

Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape

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What Makes a Plant Invasive?

- Non-native plant that displaces native species, reduces prolifically and has no predators
- Causes economic and environmental harm
- Utilize a longer growing season to out compete
- Utilize chemical warfare (allelopathy)
- Produce many seed with high viability and successful dispersal mechanisms
- Thrive on disturbance and in almost any habitat
- Second largest threat to biodiversity globally

Coral Ardesia



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

- Introduced to US from Japan and Northern India. Prevents native seedlings from establishing by shading the understory.

Lantana



- Introduced to the US from West Indies as an ornamental. Invades disturbed areas and crowds out native species. Leaves and unripened fruit are poisonous.

Nandina



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service,
Bugwood.org

- Introduced to the US from China and Japan. Berries contain cyanide that kills native birds that consume them.

Glossy Privet



- Introduced to the US from Asia. Forms dense thickets that outcompete desirable plants. Produces many seeds which allows it to spread easily and makes it more difficult to eradicate.

Elephant Ear



Andrea Shroba

- Introduced to the US from Northern South America. Big leaves and ability to grow up to 9 feet tall can shade out many native plants.
- Spreads profusely in landscape – especially wet areas

Rattlebox

- Introduced to the US from South America. Displaces native vegetation and wildlife by forming dense thickets.



Mexican Petunia



Shaun Winterton, California Dept. of Food and Agriculture,
Bugwood.org

- Introduced to the US from Mexico and South America. Popular landscape plant but is aggressive and crowds out native plants.

Sword Fern



Dan Clark, USDI National Park Service,
Bugwood.org

- Introduced to Georgia from Asia and Australia . Takes over low growing plants by forming impenetrable dense stands.



Periwinkle (Vinca)



Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Environmental,
Bugwood.org

- Introduced to US from Europe and West Asia. Forms extensive mats along forest floors displacing native plants.



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Skunkvine

- Introduced to the US from Asia. Can survive a variety of habitats and become so dense that tree branches, or even whole trees, collapse under its weight.



Air Potato

- Introduced to the US from Africa. Smothers other plants by restricting sunlight and disrupts processes such as water flow.



Forest & Kim Starr, Starr
Environmental; Inset: Karen
Brown, University of Florida,
Bugwood.org



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English Ivy



- Introduced to the US by European colonists as a year round groundcover. Is an aggressive invader that can weaken or kill infested trees and shade out understory plants.

Japanese Honeysuckle

- Introduced to the US from Japan as an ornamental. Readily outcompetes understory plants and smothers small trees and shrubs.



Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

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Chinese/Japanese Wisteria

- Introduced to the US from China and Japan. Kills native plants by aggressively shading and strangling them.



Chinese Tallow



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

- Introduced to US from China. Fast growth crowds out native species. 100,000 seeds/tree. Alters soil chemistry. Toxic to cattle and causes vomiting in humans.

Mimosa



- Introduced to the US from China. Invades disturbed habitat, reducing sunlight and nutrients for native plants.

Camphor Tree

- Introduced to Florida from China and Japan for camphor production. Grows and produces seed quickly which allows them to rapidly take over.



Callery (Bradford) Pear



Ansel Comen; Inset: Kathy Smith, Ohio State University,
bugwood.org

- Introduced to the US from China as a sterile flowered ornamental. Increased genetic diversity has led to plants with substantial thorns and viable seeds that invade old fields and forest edges.

What Can I Do?

- Don't buy invasive plants
- Don't share invasive plants
- Remove invasive plants from your landscape
 - Physically remove all plants, roots, and debris and burn or bag and trash
 - Spray with high concentration of glyphosate or triclopyr (will take more than one application)
 - Cut and paint trees with herbicide (must paint very quickly before the tree begins to protect the wound)
- Educate others!

Questions?