

List of NC Invasive Plants (Revised November 7, 2023)

This list has been compiled with input from representatives of the NC Natural Heritage Program, USDA Forest Service, NC Botanical Garden, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Piedmont Land Conservancy, NC Native Plant Society, NC Invasive Plant Council, and other groups & individuals.

FNWL = on Federal Noxious Weed List **NCNWL** = North Carolina Noxious Weed List

Rank 1 – Severe Threat: Exotic plant species that have invasive characteristics and spread readily into NC native plant communities, displacing native vegetation.

Scientific Name Common Name

Ailanthus altissima Tree-of-heaven, Copal Tree

Albizia julibrissin Mimosa, Silktree

Alliaria petiolata Garlic Mustard, Hedge Garlic *Alternanthera philoxeroides* Alligator-weed

Ampelopsis glandulosa Porcelain-berry, Amur Peppervine [= *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*]

Celastrus orbiculatus Oriental Bittersweet [NCNWL]

Dioscorea polystachya [= *Dioscorea oppositifolia*] Chinese Yam, Cinnamon Vine

Elaeagnus umbellata Autumn Olive, Oriental Silverleaf

Ficaria verna [= *Ranunculus ficaria*] Lesser Celandine, Fig Buttercup

Hedera helix English Ivy, Common Ivy

Humulus scandens [= *Humulus japonicus*] Japanese Hops

Hydrilla verticillata Hydrilla [FNWL]

Lespedeza bicolor Bicolor Lespedeza, Shrubby Lespedeza

Lespedeza cuneata Sericea Lespedeza, Chinese Lespedeza

Ligustrum japonicum & cultivars Japanese Privet

Ligustrum lucidum & cultivars Glossy Privet

Ligustrum sinense & cultivars Chinese Privet, “Privy Hedge”

Lonicera japonica Japanese Honeysuckle

Microstegium vimineum Japanese Stilt-grass

Miscanthus sinensis Chinese Silver Grass, Eulalia

Murdannia keisak Mud-annie, Marsh Dewflower
Myriophyllum aquaticum Parrot-feather
Paulownia tomentosa Princess Tree, Empress Tree
Persicaria perfoliata Mile-a-minute-vine [NCNWL]
Phragmites australis Common Reed, Old World Reed
Pueraria montana var. *lobata* Kudzu
Pyrus calleryana Bradford Pear, Callery Pear
Reynoutria japonica var. *japonica* Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo [= *Polygonum cuspidatum*,
Fallopia japonica]
Reynoutria sachalinensis Giant Knotweed,
Sachaline [= *Fallopia sachalinensis*, *Polygonum sachalinense*]
Reynoutria x bohemica Bohemian Knotweed, Hybrid Japanese [= *Reynoutria japonica* x *sachalinensis*]
Knotweed
Rosa multiflora Multiflora Rose
Salvinia molesta Giant Salvinia, Kariba Weed [FNWL, NCNWL]
Spiraea japonica Japanese Spiraea
Vitex rotundifolia Beach Vitex, Roundleaf Chaste-tree [NCNWL]
Wisteria floribunda Japanese Wisteria
Wisteria sinensis Chinese Wisteria
Wisteria x formosa [= *W. floribunda* x *sinensis*] Hybrid Asian Wisteria
Youngia japonica Asiatic Hawk's-beard, Youngia

Rank 2 – Significant Threat: Exotic plant species that display some invasive characteristics, but do not appear to present as great a threat to native communities in NC as the species listed in Rank 1.

Scientific Name Common Name

Akebia quinata Five-leaf Akebia, Chocolate-vine
Allium vineale Field Garlic, Onion-grass
Arthraxon hispidus Basket Grass, Hairy Jointgrass
Arum italicum Italian Arum, Lords-and-ladies

