



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Invasive Plants in Our Backyards



Plants not native to the Southeastern United States are taking over our landscape. These alien invaders outcompete and gradually displace our native plants. This affects native wildlife and the overall health and stability of our environment. Kudzu, for example, has consumed an estimated seven million acres in the South, replacing thousands of native species! The impact of these invasive plants is second only to habitat destruction.

What are these plants? They are species that do not naturally occur in the Southeast but have been accidentally or purposely introduced by people. Of course, the vast majority of introduced plants pose no threat, but some grow out of control. These invasive plants spread because the natural controls that keep them in check in their native homelands, such as disease and insects, do not exist here.

The plants listed are some of the worst plants invading natural areas such as our refuges, parks and forests. Land managers of these natural areas recommend that you consider not planting these species in your yard, especially if you live near a natural area. For a more thorough list and information specific to your state, check out the sources listed on the back of this factsheet. Also, talk to your local nursery or extension office for information about alternative species you can plant in your backyard.

Trees	Shrubs	Vines	Herbaceous Plants (no woody stem)	Aquatic Plants
<b>Tree of Heaven</b> <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	<b>Autumn &amp; Russian Olive</b> <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> , <i>E. angustifolia</i>	<b>Kudzu</b> <i>Pueraria montana</i>	<b>Chinese silver grass</b> <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	<b>Waterlettuce</b> <i>Pistia stratiotes</i>
<b>Princess Tree</b> <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	<b>Bush Honeysuckles</b> <i>Lonicera morrowii</i> , <i>L. tartarica</i> , <i>L. Xbella</i> , <i>L. maackii</i> , <i>L. standishii</i>	<b>Oriental Bittersweet</b> <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	<b>Japanese Grass</b> <i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	<b>Hydrilla</b> <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
<b>Melaleuca</b> <i>Melaleuca quiquenervia</i> (Florida only)	<b>Common, Chinese, &amp; Japanese Privet</b> <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> , <i>L. sinense</i> , <i>L. japonicum</i>	<b>Japanese &amp; Chinese Wisteria</b> <i>Wisteria floribunda</i> , <i>W. sinensis</i>	<b>Musk Thistle</b> <i>Carduus nutans</i>	<b>Giant salvinia</b> <i>Salvinia molesta</i>
<b>Chinaberry</b> <i>Melia azedarach</i>	<b>Multiflora rose</b> <i>Rosa multiflora</i>	<b>Japanese honeysuckle</b> <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	<b>Purple loosestrife</b> <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<b>Eurasian water-milfoil</b> <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
<b>Chinese tallow tree</b> <i>Sapium serbiferum</i>	<b>Japanese spiraea</b> <i>Spiraea japonica</i>	<b>Climbing euonymus</b> <i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	<b>Taro</b> <i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	
<b>Earleaf Acacia</b> <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> (Florida only)	<b>Heavenly bamboo</b> <i>Nandina domestica</i>	<b>Japanese climbing fern</b> <i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	<b>Cogongrass</b> <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	
<b>Australian pine</b> <i>Casuarina spp.</i> (Florida only)	<b>Brazilian pepper</b> <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> (Florida only)	<b>Skunk vine</b> <i>Paederia foetida</i>	<b>Japanese knotweed</b> <i>Fallopia cuspidatum</i>	
<b>Bishopwood</b> <i>Bischofia javanica</i>	<b>Burning bush</b> <i>Euonymus alata</i>		<b>Crownvetch</b> <i>Coronilla varia</i>	
<b>Camphor tree</b> <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	<b>Coral ardisia</b> <i>Ardisia crenata</i>		<b>Sericea lespedeza</b> <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	
<b>Laurel fig</b> <i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	<b>Beach naupaka</b> <i>Scaevola sericea</i> (Florida only)		<b>Coltsfoot</b> <i>Tussilago farfara</i>	
<b>Mimosa</b> <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	<b>Japanese barberry</b> <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>		<b>Garlic mustard</b> <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	
<b>Sawtooth Oak</b> <i>Quercus acutissima</i>	<b>Strawberry guava</b> <i>Psidium cattleianum</i> (Florida only)			
<b>Schefflera</b>	<b>Lantana</b>	<b>Oriental Bittersweet Fruit</b>		

