

WHAT'S THAT ROADSIDE PLANT?

Is it **NATIVE** or is it **INVASIVE**?

INVASIVE PLANTS found on roads near Piseco Lake

- Colt's Foot
- Garlic Mustard
- Japanese Barberry
- Japanese Knotweed
- Mugwort
- Amur Honeysuckle
- Spotted Knapweed (pink)
- Sweet White Clover
- Purple Loosestrife
- Vinca (Myrtle)
- Wild Parsnip

NATIVE PLANTS found on Old Piseco Road, in partial shade

Near Roadside: These short native plants can withstand mowing and snow plows and cover about 2' of the vegetation at the edge of Old Piseco Road, some have runners, so they can send out new shoots. Many of these are shade tolerant :

- Bladder Campion (not native, but not aggressive)
- Violets - including yellow violet
- Foam Flower
- Dwarf Potentilla
- Strawberry

Mid-Distant Plants: These plants cover roughly 2-4' from the edge of the road; all are fairly short and some have a rhizomatous root system

- Dog Bane
- Wild Sarsaparilla
- Golden Alexander
- Solomon's Seal (and some others in lily family)
- Jewel Weed, an annual
- Baneberry (white and red)
- Blue Cohosh*
- Dutchman's Britches*

Plants Found At The Edge Of Woods: These are taller native plants, beyond the short plants. Many of them flower and support pollinators:

Goldenrods (many kinds; Zig-Zag and Blue-Stem are shade tolerant)

Tall Meadow Rue

Purple-flowered Raspberry*

Asters (heart-leafed, white-wood, large-leafed, New England, etc)

Ferns (beware - New York and Hay Scented ferns are aggressive)

Mid-Sized Trees / Shrubs: these plants are next to forested areas, out of reach of mowing:

Maple - mountain maple is mid-size < 20'

Dogwood - Pagoda and other Dogwood shrubs (< 20' tall)

Viburnums - like hobblebush, high-bush cranberry, etc

For seeds, plugs and trays of many native plants, some good plants for roadsides can be found at Prairie Moon Nursery, which has an on-line catalogue with details for many native plants (they note deer resistant plants): <https://www.prairiemoon.com> and Ernst Seeds has large selection of seeds native to New England

Beware - some plants are favorites of deer.

Notes from PLA Presentation, August 9, 2025

* the plant was found in or near the former stormwater ditches