

SC-EPPC Invasive Plant Pest Species List 2011



The Invasive Plant Pest Species of South Carolina list was revised this year for the third time since 2004 when it was initiated by Dr. Larry Nelson of Clemson University and developed by the List Committee of the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council. The title has been changed to the SC-EPPC Terrestrial Exotic Invasive Plant Species List to be consistent with the mission of SC-EPPC. The list has always included terrestrial species found in natural habitats but many of the listed plants are found in wetlands and standing water. Aquatic nuisance species (free-floating and submersed species) are not included because the Aquatic Invasive Species Taskforce, supported by the SC Department of Natural Resources (<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/invasiveweeds/ais.htm>), addresses aquatic invasive pest plants.

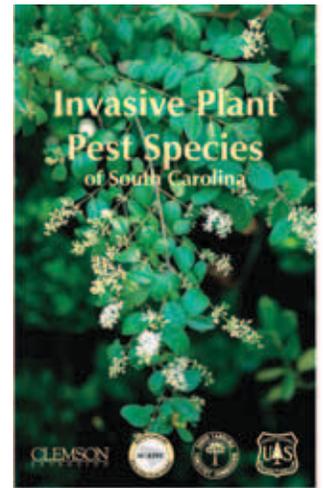
The review process for the 2011 list revision was similar to 2004 and 2008 with the additional step of using standardized ranking criteria. Development included reviews by professional and amateur botanists, ecologists, and resource managers. All comments were considered and a consensus approach was used. The SC-EPPC List Committee distributed the proposed list to 38 professional and amateur botanists, ecologists, biologists, agronomists, invasive species specialists, foresters, resource managers, horticulturalists, and vegetation managers representing the three major eco-regions of South Carolina (Mountains, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain) and asked them to recommend additions, deletions or changes to current species ranking. The committee compiled comments from the reviewers and established initial ranks for each species. Ranking criteria was adopted and developed using criteria from Tennessee (also used in other states including Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, and Virginia, as well as NatureServe.org) and each plant was evaluated and ranked. Criteria are objective, based on the invasive plants' effect on South Carolina's native plant communities, and on their distribution as documented in the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) at www.eddmaps.org and in the S.C. Plant Atlas (<http://cricket.biol.sc.edu/acmoore/scplantatlas.html>) maintained by the University of South Carolina's A.C. Moore Herbarium and SC Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Trust Program. Professionals in adjacent states were consulted for species lacking information within South Carolina.

A new "Alert" category was added which replaces the former "Watch A" and "Watch B" categories. These are species for which more information is needed to determine their invasiveness in the state. Some may not yet occur in South Carolina but are found in nearby states. They have invasive characteristics such as rapid growth and high fruit/seed production and are known to be invasive in similar habitats to those found in South Carolina or are listed as a severe threat in adjacent states or pose substantial management difficulties where they occur. This category was added to help prevent new invasive plant introductions and to

assist in early detection and rapid response efforts. An "Emerging Threat" category was added to classify species established in South Carolina and known to be infesting natural areas, but for which management information is lacking; or for widespread species that may be managed without great difficulties. For consistency, nomenclature was taken from the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) (<http://www.itis.gov/>) which is also used by Southeast EPPC and EDDMapS. For several recently changed scientific names, older names were retained in parentheses for ease of recognition.

The updated draft list was re-distributed to the same 38 reviewers for additional comments. The 2011 list was finalized in June 2011. For more information on the plant list and its development, visit the SC-EPPC home page at www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/ and click on Invasive Plants. A PDF file of the brochure is available and printed copies will be available soon.

The SC-EPPC List Committee included Sudie Daves Thomas, Wildlife Biologist, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Lisa Lord, Land Stewardship Specialist, The Nature Conservancy; Bert Pittman, Botanist, SC Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program; Allan Bridgman, Natural Resource Technician, SC Department of Natural Resources; and Kari Whitley, Scout Horticulture Consulting.



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