



STOP THE SPREAD

























Save time and money, and protect habitats, by removing these plants before they become established.

Except for centipedegrass, you won't find these plants at a nursery — but they can infest a property through contaminated soil, mulch, leaves, and machinery, as well as through winds and wildlife. Keep an eye out, and remove these plants quickly.

COASTAL DUNES

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| Beach Vitex <i>Vitex rotundifolia</i> | Once used for erosion control, Beach Vitex is a perennial shrub and prolific seed producer. It also spreads through runners and stem fragments and has become a particular problem in barrier island dunes. |  |  |  |
| Centipedegrass <i>Eremochloa ophiuroides</i> | This common lawn grass spreads by seeds and stolons, and the species forms dense mats of prostrate, low-growing stems and leaves. It has invaded several barrier island dune systems in North Carolina. |  |  |  |

ALL AREAS

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| Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | The Tree of Heaven's seeds are light, enclosed in twisted papery pods, which wind easily carries. The species grows on woodland edges, roadsides, railways, and in forest openings. |  |  |  |
| Chinaberry <i>Melia azedarach</i> | All parts of this deciduous tree are poisonous to humans, but some birds can eat the berries — and spread the seeds, which are viable for up to two years. |  |  |  |
| Princess Tree <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> | The Princess Tree grows and produces an abundance of small, winged seeds — quickly — which the wind disperses. The tree also spreads by root sprouts. |  |  |  |
| Multiflora Rose <i>Rosa multiflora</i> | Multiflora Rose, a shrub, produces an abundance of highly viable seeds, which birds then disperse. The plant grows in a range of light, soil, and moisture conditions. |  |  |  |
| Porcelain Berry <i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i> var. <i>brevipedunculata</i> | This woody vine has a vigorous root system. Wildlife and water spread its seeds, which remain viable in the soil for several years. |  |  |  |
| Kudzu <i>Pueraria montana</i> | This climbing or trailing, semi-woody perennial vine spreads both through seed and vegetatively through rhizomes. Kudzu grows up to a foot a day and develops a substantial taproot. |  |  |  |
| Japanese Stiltgrass <i>Microstegium vimineum</i> | This annual grass readily establishes through seeds, which may remain viable in the soil for up to five years. The best bet to control is to not let it mature and produce any seeds at all. |  |  |  |
| Chamberbitter / Gripeweed <i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i> | This summer annual resembles a mimosa and produces prolific amounts of seeds, borne on the underside of the leaves. Direct environmental threats of Chamberbitter are unknown, but the plant is nearly impossible to eradicate once established. |  |  |  |