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### For more information check out the resources below

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council  
800/449 6339  
[www.se-eppc.org](http://www.se-eppc.org)

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council  
[www.fleppe.org](http://www.fleppe.org)

Plant Conservation Alliance  
[www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien)

North American Weed Management Association  
[www.nawma.org](http://www.nawma.org)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds/)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

Invasive Plant Control  
[www.invasiveplantcontrol.com](http://www.invasiveplantcontrol.com)

The Nature Conservancy  
[www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu](http://www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu)

Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council  
<http://www.gaeppc.org/>

Virginia Native Plant Society  
[www.hort.vt.edu/VNPS/](http://www.hort.vt.edu/VNPS/)

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission  
[Joyce.Bender@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:Joyce.Bender@mail.state.ky.us)

North Carolina Botanical Garden  
[www.unc.edu/depts/ncbg](http://www.unc.edu/depts/ncbg)

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council  
[kris\\_johnson@nps.gov](mailto:kris_johnson@nps.gov)  
[www.se-eppc.org](http://www.se-eppc.org)

Mississippi Natural Heritage Program  
Ask for botanist: 601/354 7303

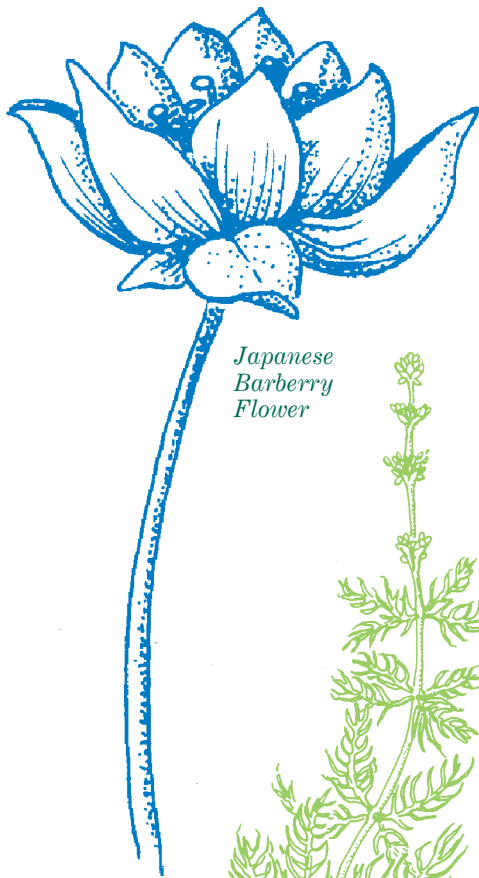
South Carolina Native Plant Society  
[www.scnativeplants.org](http://www.scnativeplants.org)