Berberis thunbergii Japanese Barberry
Broussonetia papyrifera Paper Mulberry
Buddleja davidii [= *Buddleia davidii*] Summer-lilac, Orange-eye Butterfly-bush
Causonis japonica [= *Cayratia japonica*] Bushkiller, Sorrel Vine [NCNWL]
Centaurea stoebe ssp. *micranthos* Spotted Knapweed, Bushy Knapweed [= *Centaurea biebersteinii*, *C. maculosa*]
Cirsium arvense Canada Thistle [NCNWL]
Citrus trifoliata [= *Poncirus trifoliata*] Hardy Orange, Trifoliate Orange
Clematis terniflora [= *Clematis dioscoreifolia*] Sweet Autumn Clematis
Corydalis incisa Purple Keman
Cytisus scoparius Scotch Broom
Egeria densa Brazilian Elodea, Brazilian Waterweed
Elaeagnus angustifolia Russian Olive, Oleaster
Elaeagnus pungens Thorny-olive, Autumn Silverberry
Euonymus alatus Burning Bush, Winged Euonymus
Euonymus fortunei Wintercreeper, Chinese Spindle-tree
Glechoma hederacea Gill-over-the-ground, Ground-ivy
Imperata cylindrica + varieties Cogongrass, Japanese Blood Grass [FNWL]
Iris pseudacorus Water Flag, Yellow Flag
Ligustrum vulgare & cultivars Common Privet
Lonicera fragrantissima Sweet-breath-of-spring, Fragrant Honeysuckle
Lonicera maackii Amur Honeysuckle
Lonicera morrowii Morrow's Honeysuckle
Lonicera standishii Standish's Honeysuckle
Lonicera x bella [*Lonicera morrowii* x *tatarica*] Pretty Honeysuckle
Lygodium japonicum Japanese Climbing Fern
Lysimachia nummularia Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie
Lythrum salicaria Purple Loosestrife [NCNWL]
Mahonia bealei Leatherleaf Mahonia, Chinese Mahonia
Morus alba White Mulberry
Myriophyllum spicatum Eurasian Water-milfoil [NCNWL]

Nandina domestica Nandina, Sacred-bamboo
Oshuna crassipes [= *Eichhornia crassipes*] Water Hyacinth
Perilla frutescens Perilla, Beefsteak-plant
Persicaria longiseta [= *Polygonum caespitosum*] Longbristle Smartweed
Persicaria maculosa [= *Polygonum persicaria*] Lady's-thumb, Heart's-ease
Phyllostachys aurea Golden Bamboo, Fishpole Bamboo
Rosa luciae [= *Rosa wichuraiana*] Memorial Rose
Rubus phoenicolasius Wineberry, Wine Raspberry
Solanum viarum Tropical Soda Apple [FNWL]
Sorghum halapense Johnson Grass
Stellaria media Common Chickweed
Triadica sebifera Chinese Tallow-tree, Popcorn Tree
Tussilago farfara Coltsfoot
Ulmus parviflora Chinese Elm
Verbascum phlomoides Clasping Mullein, Orange Mullein
Viburnum dilatatum Linden Arrow-wood
Vinca major Greater Periwinkle
Vinca minor Common Periwinkle, Myrtle

Rank 3 – Lesser Threat: Exotic plant species that spread into or around disturbed areas and are presently considered a low threat to native plant communities in NC.

Agrostis gigantea Redtop, Black Bentgrass
Ajuga reptans Carpet Bugle, Bugleweed
Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal Grass
Artemisia vulgaris Common Mugwort, Wormwood
Arundo donax Giant Reed
Bromus catharticus var. *catharticus* Rescue Grass, Bromegrass
Bromus commutatus Meadow Brome, Hairy Chess
Bromus japonicus Japanese Brome, Japanese Chess

Bromus secalinus Cheat, Common Chess, Rye-brome
Bromus tectorum Cheatgrass, Downy Brome, Downy Chess
Cardiospermum halicacabum Balloon Vine, Heartseed
Cichorium intybus Chickory, Succory
Cirsium vulgare Bull Thistle
Conium maculatum Poison-hemlock
Cynodon dactylon Bermuda Grass, Scutch Grass
Daucus carota Queen-Anne's-lace, Wild Carrot
Dipsacus fullonum Wild Teasel, Fuller's Teasel
Emblica urinaria [= *Phyllanthus urinaria*] Chamber-bitter, Gripeweed
Eremochloa ophiuriodes Centipede Grass
Fatoua villosa Mulberry-weed, Crabweed
Firmiana simplex Chinese Parasol-tree
Helleborus species Hellebore, Lenten-rose, Christmas-rose
Hibiscus syriacus Rose-of-Sharon, Althaea
Holcus lanatus Common Velvet Grass
Ilex cornuta + varieties Chinese Holly, Burford Holly
Kummerowia stipulacea Korean Lespedeza, Korean-clover
Kummerowia striata Japanese-clover, Common Lespedeza
Lamium purpureum Purple Archangel, Purple Dead-nettle
Leucanthemum vulgare Oxeye Daisy, White Daisy [= *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*]
Liriope muscari Liriope, Big Blue Lilyturf
Lolium pratense [= *Festuca pratensis*] Meadow Fescue
Ludwigia hexapetala Common Water-primrose [NCNWL] [= *Ludwigia grandiflora* ssp. *hexapetala*,
Ludwigia uruguayensis]
Melia azedarach Chinaberry, Pride-of-India
Melilotus albus White Melilot, White Sweetclover
Melilotus officinalis Yellow Melilot, Yellow Sweetclover
Mosla dianthera Miniature Beefsteakplant, Mosla
Najas minor Spinyleaf Naiad, Brittle Naiad
Nymphoides peltata Yellow Floating Heart [NCNWL]

