



Alabama Invasive Plant Council

“Rescuing and Preserving Our Natural Heritage”

P.O. Box 2033, Auburn, AL 36831-2033

www.se-eppc.org/states/alabama.cfm

Approved by ALIPC Board of Directors February 14, 2006

The Purpose and Objectives for Listing and Categorizing Invasive Plants in Alabama

The intent of this list is to:

1. Rank plants based on their invasive characteristics;
2. Foster early detection of invasive plants so that landowners, managers, and stewards can implement a rapid response action to prevent them from becoming established and spreading;
3. Educate the general public, land based and water-use resource managers, landowners, and plant growers in an effort to eliminate the use of invasive plants in landscaping, restoration, and enhancement projects.

This list has no regulatory authority but provides useful information to help guide agencies, private landowners, and water managers in making responsible decisions about plant use and management decisions. The Council acknowledges that most introduced species are harmless. However, it also realizes that many species do escape cultivation, pasturage, landscaping, and water gardens and have the potential to spread and become ecological disasters.

Alabama Invasive Plant Council

Criteria for Evaluating Plant Species for Invasiveness in Alabama

Category 1:

- 1) The plant species is non-native to Alabama.
- 2) The plant has the potential for rapid growth, high seed or propagule production and dissemination, and establishment in natural communities or in managed areas where it is not desired.
- 3) The plant persists in free living infestations (without cultivation).
- 4) The plant is widespread in Alabama or at least common in a region or habitat type(s) in the state.
- 5) It occurs in dense stands of numerous individuals in minimally managed areas or in managed areas where it is not desired.
- 6) It is able to out-compete other species in the plant community, thereby impacting native plant biodiversity and/or ecosystem function.

Category 2:

- 7) The plant meets criteria 1-3.
- 8) It occurs in scattered and localized infestations within habitat or land use types across the state.
- 9) It occurs as scattered individuals within a habitat or land use type.

Watch list A:

- 10) The plant meets criteria 1-3.
- 11) The plant has recently appeared as free living populations in Alabama, or
- 12) It is invasive in nearby states but its status in Alabama is unknown or unclear, and/or
- 13) It has the potential, based on its biology and its colonization history in the Southeast and elsewhere, to become highly invasive in Alabama.

Watch list B:

- 14) The plant meets criteria 1-2.
- 15) The species is planted in Alabama.
- 16) The plant has a documented history of invasiveness in other areas of the Southeast and/or is listed by the Global Invasive Species Program as a world-class invasive plant for habitats similar to the Southeast.

**Alabama Invasive Plant Council's
List of Alabama's Invasive Plants by Land-Use and Water-Use Sectors**

O= ornamental C= crop W= Watch		1= Extensive and dense infestations in AL or severe invasive in an adjacent state 2= Scattered and localized infestations in AL	Urban and Interface	Managed Forests	Natural Areas and Parks	Wildlife Habitat/ Food Plots	Rights-of- Way	Aquatic- Wetland / Riparian	Pastures/ Orchards	Rowcrops/ Nurseries
TREES										
tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>		2,O	1	1		1			
silktree	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>		2,O	2	1		1			
chinaberrytree	<i>Melia azedarach</i>		2,O	W	2		2			
princesstree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>		1,O	2	2					
callery pear "Bradford" *	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>		2,O	W	2		O			
tallowtree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>		2,O	1	1	1		1		
SHRUBS										
thorny olive	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>		2,O	2	2	2,C	2,O			
autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>		W,O	2	1	C				
glossy privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>		W,O	2	2		2			
Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>		1,O	1	1	1	1	2	1	W
Bell's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera X bella</i>		W,O	2	2	C	2			
Amur honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>		W,O	W	1	C				
multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>		2,O	W	1	1	2		1	
tropical soda apple	<i>Solanum viarum</i>			W	2	W	W		1	
VINES										
Chinese yam	<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>		2,O	2	1		2	2		
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>		1,O	2	1					
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>		1,O	1	1	C	2	1		
Japanese climbing fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>		2	1	1	2		1		
kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>		1	1	1	1,C	1		1	
Chinese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>		1,O	2	1		1			
GRASSES, GRASS-LIKES, AND CANES										
giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>		W,O		W		2	W		
cogongrass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>		W	1	1	1	1	1	1	W
Nepalese browntop, Japanese siltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>		2	1	1		1	1		
torpedo grass	<i>Panicum repens</i>		1		2		2	2	1	
golden bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>		2,O	2	2		1			
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>		2	2	2	1	1		1,C	1

**Alabama Invasive Plant Council's
List of Alabama's Invasive Plants by Land-Use and Water-Use Sectors**

O= ornamental C= crop W= Watch	1= Extensive and dense infestations in AL or severe invasive in an adjacent state 2= Scattered and localized infestations in AL	Urban and Interface	Managed Forests	Natural Areas and Parks	Wildlife Habitat/ Food Plots	Rights-of- Way	Aquatic- Wetland / Riparian	Pastures/ Orchards	Rowcrops/ Nurseries
FORBS (Broadleaf Plants)									
nodding plumeless thistle, musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>			2		1		1	
elephant ears, coco yam	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	2,O					2		
tropical spiderwort, benghal dayflower	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>		W			W	W		2
hairy crabweed, mulberry weed	<i>Fatoua villosa</i>	2							2
shrubby lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>		2	2	C	2,C			
Chinese lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	2	2	2	C	2,C		2,C	
purple loosestrife*	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>			2			2		
Asiatic dewflower, wartremoving herb	<i>Murdannia keisak</i>				W		2		
chamber bitter	<i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>	1		W	W	W	W	2	W
sicklepod, Java-bean	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	2	1	2	1	2			1
blessed milkthistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>			2				2	
AQUATIC and WETLAND PLANTS									
alligatorweed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	W		1	1		1		1
common water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	W					1		
hydrilla, waterthyme	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	W					1		
parrot feather watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	W					1		
Eurasian water milfoil, spike watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	W					1		
common reed* (grass)	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	W					1		
water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	W					1		
giant salvinia, kariba-weed	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	W					1		
Watch list A: Currently in Alabama as free living infestations									
garlic mustard (forb)	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	W	W	W		W			
hen's eyes, coralberry (forb)	<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	W	W	W					
bushkiller (vine)	<i>Cayratia japonica</i>	W							2
Oriental bittersweet (vine)	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	W,O	2	W					
Canada thistle (forb)	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>			2		2		W	
bull thistle (forb)	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>					W		W	
water yam (vine)	<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	W,O		W			W		
air yam (vine)	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	W,O		W			W		
Japanese privet (shrub)	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	W,O	2	W		W	W		
Morrow's honeysuckle (shrub)	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	W,O	W	W		W			
Beale's barberry * (shrub)	<i>Mahonia bealei</i>	2,O	W	W	C,W				
nandina, sacred bamboo* (shrub)	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	W,O	W	2			W		
Japanese knotweed (shrub)	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>		W	W		W			
Macartney rose (shrub)	<i>Rosa bracteata</i>	W	W	W				2	
Cherokee rose (shrub)	<i>Rosa laevigata</i>	W	W	W		W			
Watch list B: Planted in Alabama and invasive in adjacent states									
Chinese silvergrass, silverplume grass* (grass)	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	O	W	W					
wetland nightshade, scrambling nightshade (shrub)	<i>Solanum tampicense</i>			W			W		
Bold indicates Alabama's Worst 10, * Invasiveness may vary by subspecies and variety									