Invaders are out there!

Most everyone knows about Kudzu, or at least has heard of it. But, are you aware of other invasive species in North Carolina? Several agencies and organizations have lists of what they consider a problem. Here are a few of the better known lists:

North Carolina Noxious Weed List:
(Class A, Class B, and Class C noxious weeds)
http://www.agr.state.nc.us/plantind/plant/weed
/noxweed.htm

Invasive Exotic Plants in NC:
(Ranks plants as “severe threat”, “significant threat”, “lesser threat”, and two “watch” lists.)
http://www.ncwildflower.org/invasives/
invasives.htm

National Wildlife Federation:
http://www.enature.com/native_invasive/
invasives_top.asp

The Nature Conservancy:
http://www.nature.org/wherewework/
northamerica/states/northcarolina/initiatives/

The lists are NOT all the same, nor do they apply to the entire state. The plants and animals make the lists because they spread rapidly or are a threat to native species and habitat. Some of the plants listed below have been and still are carried by local nurseries. Their presence on the list indicates that under the proper conditions, they can become a problem…. if not an outright nuisance!

Ailanthus - Ailanthus altissima

Alligator Weed - Alternanthera philoxeroides

Asian Clam - Corbicula fluminea

Autumn Olive - Elaeagnus umbellata

Beach Vitex - Vitex rotundifolia

Bradford Pear - Pyrus calleryana Decne.

Camphor-tree - Cinnamomum camphora

Chinese Privet - Ligustrum sinense

Common Reed - Phragmites australis

English Ivy - Hedera helix

Fire Ant - Solenopsis invicta buren

Giant Reed - Arundo donax

Giant Salvinia - Salvinia molesta

Grass Carp - Ctenopharyngodon idella

Gypsy Moth - Lymantria dispar

Hydrilla - Hydrilla verticillata

Japanese Honeysuckle - Lonicera japonica

Japanese Privet - Ligustrum japonicum

Japanese Stiltgrass - Microstegium viminieum

Johnsongrass - Sorghum halepense

Kudzu - Pueraria montana var. lobata

Multiflora Rose - Rosa multiflora

Nutria - Myocastor coypus

Oriental Bittersweet - Celastrus orbiculatus

Purple Loosestrife - Lythrum salicaria

Russian olive - Elaeagnus angustifolia L.

Water Hyacinth - Eichhornia crassipes

Winged Burningbush - Euonymus alata

Wisteria - Wisteria sinensis
Help stop the spread of invasives!

Six things you can do to help stop the spread of invasives:

1. Go native! Verify that the plants you buy for your yard or garden are not invasive for your location. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. You can ask your local NCCES agents and Master Gardeners for help in identifying invasive plants.

2. When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water.

3. Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or other exotic animals into the wild.

4. Don't “pack a pest” when traveling. Fruits, vegetables, and plants can carry pests or become invasive themselves.

5. Clean your boots before you hike in a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds.

6. Volunteer at your local park, wildlife area, or waterways to help remove invasive species. Help educate others about the threat.

Suggested alternative vines:

Native vines that are good replacements for English ivy include:
- Trumpet creeper (Campsis radicans),
- Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia),
- Passionflower vine (Passiflora lutea),
- Dutchman's pipe (Aristolochia macrophylla),
- Native wisteria (Wisteria frutescens).

Pond Management workshop:

When: May 4th, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Where: Brunswick CES office
What: Water quality management of ponds for municipalities, golf courses, farms, and residential subdivisions.
Contact: David Barkley (910-253-2610)
There is a $15 fee (incl. lunch) and pesticide credits will be offered.

Sincerely,

Diana M.C. Rashash, PhD
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