

Invasive Plants Of Tennessee

December 2009 (2nd Edition)

The purpose of this list is to identify introduced plant species that are invasive or may become invasive and cause damage to native plant communities. Introduced species are plants not native to a region of the state and are referred to as exotics. The intent of this list is to:

- rank exotics based on their invasive characteristics;
- foster early detection of invasive exotics enabling resource managers to implement a rapid response action to prevent establishment and spread;
- educate the general public and resource managers in an effort to eliminate the use of invasive exotics in landscaping, restoration, and enhancement projects.

This list has no regulatory authority but provides useful information to help guide agencies and private landowners in making responsible decisions about plant use and management decisions. The Council acknowledges that most introduced species are harmless. However, it also realizes that many species do naturalize and have the potential to spread and become ecological disasters.

Nomenclature and authorship are taken from the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS): <http://www.itis.gov/index.html>

Protocols and Criteria for Listing:

TN-EPPC drafted a protocol for list development to evaluate plant species recommended for listing based on field observations by botanists, land managers, and others working with the state's natural resources. Each plant was put through standardized ranking criteria to determine its inclusion and rank.

Rank Definitions:

Severe Threat - possess invasive characteristics; spread easily in native plant communities and displace native vegetation

Significant Threat - possess invasive characteristics; not presently considered to spread as easily into native plant communities as Severe Threat

Lesser Threat - spread in or near disturbed areas; not presently considered a threat to native plant communities

Alert: - possess invasive characteristics; known to be invasive in similar habitats as those found in Tennessee

Rank	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type
Severe Threat	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (Mill.) Swingle	Tree of Heaven	Tree
Severe Threat	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> Durazz.	Mimosa	Tree
Severe Threat	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R. Br. ex DC.	Sessile Joyweed	Forb/Herb
Severe Threat	<i>Bromus tectorum</i> L.	Cheat Grass	Grass
Severe Threat	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> Thunb.	Asian Bittersweet	Vine
Severe Threat	<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i> L.	Chinese Yam	Vine
Severe Threat	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> var. <i>parviflora</i> (Wall. ex Royle) C.K.Schneid.	Autumn Olive	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> (L.f.) Royle	Hydrilla	Aquatic

Rank	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type
Severe Threat	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> L.	Goatweed	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (L.) Beauv.	Cogongrass	Grass
Severe Threat	<i>Kummerowia stipulacea</i> (Maxim.) Makino	Korean Clover	Forb/Herb
Severe Threat	<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i> Turcz.	Bicolor Lespedeza	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> (Dum.-Cours) G. Don	Chinese Lespedeza	Forb/Herb
Severe Threat	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> Lour.	Chinese Privet	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> L.	Common Privet	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> Thunb.	Japanese Honeysuckle	Vine
Severe Threat	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L.	Purple Loosestrife	Forb/Herb
Severe Threat	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Trin.) A. Camus	Japanese Stiltgrass	Grass
Severe Threat	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> (Thunb.) Sieb. & Zucc. ex Steud.	Princess Tree	Tree
Severe Threat	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> Seib. & Zucc.	Japanese Knotweed	Forb/Herb
Severe Threat	<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> (Willd.) Maesen & S. Almeida	Kudzu	Vine
Severe Threat	<i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb. ex Murr.	Multiflora Rose	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) W.D. Clayton	Itchgrass	Grass
Severe Threat	<i>Salvinia molesta</i> Mitchell	Aquarium Water-moss	Aquatic
Severe Threat	<i>Solanum viarum</i> Dunal	Tropical Soda Apple	Shrub
Severe Threat	<i>Sorghum halepense</i> (L.) Pers.	Johnson Grass	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande	Garlic Mustard	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Allium vineale</i> L.	Field Garlic	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> (Mart.) Griseb.	Alligatorweed	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i> (Thunb.) Makino	Hairy Jointgrass	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Arundo donax</i> L.	Giant Reed	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> DC.	Japanese Barberry	Shrub
Significant Threat	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i> (L.) L'Her. ex Vent.	Paper Mulberry	Tree
Significant Threat	<i>Carduus nutans</i> L.	Nodding Thistle	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i> DC.	Spotted Knapweed	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Savi) Ten.	Bull Thistle	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> Thunb.	Thorny Olive	Shrub
Significant Threat	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i> (Schrad.) Nees	Weeping Love Grass	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> L.	Gill-over-the-ground	Vine
Significant Threat	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> L.	Yellow Flag Iris	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i> (Schreb.) S.J. Darbyshire	Tall Fescue	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (Rup.) Herder.	Amur Bush Honeysuckle	Shrub
Significant Threat	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> L.	Creeping Jenny	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Maclura pomifera</i> (Raf.) Schneid.	Osage Orange	Tree

