

2023 NC Invasive Plants List

Approved by the NC Native Plant Society and the NC-Invasive Plant Council, November 2023

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

FNWL = 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.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven, Copal Tree
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa, Silktree
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard, Hedge Garlic
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Alligator-weed
<i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i> [= <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>]	Porcelain-berry, Amur Peppervine
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet [NCNWL]
<i>Dioscorea polystachya</i> [= <i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>]	Chinese Yam, Cinnamon Vine
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive, Oriental Silverleaf
<i>Ficaria verna</i> [= <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>]	Lesser Celandine, Fig Buttercup
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy, Common Ivy
<i>Humulus scandens</i> [= <i>Humulus japonicus</i>]	Japanese Hops
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Hydrilla [FNWL]
<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Bicolor Lespedeza, Shrubby Lespedeza
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Sericea Lespedeza, Chinese Lespedeza
<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> & cultivars	Japanese Privet
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> & cultivars	Glossy Privet
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> & cultivars	Chinese Privet, "Privy Hedge"
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese Stilt-grass
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Chinese Silver Grass, Eulalia
<i>Murdannia keisak</i>	Mud-annie, Marsh Dewflower
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrot-feather
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess Tree, Empress Tree
<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Mile-a-minute-vine [NCNWL]
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed, Old World Reed
<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i>	Kudzu
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Bradford Pear, Callery Pear
<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> var. <i>japonica</i> [= <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>]	Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo

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

<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> [= <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i> , <i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>]	Giant Knotweed, Sachaline
<i>Reynoutria x bohemica</i> [= <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> x <i>sachalinensis</i>]	Bohemian Knotweed, Hybrid Japanese Knotweed
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Giant Salvinia, Kariba Weed [FNWL, NCNWL]
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese Spiraea
<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>	Beach Vitex, Roundleaf Chaste-tree [NCNWL]
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese Wisteria
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese Wisteria
<i>Wisteria x formosa</i> [= <i>W. floribunda</i> x <i>sinensis</i>]	Hybrid Asian Wisteria
<i>Youngia japonica</i>	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.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Five-leaf Akebia, Chocolate-vine
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Field Garlic, Onion-grass
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Basket Grass, Hairy Jointgrass
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Arum, Lords-and-ladies
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper Mulberry
<i>Buddleja davidii</i> [= <i>Buddleia davidii</i>]	Summer-lilac, Orange-eye Butterfly-bush
<i>Causonis japonica</i> [= <i>Cayratia japonica</i>]	Bushkiller, Sorrel Vine [NCNWL]
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> ssp. <i>micranthos</i> [= <i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i> , <i>C. maculosa</i>]	Spotted Knapweed, Bushy Knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle [NCNWL]
<i>Citrus trifoliata</i> [= <i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>]	Hardy Orange, Trifoliolate Orange
<i>Clematis terniflora</i> [= <i>Clematis dioscoreifolia</i>]	Sweet Autumn Clematis
<i>Corydalis incisa</i>	Purple Keman
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian Elodea, Brazilian Waterweed
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive, Oleaster
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Thorny-olive, Autumn Silverberry
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush, Winged Euonymus
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper, Chinese Spindle-tree
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Gill-over-the-ground, Ground-ivy
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> + varieties	Cogongrass, Japanese Blood Grass [FNWL]
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Water Flag, Yellow Flag
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> & cultivars	Common Privet
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	Sweet-breath-of-spring, Fragrant Honeysuckle

Rank 2 (continued) – 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.

<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera standishii</i>	Standish's Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera x bella</i> [<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> x <i>tatarica</i>]	Pretty Honeysuckle
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese Climbing Fern
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife [NCNWL]
<i>Mahonia bealei</i>	Leatherleaf Mahonia, Chinese Mahonia
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian Water-milfoil [NCNWL]
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Nandina, Sacred-bamboo
<i>Oshuna crassipes</i> [= <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>]	Water Hyacinth
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Perilla, Beefsteak-plant
<i>Persicaria longisetata</i> [= <i>Polygonum caespitosum</i>]	Longbristle Smartweed
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i> [= <i>Polygonum persicaria</i>]	Lady's-thumb, Heart's-ease
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden Bamboo, Fishpole Bamboo
<i>Rosa luciae</i> [= <i>Rosa wichuraiana</i>]	Memorial Rose
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wineberry, Wine Raspberry
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	Tropical Soda Apple [FNWL]
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson Grass
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Chinese Tallow-tree, Popcorn Tree
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Ulmus parviflora</i>	Chinese Elm
<i>Verbascum phlomoides</i>	Clasping Mullein, Orange Mullein
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden Arrow-wood
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle
<i>Vinca minor</i>	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.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Redtop, Black Bentgrass
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet Bugle, Bugleweed
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Common Mugwort, Wormwood
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed
<i>Bromus catharticus</i> var. <i>catharticus</i>	Rescue Grass, Bromegrass
<i>Bromus commutatus</i>	Meadow Brome, Hairy Chess
<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Japanese Brome, Japanese Chess
<i>Bromus secalinus</i>	Cheat, Common Chess, Rye-brome

