



Non-Native Invasive Species in North Carolina

These ten plants are only a few of the invasives that endanger North Carolina's natural heritage



AUTUMN OLIVE

Name: *Elaeagnus umbellata*

Habit: Deciduous Shrub

Threat: Abundant bird-dispersed fruits and lack of natural predators allows this shrub to spread at a high rate. It grows quickly and out-competes the growth of many forest floor plants.

Alternatives: Winterberry, Spicebush, Wax Myrtle



BRADFORD PEAR

Name: *Pyrus calleryana*

Habit: Deciduous Tree

Threat: Bradford Pear was developed as a self-incompatible sterile ornamental, but can cross fertilize with Bradford pears of different genetics. Its offspring are aggressive, and if left unchecked can quickly invade surrounding communities.

Alternatives: American Beauty, Pawpaw



CHINESE PRIVET

Name: *Ligustrum sinensis*

Habit: Evergreen Shrub

Threat: Chinese Privet thrives in bottomlands and spreads via bird- and water-dispersed fruits. Being evergreen, it has an advantage over native deciduous understory species, which are crowded-out.

Alternatives: Hearts-A-Busting, Spicebush



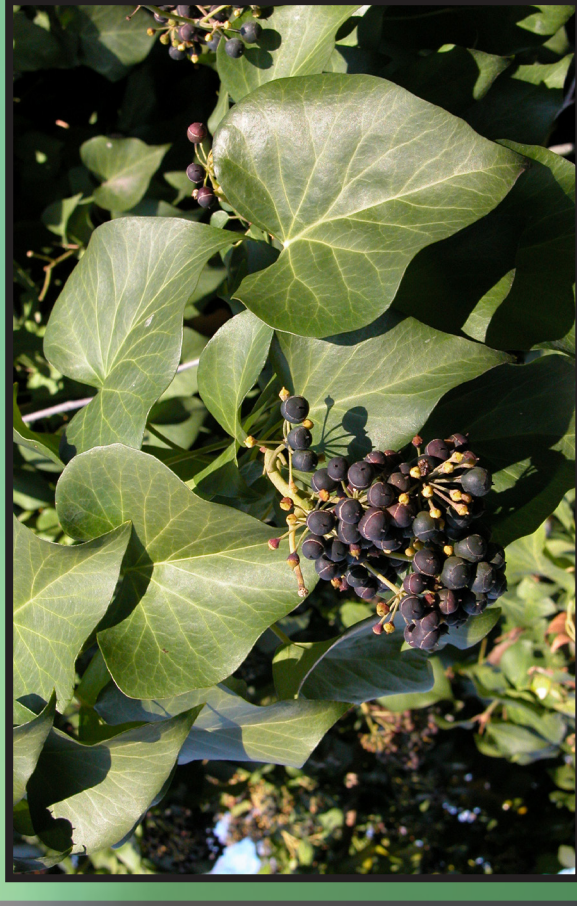
CHINESE SILVERGRASS

Name: *Miscanthus sinensis*

Habit: Tall Grass

Threat: Creates dense expanses that overtop native grasses and wildflowers. Presents a fire hazard along roadsides where dry stalks can easily catch fire.

Alternatives: Switchgrass, Indian Grass, Big Bluestem



ENGLISH IVY

Name: *Hedera helix*

Habit: Climbing Vine

Threat: This fast-growing evergreen vine smothers the ground-layer and climbs trees, adding tremendous weight that often causes branches to break and entire trees to topple. Birds carry fruits into urban natural areas and beyond.

Alternatives: Coral Honeysuckle, Partridgeberry



HYDRILLA

Name: *Hydrilla verticillata*

Habit: Aquatic Plant

Threat: This freshwater plant grows submersed and requires very little light. It can fill a water column with dense growth severely impacting recreational activities like swimming and boating. Typically establishing first in shallow water it can then creep to depths approaching 20'.

Alternatives: Pondweed, Tapegrass, Coontail



JAPANESE STILTGRASS

Name: *Microstegium vimineum*

Habit: Annual Grass

Threat: Japanese Stiltgrass spreads quickly once it invades an area, where one plant can produce thousands of seeds. It can grow in dense shade or in sunny wetlands where it smothers native plants.

Alternatives: River Oats



MIMOSA

Name: *Albizia julibrissin*

Habit: Small Tree

Threat: Because it is a fast-growing tree with showy pink blooms, Mimosa is a popular ornamental plant. It invades open areas, inside forests, streambanks, and open fields.

Alternatives: Redbud, Strawberry Bush



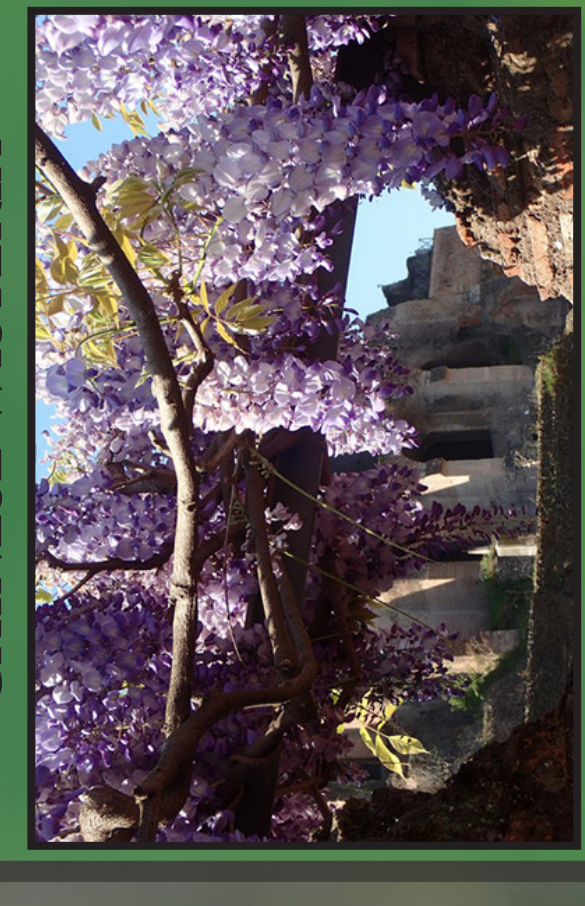
TREE OF HEAVEN

Name: *Ailanthus altissima*

Habit: Deciduous Tree

Threat: Tree of Heaven is particularly adaptable, and can grow from cracks in a sidewalk, harsh roadsides, and in open meadows. It spreads easily from wind-dispersed seeds, making it difficult to control.

Alternatives: Persimmon, Native Holly



CHINESE WISTERIA

Name: *Wisteria sinensis*

Habit: Climbing Vine

Threat: Chinese Wisteria is a fast-growing vine with fragrant flowers. It is incredibly aggressive, and can completely overtop forested areas. Most invasions into natural areas come from abandoned homesites or from homes adjacent to natural areas.

Alternatives: American Wisteria

For more information regarding NC invasives and instructions on removal, please visit our website at www.nc-ipc.org