

Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia



Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES



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September 2003	Key
M = Mountains	F = Full sun
P = Piedmont	P = Part Sun
C = Coastal	S = Shade
	H = Hydric
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Highly Invasive Species

<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Alligator weed			•	•	•	•
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain-berry		•	•	•	•	•
<i>Carex kobomugi</i>	Asiatic sand sedge			•	•	•	•
<i>Celastrus orbiculata</i>	Oriental bittersweet	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Centaurea dubia</i>	Short-fringed knapweed	•		•	•	•	•
<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i>	Spotted knapweed	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>	Chinese yam	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Euonymus alata</i>	Winged burning bush		•		•	•	•
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Hydrilla			•	•	•	•
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Cogon grass			•	•	•	•
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese lespedeza	•	•		•		•
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle	•	•		•	•	•
<i>Lonicera standishii</i>	Standish's honeysuckle	•	•		•	•	•
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	•	•	•	•		•
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stilt grass	•	•	•	•	•	•

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Highly Invasive Species - continued										
<i>Murdannia keisak</i>	Aneilema		•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot feather	•	•	•	•				•	
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	European water-milfoil	•	•	•	•				•	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed		•	•	•	•		•	•	
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	Mile-a-minute		•		•	•	•		•	
<i>Pueraria montana</i>	Kudzu vine	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser celandine			•		•	•		•	
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry	•	•	•		•	•		•	
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson-grass	•	•	•	•	•			•	
Moderately Invasive Species										
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Quack grass	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	Rhode Island bent-grass	•	•		•	•			•	
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Five-leaf akebia		•	•	•	•	•		•	
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Wild onion	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Jointed grass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed		•	•	•	•		•	•	
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle	•	•	•	•				•	
<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i>	Sickle pod		•	•	•	•			•	•
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown knapweed	•	•		•	•			•	•
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull-thistle	•	•	•	•				•	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field-bindweed	•	•	•	•	•			•	
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Cut-leaf teasel	•				•			•	
<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Common teasel	•	•	•	•			•	•	
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian water-weed	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper			•		•	•	•	•	•

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Moderately Invasive Species - continued										
<i>Festuca elatior</i> (F. pratensis)	Tall fescue	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel		•	•	•			•	•	•
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Gill-over-the-ground	•	•	•		•	•			•
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy		•	•	•	•	•			•
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Velvet-grass	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Japanese hops	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Ipomoea hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaved morning-glory	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Common morning-glory	•	•	•	•					•
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag	•	•	•	•	•		•		
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Blunt-leaved privet		•				•			•
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur honeysuckle	•	•				•			•
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle	•	•		•	•				•
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	China-berry		•	•	•	•				•
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess tree	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden bamboo		•	•	•	•				•
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada bluegrass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough bluegrass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Polygonum cespitosum</i>	Bristled knotweed	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Red sorrel	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	•	•		•					•
<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Giant foxtail		•	•	•	•				•
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese spiraea	•	•			•	•	•	•	
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	Ivy-leaved speedwell	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese wisteria		•	•		•	•			•
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Common cocklebur	•	•	•	•	•				•

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Occasionally Invasive Species

<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Redtop	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugleweed	•	•	•	•	•				• •
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	Oatgrass	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Commelina communis</i>	Common dayflower	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown-vetch	•	•	•	•	•				• •
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard grass	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Thorny elaeagnus		•	•		•				•
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping lovegrass	•	•	•	•					• •
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	•	•			•	•			•
<i>Ipomoea coccinea</i>	Red morning-glory	•	•	•	•					•
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	•			•	•				•
<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Shrubby bushclover	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	Sweet breath of spring		•		•	•				•
<i>Lonicera x bella</i>	Bell's honeysuckle	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil	•	•	•	•	•				• •
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White sweet clover	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow sweet clover	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Silver grass	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip	•	•	•	•	•				•
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Beefsteak plant	•	•	•		•	•			•
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water chestnut				•	•			•	•
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm		•		•	•				•
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden viburnum		•		•	•				•
<i>Vinca minor & V. major</i>	Periwinkle	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese wisteria				•	•	•			•

About the List

This advisory list is published by Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) to inform land managers of potential risks associated with certain plant species known to exhibit invasive behavior in some situations. The list is not regulatory in nature, and thus does not prohibit the use of the plant species listed.

VDCR and Virginia Native Plant Society use detailed criteria to assess the invasiveness of a plant. Factors used to rank each species include: cumulative impacts on natural areas; impacts on other species; potential to disperse and invade natural landscapes; distribution and abundance; and difficulty to manage.

Invasiveness Ranking

Highly invasive species exhibit the most invasive tendencies in natural areas and native plant habitats. They may disrupt ecosystem processes and cause major alterations in plant community composition and structure. They establish readily in natural systems and spread rapidly.

Moderately invasive species may have minor influence on ecosystem processes, alter plant community composition, and affect community structure in at least one layer. They may become dominant in the understory layer without threatening all species found in the community. These species usually require a minor disturbance to become established.

Occasionally invasive species generally do not affect ecosystem processes but may alter plant community composition by outcompeting one or more native plant species. They often establish in severely disturbed areas. The disturbance may be natural or human origin, such as ice storm damage, windthrow, or road construction. These species spread slowly or not at all from disturbed sites.

Regions

For the purpose of this list, the state has been divided into three regions: Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountains. The Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions follow conventional physiographic province boundaries. The Mountain region combines the Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, and Appalachian Plateau physiographic provinces.

Habitat Requirements

The categories for light and soil requirements are very broad and are only meant to give general indication of habitat adaptations for these plants.