GREEN GONE BAD

FEATURED ORNAMENTAL PLANT: Nandina domestica (Sacred or Heavenly Bamboo)

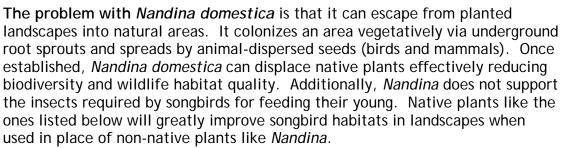
Some exotic ornamental plants behave badly when they escape from the place they are planted. Infestations of these plants have negative impacts on nature. One of these plants is *Nandina domestica*; common name: sacred bamboo.

Nandina domestica is a small erect evergreen shrub in the barberry family (Berberidaceae). The native range of Nandina domestica is Eastern Asia and India and was first introduced into North America in 1804. It has been planted widely as an ornamental and often escapes from old plantings in the southeastern U.S. Infestations often occur within natural areas around historic home sites and near urban areas.



Nandina domestica grows up to 8 feet tall with numerous bushy stems. The overlapping sheaths of the leafstalks on the main stem give the appearance of cane or bamboo. Green or reddish leaves are alternately whorled, glossy and bipinnately compound. Nandina produces dense panicles of whitish flowers in spring or summer. Bright red berries appear in late fall and may last through

winter. It is usually found under forest canopies and at forest edges once escaped. Cultivars now exist that do not produce seed in a nursery environment.











It may not be widely known among horticulturalists and landscapers that this plant can be harmful to natural habitats. Please consider removing this species from your inventory. There are many native shrubs that can be sold and planted in its place. These include the evergreens Morella cerifera (wax myrtle), Ilex vomitoria (yaupon holly), Ilex glabra (inkberry), Ilex opaca (American holly), Baccharis halimifolia (groundseltree), Osmanthus americanus (wild olive or devilwood), Kalmia latifolia (mountain laurel), or Leucothoe fontanesiana (highland doghobble). Another option is Xanthorhiza simplicissima (Yellowroot), a deciduous or semi-evergreen native shrub with leaves similar to Nandina that behaves as a low-maintenance spreading groundcover.

Please visit http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3057 for more information.