Rank 3 (continued) – 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.

<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Cheatgrass, Downy Brome, Downy Chess
<i>Cardiospermum haliacacabum</i>	Balloon Vine, Heartseed
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chickory, Succory
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison-hemlock
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass, Scutch Grass
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen-Anne’s-lace, Wild Carrot
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel, Fuller’s Teasel
<i>Embllica urinaria</i> [= <i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>]	Chamber-bitter, Gripeweed
<i>Eremochloa ophiuriodes</i>	Centipede Grass
<i>Fatoua villosa</i>	Mulberry-weed, Crabweed
<i>Firmiana simplex</i>	Chinese Parasol-tree
<i>Helleborus</i> species	Hellebore, Lenten-rose, Christmas-rose
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose-of-Sharon, Althaea
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Common Velvet Grass
<i>Ilex cornuta</i> + varieties	Chinese Holly, Burford Holly
<i>Kummerowia stipulacea</i>	Korean Lespedeza, Korean-clover
<i>Kummerowia striata</i>	Japanese-clover, Common Lespedeza
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Purple Archangel, Purple Dead-nettle
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> [= <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>]	Oxeye Daisy, White Daisy
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Liriope, Big Blue Lilyturf
<i>Lolium pratense</i> [= <i>Festuca pratensis</i>]	Meadow Fescue
<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i> [= <i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i> ssp. <i>hexapetala</i> , <i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i>]	Common Water-primrose [NCNWL]
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry, Pride-of-India
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White Melilot, White Sweetclover
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow Melilot, Yellow Sweetclover
<i>Mosla dianthera</i>	Minature Beefsteakplant, Mosla
<i>Najas minor</i>	Spinyleaf Naiad, Brittle Naiad
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Yellow Floating Heart [NCNWL]
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem, Nap-at-noon
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Dallis Grass
<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Bahia Grass
<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	Vasey Grass
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Flat-stemmed Bluegrass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Bluegrass
<i>Populus alba</i>	Silver Poplar, White Poplar
<i>Potentilla indica</i> [= <i>Duchesnea indica</i>]	Wolf Strawberry, Indian Strawberry

Rank 3 (continued) – 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.

<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn, European Buckthorn
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Jetbead
<i>Securigera varia</i> [= <i>Coronilla varia</i>]	Crown-vetch
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel
<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Nodding Foxtail-grass
<i>Setaria pumila</i>	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.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder, European Alder
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Sprenger's Asparagus Fern
<i>Azolla pinnata</i> ssp. <i>asiatica</i>	Asian Mosquito Fern [FNWL]
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth Brome, Hungarian Brome
<i>Buddleja lindleyana</i>	Lindley's Butterfly-bush
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn-gromwell
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Creeping Bellflower
<i>Camphora officinarum</i>	Camphortree
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Plumeless Thistle [NCNWL]
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding Thistle, Musk Thistle [NCNWL]
<i>Carex kobomugi</i>	Sea Isle Sedge, Japanese Beach Sedge
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed
<i>Clerodendrum trichotomum</i> var. <i>ferrugineum</i>	Harlequin Glory-bower
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Coco Yam, Taro, Dasheen
<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	Tropical Spiderwort [FNWL]
<i>Commelina communis</i>	Common Dayflower
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampasgrass
<i>Crotolaria spectabilis</i>	Showy Rattlebox
<i>Cuscuta cassyoides</i>	African Dodder [FNWL]
<i>Cyanus segetum</i> [= <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>]	Cornflower, Bachelor's-buttons
<i>Deutzia scabra</i>	Deutzia, Pride of Rochester
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss, Blueweed
<i>Elymus tsukushiensis</i> [= <i>Elymus kamoji</i> , <i>Agropyron kamoji</i> , <i>Agropyron semicostatum</i> var. <i>transiens</i>]	Kamoji Wild-rye
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping Love Grass
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed [FNWL]
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	Fishmint, Chameleon-plant

Watch List A (continued): 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.