Ornithogalum umbellatum Star-of-Bethlehem, Nap-at-noon
Paspalum dilatatum Dallis Grass
Paspalum notatum Bahia Grass
Paspalum urvillei Vasey Grass
Pastinaca sativa Wild Parsnip
Phleum pratense Timothy
Poa compressa Flat-stemmed Bluegrass
Poa pratensis Kentucky Bluegrass
Poa trivialis Rough Bluegrass
Populus alba Silver Poplar, White Poplar
Potentilla indica [= *Duchesnea indica*] Wolf Strawberry, Indian Strawberry
Rhamnus cathartica Common Buckthorn, European Buckthorn
Rhodotypos scandens Jetbead
Securigera varia [= *Coronilla varia*] Crown-vetch
Senecio vulgaris Common Groundsel
Setaria faberi Nodding Foxtail-grass
Setaria pumila Yellow Foxtail, Yellow Bristlegrass [NCNWL]

Watch List A: Exotic plants that naturalize and may become a problem in the future; includes species that are or could become widespread in North Carolina. At this time, more information is needed.

Scientific Name Common Name

Acer ginnala Amur Maple
Acer platanoides Norway Maple
Aegopodium podagraria Goutweed
Alnus glutinosa Black Alder, European Alder
Asparagus aethiopicus Sprenger's Asparagus Fern
Azolla pinnata ssp. *asiatica* Asian Mosquito Fern [FNWL]
Bromus inermis Smooth Brome, Hungarian Brome

Buddleja lindleyana Lindley's Butterfly-bush
Buglossoides arvensis Corn-gromwell
Campanula rapunculoides Creeping Bellflower
Camphora officinarum Camphortree
Carduus acanthoides Plumeless Thistle [NCNWL]
Carduus nutans Nodding Thistle, Musk Thistle [NCNWL]
Carex kobomugi Sea Isle Sedge, Japanese Beach Sedge
Centaurea jacea Brown Knapweed
Clerodendrum trichotomum var. *ferrugineum* Harlequin Glory-bower
Colocasia esculenta Coco Yam, Taro, Dasheen
Commelina benghalensis Tropical Spiderwort [FNWL]
Commelina communis Common Dayflower
Cortaderia selloana Pampasgrass
Crotolaria spectabilis Showy Rattlebox
Cuscuta cassytoides African Dodder [FNWL]
Cyanus segetum [= *Centaurea cyanus*] Cornflower, Bachelor's-buttons
Deutzia scabra Deutzia, Pride of Rochester
Echium vulgare Viper's-bugloss, Blueweed
Elymus tsukushiensis Kamoji Wild-rye
 [= *Elymus kamoji*, *Agropyron kamoji*, *Agropyron semicostatum* var. *transiens*]
Eragrostis curvula Weeping Love Grass
Heracleum mantegazzianum Giant Hogweed [FNWL]
Hesperis matronalis Dame's Rocket
Houttuynia cordata Fishmint, Chameleon-plant
Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides Lawn Water-pennywort
Hypericum perforatum European St. John's-wort, Klamath-weed
Ilex crenata Japanese Holly
Ipomoea quamoclit Cypress-vine
Lamium galeobdolon Yellow Archangel
Ligustrum obtusifolium var. *obtusifolium* & cultivars Border Privet

