


Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape

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The following presentation is part of the University of Georgia Extension service Georgia Green Landscapes program funded by the Center for Urban Agriculture. These guidance series will help Georgia residents create certified sustainable Georgia Landscapes, protecting our natural resources for future generations.



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
- May 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

Lantana



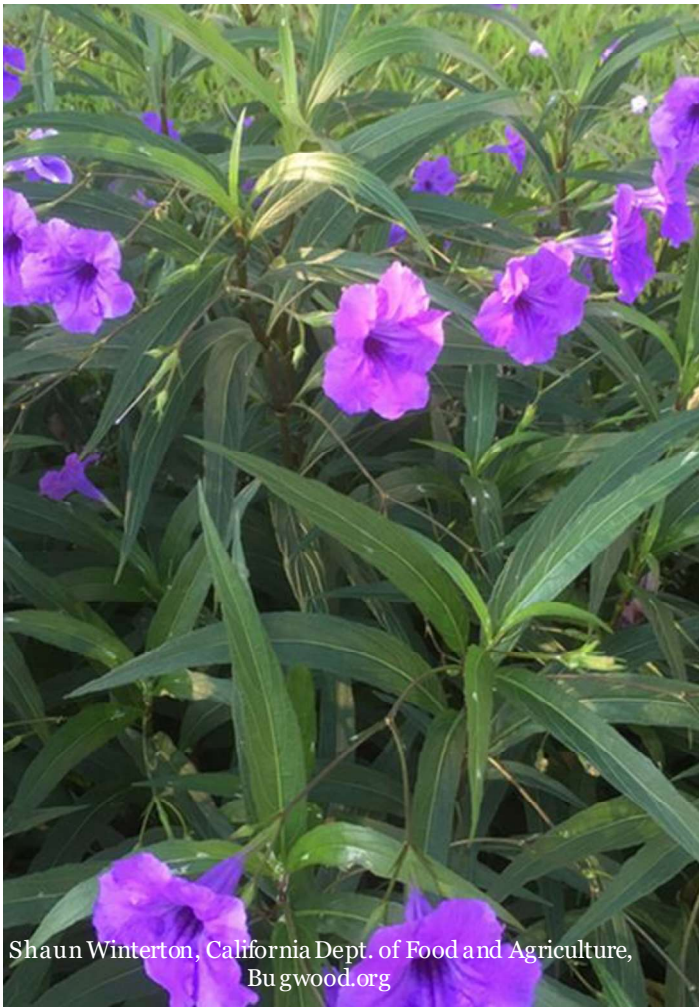
Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

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



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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.



Nandina



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

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



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Elephant Ear



- 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

Sword Fern



Dan Clark, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

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



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Asparagus Fern



Andrea Shroba

- Introduced to the US from South Africa. Popular landscape plant. Outcompetes native species and prevents them from re-establishing.



Brazilian Vervain



- Introduced to the US from South America as an ornamental . Heat and drought tolerant. Commonly takes over roadside habitat.

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.

Rattlebox

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



Charles T. Bryson, USDA Agricultural
Research Service; Inset: Barry Rice,
sarracenia.org, bugwood.org

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Chinese privet



- Introduced to the US from China. Forms dense patches that displaces native species. Produces many seeds which aids in dispersal.

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.



Autumn Olive



- Introduced to the US from Asia. Forms dense shrub layer that displaces native species and closes open areas. Can produce up to 8 pounds of fruit each year, spread easily by birds.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois; Inset: PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources - Forestry, Bugwood.org



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Thorny Olive



Karan A. Rawlins, University of Georgia; Inset: James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society, Bugwood.org

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- Introduced to the US from China and Japan. Climbs into trees and displaces native species.



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Golden Bamboo



Nancy Loewenstein, Auburn University, Bugwood.org

- A running type bamboo introduced from China as an ornamental. Golden bamboo quickly displaces native wildlife habitat.



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Indian Fig



- Introduced to the US from Mexico. Displaces native species of plants and animals by transforming the landscape.



Chinese/Japanese Wisteria

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



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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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.



Catclaw Vine



- Introduced to the US from Tropical America. Forms dense mats that smothers native vegetation. Uses claw like structures to adhere to climb aggressively up trees.



Kudzu



- Introduced to the US from East Asia. Able to grow over anything in its path and will kill native vegetation by blocking out the sun.

Inset top left: USDA Forest Service Region 8 Southern; Main: Chris Evans, University of Illinois; Inset right: Peggy Greb, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org



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Skunkvine

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



Puncture Vine

- Introduced to the US from Europe. Spiky seeds can form dense mats and harm both humans and animals.



Air Potato

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



Japanese Climbing Fern



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

- Introduced from Japan in 1930s. Infests pine plantations, creates monocultures, and changes ecosystem composition. Creates a fire hazard.



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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.



Tree of Heaven



- Introduced to the US from China. Can release a chemical that can kill nearby plants. Known to be able to grow almost anywhere.



Chinaberry

- Introduced to the US from Asia. Lowers biodiversity in native ecosystems. All parts of the plant are poisonous to humans and other mammals.



Chris Evans, University of Illinois; Inset: Franklin Bonner, USFS, Bugwood.org

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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 Oomen; 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.



Pindo Palm



John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

- Introduced to the US from Brazil. Roots can be damaging to native plants and invades wildlife habitat.



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White Mulberry

- Introduced to the US from China as food for silkworms. Invades forest edges and displaces native edge species.



In set top left: John Cardina, The Ohio State University;
Main photo and right inset: Chris Evans, University of
Illinois, Bugwood.org

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Tungoil Tree



- Introduced to the US from Vietnam in 1905 for tungoil industry and in 1950s as an ornamental. Creates dense stands altering native plant communities. Leaves and nuts poisonous.

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



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Brazilian Peppertree



Dan Clark, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

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- Introduced to the US from Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. Aggressively invades native plant communities. Causes allergic reactions similar to poison ivy and poison oak.



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Cogongrass



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

- Introduced first to Alabama from Asia. Highly flammable and poses a fire hazard. Harmful to native wildlife when ingested.

Durban Crowfoot Grass

- Introduced to the US from Africa. Damages crops such as cotton, causing economic loss.



Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California -
Davis; Inset: Rebecca Wallace University of Georgia,
Bugwood.org

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Torpedo grass



- Introduced to US from Africa and Asia. Invades wetland communities crowding out natives. Infestations can also occur in citrus groves and turf.



Water Hyacinth



- Introduced to New Orleans from Brazil in 1884. Rapid growth clogs waterways and reduces oxygen levels for aquatic life.

Wendy VanDyk Evans, University of Illinois; Inset: Leslie J. Mehrhoff University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Alligatorweed



- Introduced accidentally to the US from South America through waterways. Grows in dense mats that make it difficult for wildlife to access the water.



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) – if using near water be sure to use an aquatic formulation
 - Cut and paint trees with herbicide (must paint very quickly before the tree begins to protect the wound)
- Educate others!

Certification Checklist Items:

- Don't buy or share invasive plants.
- Physically remove invasive plants, roots, and debris, then burn or bag and dispose in the trash.
- Apply proper herbicide according to the label, such as glyphosate or triclopyr, to kill invasive plants. Use an aquatic formulation if you are near water.
- Remove established invasive trees by cutting and painting the trunk with herbicide.

Questions?

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<https://site.extension.uga.edu/georgiagreen/>

