serve as major corridors in the spread of invasive plants from place to place. Seeds that become attached to vehicles, earth-moving equipment, and railway cars can be spread for hundreds of miles. West Virginia, while having a relatively young interstate system, is beginning to see many invasive plants creeping onto our roadsides and establishing plant communities. As roadways become older, the invasive plant species establish their own communities often crowding native species to smaller areas or eliminating them from the surroundings. This photoguide views 18 invasive plants seen along the roadsides of West Virginia.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">6 Teasel <i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i></p> <p>Teasel is an erect plant with prickly stems that grow 1-6 feet tall. The pale purple flowers occur in large, dense, elongated heads 1-4 inches long, that are located on the tips of the stems. There are numerous long thin prickly bracts loosely surrounding the head. Teasel is native to Europe, where the flower heads were used to tease wool cloth. It can be seen growing in large colonies along roadsides and right-of-ways.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7 Queen Anne's Lace <i>Daucus carota</i></p> <p>Queen Anne's lace resembles a garden carrot during its first year of growth. During the second year, when the plant can grow up to 5 feet tall, white flat-topped flowers are produced, usually with a single maroon flower near the center of each cluster. During late fall, the flower head turns brown and shrivels up into a concave, bird's nest-shape. The plant has a taproot resembling a carrot, which accounts for its other common name of wild carrot.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8 Narrow-leaved Cattail <i>Typha angustifolia</i></p> <p>The narrow-leaved cattail is a tall perennial, introduced from Europe, that can grow up to 6 feet tall. The leaves can reach 2-5 feet in length and are long, flattened, and very narrow. Flowers occur at the end of the erect stalk in dense, cigar-shaped clusters that are 2-6 inches long. This perennial prefers wet sites such as ditches and wet meadows. Narrow-leaved cattails reproduce quickly to form dense stands in wet roadside areas.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9 Multiflora Rose <i>Rosa multiflora</i></p> <p>This invasive shrub can spread to form large, virtually impenetrable thickets. Multiflora rose was introduced from eastern Asia and promoted as a living fence for cattle. The stems are erect, 3-10 feet tall, usually arched, and have many curved thorns throughout their length. The flowers are white, approximately 1 inch in diameter, have 5 petals and appear in June. Many red fruits, called hips, appear in the fall. These are readily consumed by birds.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10 Common Burdock <i>Arctium minus</i></p> <p>Common burdock is a biennial that produces a rosette of very large leaves, 6-18 inches long and 4-14 inches wide, in the first year and a tall branched stem, 2-5 feet in length with many burs, during the second year. Flowers occur in clusters at the end of branches or in clusters that arise from between the stem and leaves. The flowers are purple and surrounded by many hooked outer bracts. These barbs form the bur, which attaches to fur or clothing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11 Bull Thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i></p> <p>Bull thistle is an erect biennial that is native to Europe. It can grow 2-6 feet tall during the second year. Both the leaves and stems are coarsely hairy. The leaves have deeply cut margins and stiff spines on the lobes. The flower heads are clustered or solitary at the ends of branches and the entire head resembles a shaving bush. Each is 1-2 inches wide, rose to reddish-purple, and surrounded by spiny tipped bracts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12 Autumn Olive <i>Eleagnus umbellata</i></p> <p>Autumn olive is a tall woody shrub that can reach a height of up to 18 feet. It has yellow to cream colored bell-shaped flowers in the spring and bunches of red berries covered with tiny scales early in the fall. Autumn olive was introduced from eastern Asia and planted for wildlife cover. The leaves are 1-3 inches long by 1-1½ inches wide, green on the upper surface and silvery and scaly on the lower surface.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13 Chickory <i>Cichorium intybus</i></p> <p>Chickory, a native of Europe, can grow 1-4 feet tall. The stems are branched and produce flowers during the latter part of the summer. The flowers are approximately 1½ inches in diameter and blue, purple or white in color. The limestone gravel base of roadways provides ideal growing conditions for this alkaline-preferring plant. The dried root is sometimes used with or as a substitute for coffee.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14 Asiatic Bittersweet <i>Celastrus orbiculata</i></p> <p>Asiatic bittersweet is an aggressive vine with leaves that are oval and have a pointed tip. The leaves range from 1-5 inches in length. The flowers are small, greenish-yellow and grow in clusters at the leaf axil (leaf-stem joint). The pea-sized fruit turns bright yellow before the capsule splits open to reveal a bright red berry. This vine, which was introduced from Asia, grows rapidly, especially along the fencerows of abandoned fields.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">15 Kudzu <i>Pueraria montana</i></p> <p>This high-climbing, rapidly growing perennial vine, introduced from Asia, can reach lengths of up to 60 feet and grow as much as a foot a day. The leaves are compound, with 3 broad leaflets. While lateral leaflets are usually 2-lobed, the terminal leaflet is 3-lobed. The flowers resemble those of the common pea, are reddish-purple, and occur in hanging clusters. Kudzu's rapid growth degrades or kills other plants by blanketing them with a solid covering of vegetation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16 Giant Knotweed <i>Polygonum sachalinense</i></p> <p>Giant knotweed is a fast-growing perennial that can reach heights in excess of 10 feet. The stems are hollow and have a bamboo-like appearance. The leaves are heart-shaped and large, often more than one foot long and 7-10 inches wide. The clusters of flowers are green and do not increase in size as they mature. This plant was introduced from Russia. The stems die back with the first frosts of autumn.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17 Eulalia <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i></p> <p>This plant, introduced from Japan, has coarse stems that can reach 6-12 feet in height and usually grow in dense clumps. Leaves occur over the lower two thirds of the stem, cascading out and down around the base. Flowers occur in long hairy racemes (clusters), usually to form a fan-shaped panicle (loose cluster). The flowers are reddish purple to silvery in color. The showy ornamental grass prefers sunny open roadsides.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18 Yellow Bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i></p> <p>This perennial grows 1-3 feet tall. The stems are wiry and square, the leaves narrow, linear, 0.5 to 1 inch long, and minutely hairy on the underside. They are arranged in whorls, with 6-8 leaves per whorl, on the stem. Tiny clusters of yellow flowers, branching from the main stem, may be seen from May-September. Yellow bedstraw was introduced from Europe where it is used to stuff mattresses, giving them a pleasant odor.</p>