Rank	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type
Significant Threat	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	Chinaberry	Tree
Significant Threat	<i>Mentha x piperita</i> L.	Peppermint	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> Anderss.	Chinese Silver Grass	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Murdannia keisak</i> (Hassk.) Hand.-Maz.	Asian spiderwort	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> (Vell.) Verdc.	Parrot Feather	Aquatic
Significant Threat	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> L.	Eurasian Water-milfoil	Aquatic
Significant Threat	<i>Polygonum caespitosum</i> var. <i>longisetum</i> (deBruyn) A.N.Steward	Bristly Lady's Thumb	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i> L.	Spotted Lady's Thumb	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Populus alba</i> L.	White Poplar	Tree
Significant Threat	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i> L.	Curly Pondweed	Aquatic
Significant Threat	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> (L.) Hayek	Watercress	Aquatic
Significant Threat	<i>Setaria faberi</i> R.A.W. Herrm.	Nodding Foxtail-grass	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Setaria italica</i> (L.) P. Beauv.	Foxtail-millet	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Setaria viridis</i> (L.) P. Beauv	Green Foxtail	Grass
Significant Threat	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> L.f.	Japanese Spiraea	Shrub
Significant Threat	<i>Tussilago farfara</i> L.	Coltsfoot	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> L.	Common Mullein	Forb/Herb
Significant Threat	<i>Vinca major</i> L.	Greater Periwinkle	Vine
Significant Threat	<i>Vinca minor</i> L.	Common Periwinkle	Vine
Lesser Threat	<i>Bromus secalinus</i> L.	Rye Brome	Grass
Lesser Threat	<i>Bromus sterilis</i> L.	Poverty Brome	Grass
Lesser Threat	<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i> (L.) I.M. Johnston	Corn Gromwell	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i> L.	Hound's-ear	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	Balloonvine	Vine
Lesser Threat	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i> L.	Bachelor's Button	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	Chicory	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Clematis terniflora</i> DC.	Sweet Autumn Clematis	Vine
Lesser Threat	<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	Poison Hemlock	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> L.	Fuller's Teasel	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Egeria densa</i> Planch.	Brazilian Elodea	Aquatic
Lesser Threat	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> (Thunb.) Sieb.	Burning Bush	Shrub
Lesser Threat	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> (Turcz.) Hand.-Mazz.	Winter Creeper	Vine
Lesser Threat	<i>Hedera helix</i> L.	English Ivy	Vine
Lesser Threat	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> L.	Rose of Sharon	Shrub
Lesser Threat	<i>Mentha spicata</i> L.	Spearmint	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Muscari neglectum</i> Guss. ex Ten.	Grape Hyacinth	Forb/Herb

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Lesser Threat	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> L.	Star of Bethlehem	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> L.	Wild Parsnip	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> L.	St. Anthony's Turnip	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> Maxim.	Wineberry	Shrub
Lesser Threat	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i> Scop.	Yellow Goat's-beard	Forb/Herb
Lesser Threat	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> (Willd.) DC.	Japanese Wisteria	Vine
Alert	<i>Achyranthes japonica</i> var. <i>hachijoensis</i>	Japanese Chaff Flower	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Acroptilon repens</i> (L.) DC.	Russian Knapweed	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> L.	Creeping Bentgrass	Grass
Alert	<i>Bromus japonicus</i> Thunb. ex Murr.	Japanese Bromegrass	Grass
Alert	<i>Buddleja davidii</i> Franch.	Butterfly Bush	Shrub
Alert	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> L.	Plumeless Thistle	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.	Canada Thistle	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Coronilla varia</i> L.	Crown Vetch	Vine
Alert	<i>Daucus carota</i> L.	Queen Anne's Lace	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> L.	Air-potato	Vine
Alert	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> (Mart.) Solms	Water Hyacinth	Aquatic
Alert	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L.	Russian Olive	Tree
Alert	<i>Firmiana simplex</i> (L.) W. Wight	Chinese Parasol tree	Tree
Alert	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> Foug.	Firewheel	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i> DC.	Texas Blueweed	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> L.	Dame's Rocket	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Ilex crenata</i> Thunb.	Japanese Holly	Shrub
Alert	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> Laxm.	Goldenrain Tree	Tree
Alert	<i>Kummerowia striata</i> (Thunb.) Schindl.	Japanese Clover	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Lepidium campestre</i> (L.) Ait. F.	Field Pepperweed	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> Lam.	Ox-eye Daisy	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> Thunb.	Japanese Privet	Shrub
Alert	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> Sieb. & Zucc.	Border Privet	Shrub
Alert	<i>Lonicera x bella</i> Zabel	Bell's Honeysuckle	Shrub
Alert	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> Lindl. & Paxton	January Jasmine	Shrub
Alert	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> Gray	Morrow's Bush Honeysuckle	Shrub
Alert	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> L.	Tartarian Honeysuckle	Shrub
Alert	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> L.	Birdfoot Trefoil	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i> (Camb.) Hara	Uruguay Waterprimrose	Aquatic
Alert	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i> (Thunb. ex Murr.) Swartz	Japanese Climbing Fern	Forb/Herb

Rank	Scientific Name	Common Name	Type
Alert	<i>Mahonia bealei</i> (Fortune) Carr.	Leatherleaf Mahonia	Shrub
Alert	<i>Melilotus alba</i> Medikus	White Sweet Clover	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> (L.) Lam	Yellow Sweet Clover	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i> L.	True Forget-me-not	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Najas minor</i> All.	Water Nymph	Aquatic
Alert	<i>Nandina domestica</i> Thunb.	Sacred Bamboo	Shrub
Alert	<i>Phalaris canariensis</i> L.	Annual Canary Grass	Grass
Alert	<i>Phragmites australis</i> (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.	Common Reed	Grass
Alert	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> L.	Mile-a-minute Weed	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> Dcne.	Bradford Pear	Tree
Alert	<i>Rubus bifrons</i> Vest ex Tratt	Himalayan Berry	Shrub
Alert	<i>Salsola tragus</i> L.	Prickly Russian Thistle	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i> (L.) H.S. Irwin & Barneby	Sicklepod Senna	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Setaria pumila</i> (Poir.) Roem. & Schult.	Yellow Foxtail	Grass
Alert	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i> L.	Perennial Sowthistle	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Trapa natans</i> L.	Water Chestnut	Aquatic
Alert	<i>Triadica sebifera</i> (L.) Small	Chinese Tallowtree	Tree
Alert	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Puncturevine	Forb/Herb
Alert	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> (Sims) DC.	Chinese Wisteria	Vine