

# Grows Just About Anywhere!

by Karan Rawlins, Dave Moorhead, and Chuck Bargeron

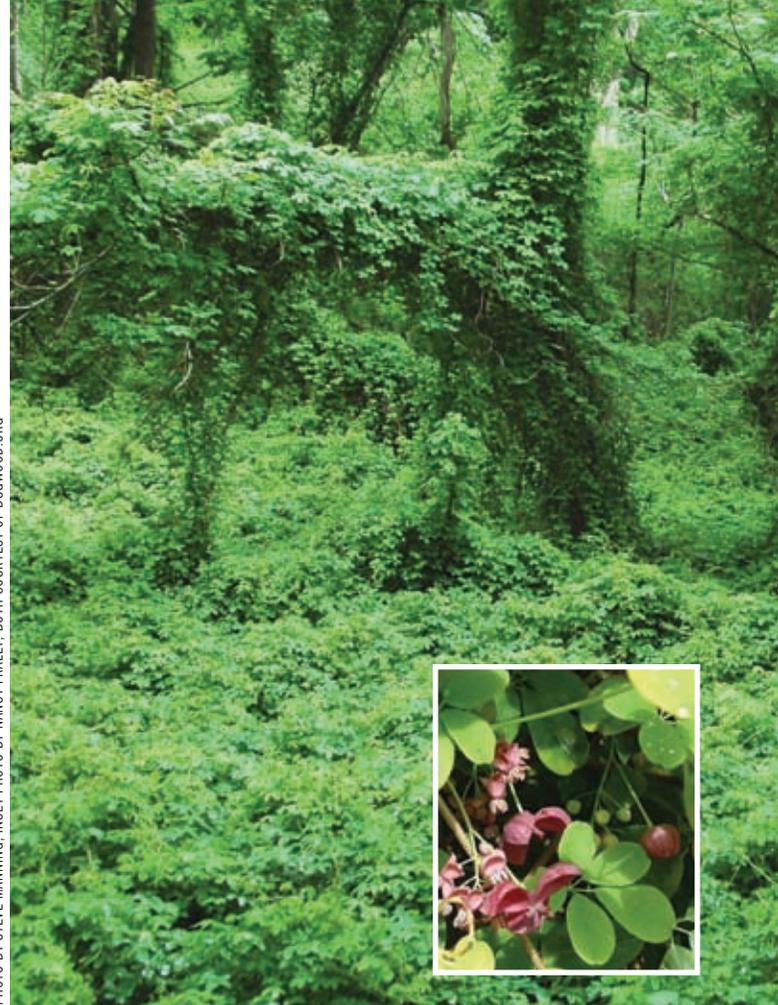
The University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health (Bugwood.org) has recently received emails regarding plant nurseries advertising, through catalogs and online, several species of invasive plants in their list of spring sale products. Here are the results from a quick, unofficial survey of three online nurseries highlighting the number of invasives offered for sale. The name of the plant is followed by the number of sources which list the plant as invasive. Invasive listing sources include, but are not limited to, various state Exotic Pest Plant Councils, State Departments of Natural Resources, Universities, and WeedUS – Database of Plants Invading Natural Areas in the United States. These groups track invasive species found in natural areas.

- Chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*), cited as invasive by 11 sources.
- Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), cited as invasive by 27 sources and listed as a noxious weed in at least four states.
- Rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*), on 10 lists as invasive and listed as a noxious weed in at least one state.
- Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), found on 19 lists as an invasive plant and listed as a noxious weed in one or more states.
- Common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*); in the advertisement, the nursery claims it “Grows just about anywhere!” Well, it seems this claim is true because periwinkle is on 24 lists across the United States as a significant or severe invasive threat.
- Non-native wisterias (*Wisteria* spp.) are on 23 lists as invasive plants and are listed as significant or severe threats.
- Non-native clematis species such as sweet autumn virginsbower (*Clematis* spp.) are on 16 different lists and are listed as a significant threat.
- Non-native privets (*Ligustrum* spp.) are listed as invasive in 19 sources and as a Category 1 or severe threat in several states.

This is a great time of year to make responsible choices when purchasing new plants and seeds for garden and landscaping needs. To a large degree the invasive plants in our natural areas originated in our own backyards. One of the simplest and most important things each of us can do is to be aware of the invasive species problem and avoid adding to it. State Exotic Pest Plant Councils or Invasive Species Councils maintain invasive species lists. Links to state councils can be found at the National Exotic Pest Plant Council website: [www.naeppc.org](http://www.naeppc.org).

Also remember that some non-native plants are illegal to sell, move, plant or propagate. You can visit the National Plant Board

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Chocolate vine (*Akebia quinata*), cited as invasive by 11 sources.

([www.nationalplantboard.org](http://www.nationalplantboard.org)), a non-profit organization of the plant pest regulatory agencies of each of the 50 states, for listings and regulations to minimize the spread of harmful insects, diseases, and other pests (including plants) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine Program (USDA APHIS PPQ). Federal & State Quarantine Summaries provide information to nursery growers, brokers, buyers and others engaged in buying, selling, and interstate transport of nursery and greenhouse plant crops. These regulations are periodically updated and can result in restriction of shipment of listed plants to a state. Georgia recently amended their list to specifically prohibit the sale or distribution of varieties of *Imperata cylindrica* (e.g. ‘Japanese Bloodgrass’, ‘Red Baron’). This listing was recently effective in preventing shipment of Red Baron to Georgia.

Learn about invasives in your state and, most importantly, talk to your neighbors and area gardeners and encourage them to use non-invasive plants. Your local Extension Service Agent, or your state's Department of Natural Resources or Forestry Service has information on invasive plants in your area. Information and links to many sites on invasive species can also be found at [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org) at the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health at the University of Georgia.

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Karan Rawlins, Dave Moorhead and Chuck Bargeron, University of Georgia, Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health, [krawlins@uga.edu](mailto:krawlins@uga.edu); [moorhead@uga.edu](mailto:moorhead@uga.edu); [cbarger@uga.edu](mailto:cbarger@uga.edu)