

## Common Invasives in Our Area

Here are a few of the most common invasives in Sherman and some pointers on how to identify them in early Spring.

[Autumn Olive](#): This large shrub/small tree has silvery-green leaves in the spring that turn more green with wavy edges further in the season. It has small yellow flowers that bloom in May/June. It has small red fruits dotted with silver or brown that ripen in the late summer or fall. This photo shows last year's fruits still on the branches alongside this year's blooms. For more:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaeagnus\\_umbellata](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elaeagnus_umbellata)



[Garlic Mustard](#): The green leaves of plants that have over wintered are visible peaking through the leaves on the ground. This photo shows what it looks like when the plants are in full bloom. Plants are blooming in some areas now, but will be blooming very soon. For more:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliaria\\_petiolata](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alliaria_petiolata)

[Winged Euonymus](#): Unusual "winged" bark is easy to see before leaf out. This photo shows the bark as well as fresh leaf out. In the fall the green leaves turn brilliant scarlet, thus the common name Burning Bush. For more:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euonymus\\_alatus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euonymus_alatus)



[Barberry](#): Leaves begin to sprout on the thorny branches. This photo was taken in late April of last year. Barberry is one of the first things to leaf out in woods around Sherman and is already very easy to see. CT DEEP says that reducing barberry in an area will also reduce the number of ticks.

For more: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berberis>



Japanese Knotweed: Reddish stalks with green leaves poke through and grow at a very rapid rate. If you spend some time cutting stalks while they are 18" or less high, be sure to put this pest to good use-these can be used in just about any recipe that call for rhubarb. *For more:* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese\\_knotweed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_knotweed)