Ligustrum obtusifolium var. *suave* & cultivars Amur Privet
Ligustrum quihoui & cultivars Waxy-leaf Privet
Liriope spicata Creeping Liriope
Lolium arundinaceum Tall Fescue
 [= *Schedonorus arundinaceum*, *Festuca arundinacea*, *Schedonorus phoenix*]
Lonicera tatarica Tatarian Honeysuckle
Ludwigia grandiflora Showy Water-primrose [= *Ludwigia grandiflora* ssp. *grandiflora*]
Lysimachia clethroides Gooseneck Loosestrife
Macrothelypteris torresiana Mariana Maiden Fern
Nelumbo nucifera Sacred-lotus, Oriental Lotus-lily
Oplismenus undulatifolius Wavyleaf Basketgrass [= *Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*]
Orobanche minor Hellroot, Lesser Broomrape [FNWL]
Paederia foetida Skunkvine
Panicum repens Torpedo Grass
Philydrum lanuginosum Woolly Waterlily, Frog's-mouth
Phyllostachys bambusoides Giant Timber Bamboo
Pistacia sinensis Chinese Pistacia
Pistia stratiotes Water Lettuce
Potamogeton crispus Curly Pondweed, Curled Pondweed
Pourthiaea villosa [= *Photinia villosa*] Oriental Photinia
Pseudosasa japonica Arrow Bamboo
Quercus acutissima Sawtooth Oak
Rorippa sylvestris Creeping Yellow Cress [NCNWL]
Rosa bracteata McCartney Rose, Chickasaw Rose
Rosa laevigata Cherokee Rose
Rottboellia cochinchinensis Itch-grass [FNWL]
Rubus bifrons [= *Rubus armeniacus*] Himalayan Blackberry
Sesbania punicea Rattlebox, Red Sesban
Setaria italica Italian Millet, Foxtail-millet
Setaria viridis Green Millet, Green Bristlegrass

Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet, Climbing Nightshade
Stachys floridana Florida Betony, Florida Hedge-nettle [NCNWL]
Striga asiatica Witchweed [FNWL]
Tamarix canariensis Canary Island Tamarisk
Tamarix gallica French Tamarisk
Tamarix parviflora Small-flower Tamarisk
Tamarix ramosissima Salt-cedar
Torilis helvetica [= *Torilis arvensis*] Spreading Bur-parsley, Field Hedge-parsley
Tragopogon dubius Goat's-beard, Yellow Salsify
Tribulus terrestris Puncture-weed, Caltrop [NCNWL]
Tripsidium ravennae Ravenna-grass
 [= *Saccharum ravennae*, *Erianthus ravennae*]
Ulmus pumila Siberian Elm
Verbascum thapsus Woolly Mullein, Common Mullein
Vernicia fordii Tung-oil Tree
Xanthium spinosum Spiny Cocklebur

Watch List B: Exotic plant species that cause problems in adjacent states but have not yet been reported to cause problems in NC.

Scientific Name Common Name

Achyranthes japonica var. *hachijoensis* Japanese Chaff-flower
Aldrovanda vesiculosa Waterwheel-plant
Alternanthera sessilis Sessile Joyweed [FNWL]
Ardisia crenata Hen's Eyes, Coral Ardisia
Callitriche stagnalis European Water-starwort
Crassula helmsii Swamp Stonecrop, New Zealand Pigmyweed [NCNWL]
Cyperus entrerianus Deep-rooted Sedge, Woodrush Flatsedge
Dioscorea alata White Yam, Great Yam

Dioscorea bulbifera Air Yam

Hygrophila polysperma West Indian Swampweed, Hygro [FNWL]

Ipomoea aquatica Water Spinach, Swamp Morning-glory [FNWL]

Lagarosiphon major African Elodea, Oxygen-weed [FNWL, NCNWL]

Ligustrum ovalifolium & cultivars California Privet

Limnophila sessiliflora Asian Marshweed [FNWL]

Lygodium microphyllum Old World Climbing Fern [FNWL]

Melaleuca quinquenervia Melaleuca, Punktree [FNWL]

Melinis repens Rose Natalgrass, Creeping Molasses-grass

Nassella trichotoma Serrated Tussockgrass [FNWL]

Nymphoides cristata Crested Floating Heart, Water Snowflake [NCNWL]

Nymphoides indica Water Snowflake [NCNWL]

Phyllostachys nigra Black Bamboo

Schinus terebinthifolius Brazilian-pepper, Christmasberry Tree

Tamarix africana African Tamarisk

Trapa natans European Water-chestnut, Water-caltrop [NCNWL]