

INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES: IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL

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Abstract

A biological invasion of non-native plants is spreading into our nations' fields, pastures, forests, wetlands and waterways, natural areas, and rights-of-way. Various referred to as exotic, non-native, alien, noxious, or non-indigenous weeds, invasive plants impact native plant and animal communities by displacing native vegetation and disrupting habitats as they become established and spread over time.

Drawing on recent publications by the USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-APHIS-PPQ and the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, this web site covers identification characteristics, distribution, and control options for 97 tree, shrub, vine, grass, fern, forb, and aquatic plant species that are invading the eastern United States. For each species, a menu of control options is presented, including mechanical treatments, specific herbicide prescriptions, and, for selected species, recent advances in biological control. Also included on the CD are 486 digital images taken by 81 photographers that are available in digital form in multiple file formats and can be off-loaded and used for educational purposes at no cost to the user.

While this is not an official list of "invasive" plants throughout the eastern United States, it includes Federal Noxious Weeds and those listed by State regulatory agencies, pest plant councils and other organizations. Some of the plants on this list are often found in ornamental plantings and landscapes. In fact, many non-native plants introduced for horticultural and

agricultural use now pose a serious ecological threat in the absence of their natural predators and control agents. This publication will aid landowners, foresters, resource managers, and the general public in becoming familiar with invasive plants in their area to help protect our environment from the economic and ecological impacts of these biological pollutants.

Copies of this free CD-ROM can be ordered from www.invasive.org.

Citations

- Miller, J.H. 2003. **Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: A Field Guide for Identification and Control**. USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station.
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- Swearingen, K. Reshetiloff, B. Slattery and S.M. Zwicker. 2002. **Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas**. National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Anonymous. 2003. **Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant Manual-SE-EPPC**.
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