### Books

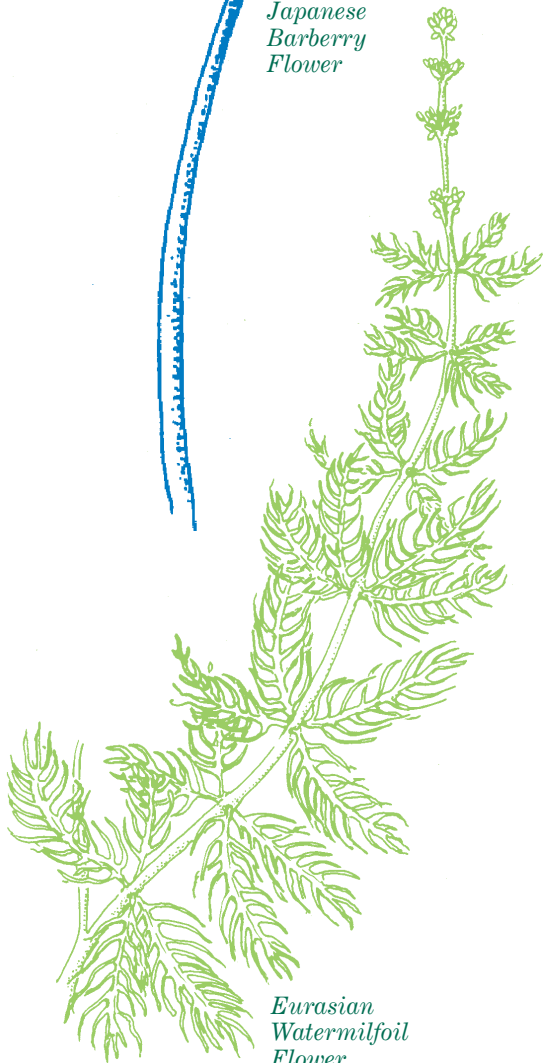
*Identification & Biology of Non-native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas*  
University of Florida  
800/226 1764  
[www.ems.ifas.ufl.edu/forsale](http://www.ems.ifas.ufl.edu/forsale)

*Invasive Plants, Changing the Landscape of America-Factbook*  
Government Printing Office  
Publication #024-001-03607-0  
To order: 202/512 1803 or [www.access.gpo.gov/](http://www.access.gpo.gov/)

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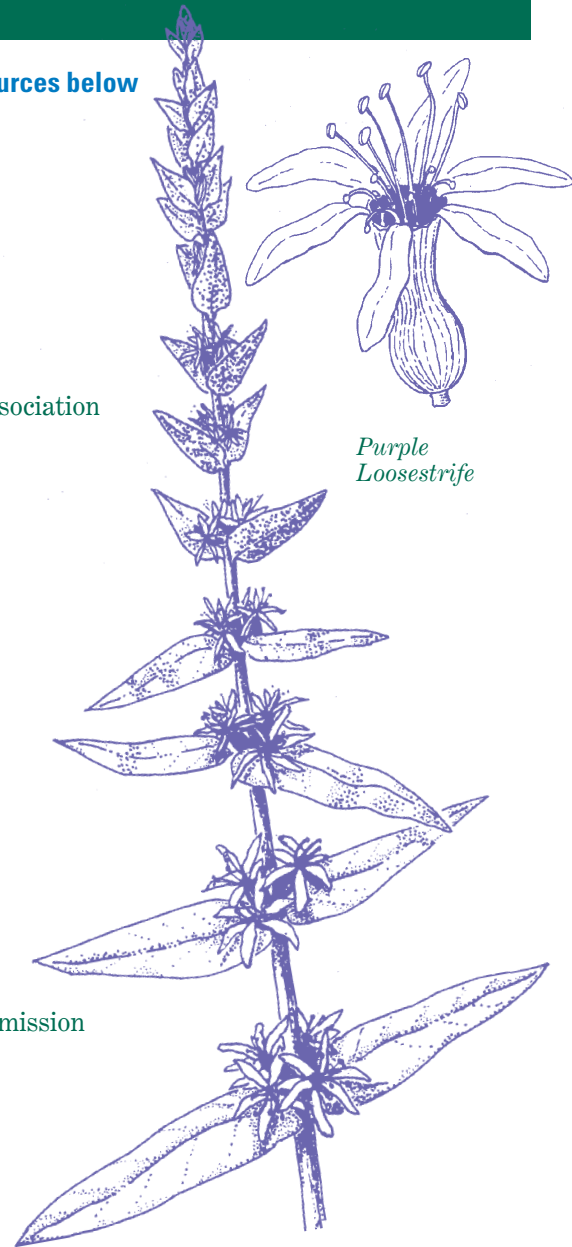
*Japanese  
Barberry  
Flower*



*Eurasian  
Watermilfoil  
Flower*



*Japanese  
Wisteria*



*Purple  
Loosestrife*

*Illustrations by Nancy O'Hare.*