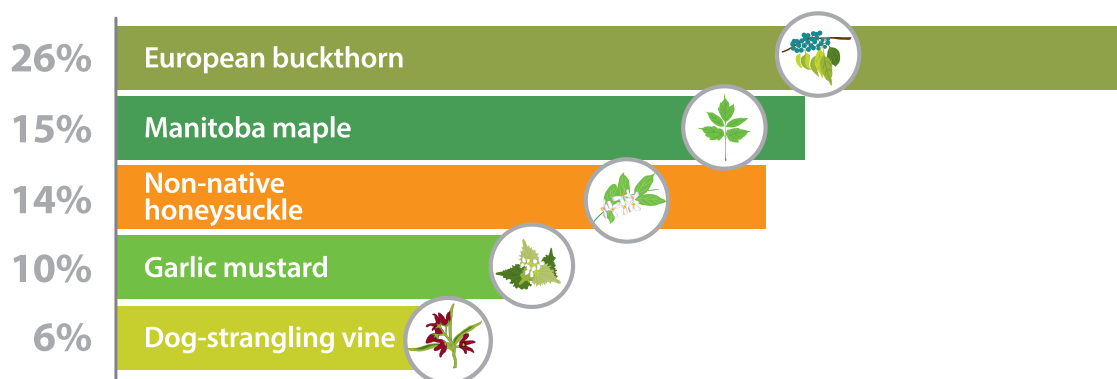


Invasive Species in King Township

Invasive species, not native to Ontario, can displace native species, spread easily and negatively alter habitat characteristics. Such effects can shift the species composition in natural areas, impact wildlife populations, and reduce the ecosystem services and benefits provided by our natural areas.

Top Five Invasive Species on Sites in King (as % of sites)



Three Most Abundant Invasive Plant Species Observed in King



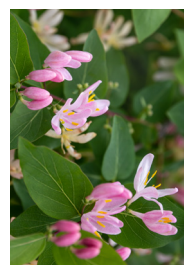
European buckthorn

- In fields and forests, buckthorn grows very densely. It outcompetes native plants by the release of a toxin into the soil. Buckthorn can establish nearly anywhere in urban or rural settings because of its tolerance to stressors such as drought, water stress, poor soil conditions etc.
- Buckthorn can be managed by manually pulling seedlings and saplings by hand or weed wrench. For larger trees, professionals should be consulted for removal and treatment.



Manitoba maple

- Native to western Canada and extreme conditions in northwestern Ontario, Manitoba maple has encroached into southern Ontario due to their ability to tolerate disturbed conditions.
- The Manitoba maple has escaped into natural settings where it establishes as a fast growing and short-lived tree species with potential to out-shade native species and create structural issues due to brittle branch structure.



Non-native honeysuckle

- Amur, bells, morrow and Tatarian honeysuckles were imported from Japan, Korea, China, Russia and India into Canada in the 1800s. They escaped home gardens and became established in natural areas.
- They form dense stands that outcompete native plants for access to resources, making it difficult for them to grow.

Invasive Pests and Diseases of Concern in King



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

- EAB is an invasive beetle that is native to eastern Asia and China. The species bores into native ash trees and feeds on the inner bark. Once EAB has infested an ash, the tree typically dies within 2 to 3 years.
- Ash wood shouldn't be moved to a new location since larvae can survive in firewood and can start a new infestation.



Spongy Moth

- Spongy moth (also known as Lymantria dispar dispar or LDD moth) is a naturalized invasive insect found throughout southern Ontario that feeds on a variety of tree species such as oak, birch and maple.
- Spongy moth caterpillars eat leaves causing trees to lose some or in extreme cases, all of their leaves; since deciduous trees can regrow their leaves after being damaged by spongy moth, long term effects can be reduced or prevented through a number of control options.
- Management techniques of spongy moth include scraping egg masses in spring and fall or using burlap banding around tree trunks beginning in May to help collect and dispose of caterpillars.



Beech Bark Disease (BBD)

- BBD is the product of an insect and fungus interaction. An invasive beech scale insect, introduced from Europe, creates openings for fungus to infect beech trees. This disease causes cankers along the trunk of beech trees, eventually leading to the tree's death.
- Efforts should be made to limit the spread of BBD by not moving firewood.

Species to Look Out For



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

- HWA is an aphid-like insect native to Japan that targets and kills hemlock trees by attacking the base of needles. The characteristic powdery white egg sacs, which look like cotton or snow, are the main sign of HWA presence, most obvious in April and May.
- HWA has been found in Ontario in Etobicoke in 2012 and Niagara Falls in 2013. It has also recently been found in Fort Erie 2021 and Northumberland County in 2022 and is an active concern that should be monitored.
- If spotted, please report to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) promptly so that immediate management actions can be completed effectively. **Please contact CFIA at cfia.surveillance-surveillance.acia@canada.ca or 647.790.1100.**

King works to protect our community's trees which are important for our quality of life today and for the future. The Region controls the removal of trees on private property through their Forest Conservation Bylaw. You may require a permit to undertake tree work on your property. Visit [York.ca/York-region/permits/tree-cutting](https://www.york.ca/York-region/permits/tree-cutting) or contact the Region at **1.877.464.9675**. For more information on these invasive species and others impacting our forests, visit [King.ca/Invasivespeciesmanagement](https://www.king.ca/Invasivespeciesmanagement).



For more information visit [King.ca](https://www.king.ca)