<i>Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides</i>	Lawn Water-pennywort
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	European St. John's-wort, Klamath-weed
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese Holly
<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i>	Cypress-vine
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> var. <i>obtusifolium</i> & cultivars	Border Privet
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> var. <i>suave</i> & cultivars	Amur Privet
<i>Ligustrum quihoui</i> & cultivars	Waxy-leaf Privet
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	Creeping Liriope
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Tall Fescue
[= <i>Schedonorus arundinaceum</i> , <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> , <i>Schedonorus phoenix</i>]	
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle
<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	Showy Water-primrose
[= <i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i> ssp. <i>grandiflora</i>]	
<i>Lysimachia clethroides</i>	Gooseneck Loosestrife
<i>Macrothelypteris torresiana</i>	Mariana Maiden Fern
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Sacred-lotus, Oriental Lotus-lily
<i>Oplismenus undulatifolius</i>	Wavyleaf Basketgrass
[= <i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> ssp. <i>undulatifolius</i>]	
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Hellroot, Lesser Broomrape [FNWL]
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	Skunkvine
<i>Panicum repens</i>	Torpedo Grass
<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Woolly Waterlily, Frog's-mouth
<i>Phyllostachys bambusoides</i>	Giant Timber Bamboo
<i>Pistacia sinensis</i>	Chinese Pistacia
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water Lettuce
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly Pondweed, Curled Pondweed
<i>Pourthiaea villosa</i> [= <i>Photinia villosa</i>]	Oriental Photinia
<i>Pseudosasa japonica</i>	Arrow Bamboo
<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Sawtooth Oak
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Creeping Yellow Cress [NCNWL]
<i>Rosa bracteata</i>	McCartney Rose, Chickasaw Rose
<i>Rosa laevigata</i>	Cherokee Rose
<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>	Itch-grass [FNWL]
<i>Rubus bifrons</i> [= <i>Rubus armeniacus</i>]	Himalayan Blackberry
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Rattlebox, Red Sesban
<i>Setaria italica</i>	Italian Millet, Foxtail-millet
<i>Setaria viridis</i>	Green Millet, Green Bristlegrass
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet, Climbing Nightshade
<i>Stachys floridana</i>	Florida Betony, Florida Hedge-nettle [NCNWL]
<i>Striga asiatica</i>	Witchweed [FNWL]
<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Tamarisk

Watch List A (continued): 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.

<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	Small-flower Tamarisk
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Salt-cedar
<i>Torilis helvetica</i> [= <i>Torilis arvensis</i>]	Spreading Bur-parsley, Field Hedge-parsley
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Goat's-beard, Yellow Salsify
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture-weed, Caltrop [NCNWL]
<i>Tripidium ravennae</i> [= <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , <i>Erianthus ravennae</i>]	Ravenna-grass
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Woolly Mullein, Common Mullein
<i>Vernicia fordii</i>	Tung-oil Tree
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	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.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Achyranthes japonica</i> var. <i>hachijoensis</i>	Japanese Chaff-flower
<i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i>	Waterwheel-plant
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Sessile Joyweed [FNWL]
<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	Hen's Eyes, Coral Ardisia
<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	European Water-starwort
<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Swamp Stonecrop, New Zealand Pigmyweed [NCNWL]
<i>Cyperus entrerianus</i>	Deep-rooted Sedge, Woodrush Flatsedge
<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	White Yam, Great Yam
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Air Yam
<i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>	West Indian Swampweed, Hygro [FNWL]
<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	Water Spinach, Swamp Morning-glory [FNWL]
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	African Elodea, Oxygen-weed [FNWL, NCNWL]
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> & cultivars	California Privet
<i>Limnophila sessiliflora</i>	Asian Marshweed [FNWL]
<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	Old World Climbing Fern [FNWL]
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Melaleuca, Punktree [FNWL]
<i>Melinis repens</i>	Rose Natalgrass, Creeping Molasses-grass
<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated Tussockgrass [FNWL]
<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	Crested Floating Heart, Water Snowflake [NCNWL]
<i>Nymphoides indica</i>	Water Snowflake [NCNWL]
<i>Phyllostachys nigra</i>	Black Bamboo
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian-pepper, Christmasberry Tree
<i>Tamarix africana</i>	African Tamarisk
<i>Trapa natans</i>	European Water-chestnut, Water-caltrop [NCNWL]