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DON'T PLANT A PEST

TREES

SHRUBS

VINES

GRASSES

| Invasive Landscaping Plants that Harm the Environment | | |
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| TREES | Mimosa <i>Albizia julibrissin</i> | Although people use mimosas for their fern-like foliage and summer-time pom-pom-looking pink flowers, these deciduous trees have weak limb structure and are susceptible to fungal disease. They also can invade almost any habitat, including areas that are low in nutrients, because they belong to the pea family and have the ability to fix nitrogen. |
| | Callery Pear <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> "Bradford" and other cultivars | This tree species readily spreads by seed to other properties and forest edges and can form dense thickets that crowd out native plants. This deciduous tree is so troublesome that South Carolina and other states have "bounty programs" that offer people money or replacement trees in exchange for removing Bradford pears from their property. Although people choose the tree for its early spring flowers and colorful autumn foliage, Bradford pears are prone to break in ice and high winds — and the flowers emit a rotting fish odor. |
| | Popcorn Tree / Chinese Tallow <i>Triadica sebifera</i> | This deciduous tree grows quickly and offers attractive fall colors, both of which contribute to its wide use in parks, along streets, and on private property. It can grow in any light and crowded conditions, producing an abundance of seeds that birds eat and disperse widely. |
| SHRUBS | Barberry <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> | Although popular in home landscaping for its red-purple leaves and deer resistance, this spiny, deciduous, mounding shrub spreads rapidly through above-ground and below-ground shoots, as well as by seeds that wildlife disperse. It forms dense thickets, which alter soil pH and nitrogen levels, reduce the litter layer, and crowd out native plants. Areas with dense Japanese barberry populations also have a strong presence of black-legged ticks, known for transferring Lyme disease. Some states have banned the plant's sale and/or distribution. |
| | Thorny Olive, Autumn Olive <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> (pictured), <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> | These <i>Elaeagnus</i> species rapidly outcompete and smother native vegetation. They can grow as a shrub or climb a tree like a vine, and they tolerate salt, drought, and deer. Birds spread these plants around, and their rapid growth and thorny stems make eradication difficult once they are established. |
| | Burning Bush <i>Euonymus alatus</i> | Despite the appeal of the brilliant fall color that gave burning bush its name, this deciduous shrub invades edge habitat and undisturbed forests. As wildlife disperse its seeds, it quickly becomes dominant, pushing out the more beneficial native plants and making it harder for animals to find food. Some states have banned the sale of the plants. |
| | Privet (Japanese, Glossy Chinese) <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> (pictured), <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> , <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> | Chinese privet is one of the worst invasive shrubs in the south, taking over the understory layer completely by shading out all herbaceous plants and tree seedlings. It's berries are toxic to humans, but are readily dispersed by birds. Although people select both Glossy and Japanese privet because of their evergreen foliage and resistance to salt spray, each spreads easily and replaces native species. |
| VINES | Nandina <i>Nandina domestica</i> | Nandina has been popular as a foundation/border plant due to its evergreen, red-tinged foliage and red berries, but as wildlife disperses the berries, nandina escapes into forested areas and forms dense thickets. This leads to less biodiversity and fewer native plants. In addition, the berries contain cyanide and have the potential to kill birds. |
| | Autumn Clematis <i>Clematis terniflora</i> | Because of its wind dispersed seeds, this fall bloomer readily escapes from gardens, and rapidly forms dense masses in trees and over shrubs. It can overtake a landscaped area in one season, which necessitates both seed and root removal to control it. The native and less aggressive <i>Clematis virginiana</i> (Woodbine) is a perfect eco-friendly substitute. |
| | English Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> | People chose this evergreen vine for its quick, dense growth — but it can tolerate a range of light conditions, which in turn allows it to form mats that smother native plant communities and prevent native seedlings from establishing. Ivy also provides a hospitable environment for mosquitoes, and it easily climbs trees, where it harbors harmful insects and diseases. In addition, the extra weight from ivy makes branches and trees susceptible to wind damage. It produces berries that birds disperse, and stems and fragments touching the ground readily take root. |
| | Japanese Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | The fragrant flowers of this vine yield black berries that birds eat and spread. The species also spreads by fragments, invading a variety of habitats, including forest floors, canopies, roadsides, wetlands, and disturbed areas. Japanese honeysuckle can girdle small saplings, and it forms dense mats in the canopies of trees, shading everything below. |
| GRASSES | Wisteria (Chinese and Japanese) <i>Wisteria sinensis</i> (pictured), <i>Wisteria floribunda</i> | People chose invasive species of wisteria for fragrant lavender, purple, or white spring flowers. These deciduous woody plants can grow to over 40 feet and can girdle, smother, weaken, and ultimately kill whole trees. Invasive wisteria spreads by runners and seeds, and in areas where it has become established, it prevents other plants from growing by outcompeting and blocking sunlight. However, our native wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>) is an ideal choice. |
| | Pampas Grass <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> | This grass is selected for its large size and feathery plumes, but it also has thick, sharp leaf blades that easily cut human skin. Annual pruning is needed to maintain a neat appearance and it is extremely difficult to remove once established. Winds will transport seeds for up to 20 miles, and as result, the species has invaded many coastal dunes. |
| | Weeping Love Grass <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> | People choose this grass as an ornamental, informal lawn replacement, or for erosion control. The species readily spreads by seed and grows rapidly early. These traits allow weeping love grass to grow densely and crowd out native grasses. |
| | Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> | People choose this tall grass for its feathery pink or silver flowers and seedheads, but maiden grass can form large clumps in disturbed areas and invade the edges around wetlands. It also is extremely flammable, raising risks of fire wherever it invades. |

