Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia





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September 2003		Ke	y							
		M = Mountains P = Piedmont C = Coastal			F = Full sun P = Part Sun S = Shade			H = H M = N X = Xe		
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	REGION			LIGHT			MOISTURE		
		М	Р	С	F	Р	S	Н	М	Х
Highly Invasive Species										
Ailanthus altissima	Tree-of-heaven	•	•	•	•	•			•	
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic mustard	•	•		•	•	•		•	
Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligator weed			•	•	•		•		
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata	Porcelain-berry		•		•	•	•		•	
Carex kobomugi	Asiatic sand sedge			•	•	•				•
Celastrus orbiculata	Oriental bittersweet	•	•	•		•	•		•	
Centaurea dubia	Short-fringed knapweed	•			•	•			•	•
Centaurea biebersteinii	Spotted knapweed	•	•	•	•	•				•
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle	•	•	•	•				•	
Dioscorea oppositifolia	Chinese yam	•	•	•		•	•		•	
Elaeagnus umbellata	Autumn olive	•	•	•	•	•			•	
Euonymus alata	Winged burning bush		•			•	•		•	
Hydrilla verticillata	Hydrilla			•	•	•		•		
Imperata cylindrica	Cogon grass			•		•	•		•	
Lespedeza cuneata	Chinese lespedeza	•	•		•				•	
Ligustrum sinense	Chinese privet	•	•	•		•	•		•	
Lonicera japonica	Japanese honeysuckle	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Lonicera morrowii	Morrow's honeysuckle	•	•		•	•	•		•	
Lonicera standishii	Standish's honeysuckle	•	•			•	•		•	
Lythrum salicaria	Purple loosestrife	•	•	•	•			•	•	
Microstegium vimineum	Japanese stilt grass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

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

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

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