

BEWARE THE TORINGO CRABAPPLE

Brush Hog/mow fallow fields and meadows to prevent Chatham's fields and forests from becoming overwhelmed.

This seemingly beautiful tree is highly invasive (see back for pictures).

The highly invasive Japanese Toringo Crabapple is taking over meadows, fallow fields, forest edges and forest clearings in our Town of Chatham. This seemingly innocuous species takes over open meadows in a mere 5-7 years. Once these trees have taken root, they quickly create uniform, impenetrable thickets. Their removal and field/meadow restoration are very costly and could become cost prohibitive. Additionally, cut stems may pose a puncture risk to wheeled agricultural equipment. If open fields are not brush hogged annually the Toringo will easily move in. In the Town of Chatham, this species is presently overtaking not just fields, but forest edges and lightly wooded areas.

While the bloom is beautiful and some birds love the fruit, the species creates a dense thicket evolving into a Toringo Crabapple monoculture that competes with native species.

This is a serious issue and the key to control is early identification, mowing/brush hogging of meadows or fallow fields and monitoring hedge rows, forest edges and clearings.

Identified chief areas of infestation are in North Chatham and Malden Bridge, however, there are many areas that are now being colonized throughout the Town.





Meadow not brush hogged 5-7 years. Dense growth/monoculture - no natives

