

South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council (SC-EPPC)

Criteria for Evaluating Plant Species for Invasiveness in South Carolina (adopted from Tennessee Invasive Plant Council list criteria -December 2009)

Criteria that must be met for plants to fall into the following categories:
Severe Threat, Significant Threat, Emerging Threat, Alert.

Invasiveness category	Criteria that must be met for each invasive category
Base criteria	1-4
Severe threat	5 or 6
Significant threat	All plants within this category must meet criteria 7 and criteria 8 or 9
Emerging Threat	10-11
Alert	12 or 13 or 14 or 15

Base Criteria:

- 1) The plant species or sub-species or variety is established outside of cultivation and is non-native to some portion of the region of North America within which it occurs.
- 2) The species has the potential for rapid growth, high seed or propagule production and dispersal, and establishment in natural communities of North America or in managed areas where it is not desired or the species persists in free living infestations (outside of cultivation) within South Carolina.
- 3) The species occurs in the state of South Carolina.
- 4) The species is known to out-compete other species in native plant communities within the state of South Carolina.

Severe Threat:

- 5) The species meets criteria 1-2 and is listed as a noxious weed in South Carolina or by the federal government and has not been eradicated from known locations in SC. Or 6). The species meets criteria 1-4 and occurs in at least 13 counties (ca. 30% of South Carolina counties), presents substantial management difficulties (For example, *Lespedeza cuneata* at a high density and narrow distribution poses less of a threat to native populations and is easier to manage than *Lespedeza cuneata* at lower density dispersed over large areas and growing among off target native species, potentially affected by herbicide use while *Microstegium vimineum* occurs in dense populations creates substantial seed banks that are unmanageable over the short-term and require long-term efforts).

Significant Threat:

7) The species meets criteria 1-4 and meets either 8 or 9 below.

And 8) The species occurs within at least 13 counties in South Carolina and management does not present substantial difficulties.

Or 9) The species occurs in 4 to 12 counties within South Carolina and presents substantial management difficulties.

Emerging Threat:

10) The species meets criteria 1 through 4.

And 11) The species occurs in 4 to 12 counties within South Carolina and does not present substantial management difficulties.

Alert (comments):

12) The species meets criteria 1 through 2 and shows invasiveness in similar habitats to those found in South Carolina.

Or 13) 1 through 3 and shows invasiveness in similar habitats to those found in South Carolina.

Or 14) The species meets criteria 1-4, occurs in fewer than 4 counties and is considered a severe threat in adjacent states or poses substantial management difficulties.

Or 15) The species meets criteria 1 and 2, but has been eradicated from known locations in SC; monitoring ongoing at known locations.