

NC Invasive Plants List adopted by NC-IPC, November 16, 2023

This list has been compiled with input from representatives of the NC Natural Heritage Program, USDA Forest Service, NC Botanical Garden, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Piedmont Land Conservancy, NC Native Plant Society, NC Invasive Plant Council, and other groups & individuals.

FNWL = on Federal Noxious Weed List NCNWL = North Carolina Noxious Weed List

Rank 1 – Severe Threat: Exotic plant species that have invasive characteristics and spread readily into NC native plant communities, displacing native vegetation.

Scientific Name

Ailanthus altissima
Albizia julibrissin
Alliaria petiolata
Alternanthera philoxeroides
Ampelopsis glandulosa
 [= *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*]
Celastrus orbiculatus
Dioscorea polystachya [= *Dioscorea oppositifolia*]
Elaeagnus umbellata
Ficaria verna [= *Ranunculus ficaria*]
Hedera helix
Humulus scandens [= *Humulus japonicus*]
Hydrilla verticillata
Lespedeza bicolor
Lespedeza cuneata
Ligustrum japonicum & cultivars
Ligustrum lucidum & cultivars
Ligustrum sinense & cultivars
Lonicera japonica
Microstegium vimineum
Miscanthus sinensis
Murdannia keisak
Myriophyllum aquaticum
Paulownia tomentosa
Persicaria perfoliata
Phragmites australis
Pueraria montana var. *lobata*
Pyrus calleryana
Reynoutria japonica var. *japonica*
 [= *Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Fallopia japonica*]
Reynoutria sachalinensis
 [= *Fallopia sachalinensis*, *Polygonum sachalinense*]
Reynoutria x bohemica
 [= *Reynoutria japonica* x *sachalinensis*]
Rosa multiflora
Salvinia molesta
Spiraea japonica
Vitex rotundifolia
Wisteria floribunda
Wisteria sinensis

Common Name

Tree-of-heaven, Copal Tree
Mimosa, Silktree
Garlic Mustard, Hedge Garlic
Alligator-weed
Porcelain-berry, Amur Peppervine

Oriental Bittersweet [NCNWL]
Chinese Yam, Cinnamon Vine
Autumn Olive, Oriental Silverleaf
Lesser Celandine, Fig Buttercup
English Ivy, Common Ivy
Japanese Hops
Hydrilla [FNWL]
Bicolor Lespedeza, Shrubby Lespedeza
Sericea Lespedeza, Chinese Lespedeza
Japanese Privet
Glossy Privet
Chinese Privet, "Privy Hedge"
Japanese Honeysuckle
Japanese Stilt-grass
Chinese Silver Grass, Eulalia
Mud-annie, Marsh Dewflower
Parrot-feather
Princess Tree, Empress Tree
Mile-a-minute-vine [NCNWL]
Common Reed, Old World Reed
Kudzu
Bradford Pear, Callery Pear
Japanese Knotweed, Japanese Bamboo
Giant Knotweed, Sachaline
Bohemian Knotweed, Hybrid Japanese Knotweed
Multiflora Rose
Giant Salvinia, Kariba Weed [FNWL, NCNWL]
Japanese Spiraea
Beach Vitex, Roundleaf Chaste-tree [NCNWL]
Japanese Wisteria
Chinese Wisteria

Wisteria x formosa [= *W. floribunda* x *sinensis*]
Youngia japonica

Hybrid Asian Wisteria
Asiatic Hawk's-beard, *Youngia*

Rank 2 – Significant Threat: Exotic plant species that display some invasive characteristics, but do not appear to present as great a threat to native communities in NC as the species listed in Rank 1.

Scientific Name

Akebia quinata
Allium vineale
Arthraxon hispidus
Arum italicum
Berberis thunbergii
Broussonetia papyrifera
Buddleja davidii [= *Buddleia davidii*]
Causonis japonica [= *Cayratia japonica*]
Centaurea stoebe ssp. *micranthos*
[= *Centaurea biebersteinii*, *C. maculosa*]
Cirsium arvense
Citrus trifoliata [= *Poncirus trifoliata*]
Clematis terniflora [= *Clematis dioscoreifolia*]
Corydalis incisa
Cytisus scoparius
Egeria densa
Elaeagnus angustifolia
Elaeagnus pungens
Euonymus alatus
Euonymus fortunei
Glechoma hederacea
Imperata cylindrica + varieties
Iris pseudacorus
Ligustrum vulgare & cultivars
Lonicera fragrantissima
Lonicera maackii
Lonicera morrowii
Lonicera standishii
Lonicera x bella [*Lonicera morrowii* x *tatarica*]
Lygodium japonicum
Lysimachia nummularia
Lythrum salicaria
Mahonia bealei
Morus alba
Myriophyllum spicatum
Nandina domestica
Oshuna crassipes [= *Eichhornia crassipes*]
Perilla frutescens
Persicaria longiseta [= *Polygonum caespitosum*]
Persicaria maculosa [= *Polygonum persicaria*]
Phyllostachys aurea
Rosa luciae [= *Rosa wichuraiana*]
Rubus phoenicolasius
Solanum viarum

Common Name

Five-leaf Akebia, Chocolate-vine
Field Garlic, Onion-grass
Basket Grass, Hairy Jointgrass
Italian Arum, Lords-and-ladies
Japanese Barberry
Paper Mulberry
Summer-lilac, Orange-eye Butterfly-bush
Bushkiller, Sorrel Vine [NCNWL]
Spotted Knapweed, Bushy Knapweed
Canada Thistle [NCNWL]
Hardy Orange, Trifoliolate Orange
Sweet Autumn Clematis
Purple Keman
Scotch Broom
Brazilian Elodea, Brazilian Waterweed
Russian Olive, Oleaster
Thorny-olive, Autumn Silverberry
Burning Bush, Winged Euonymus
Wintercreeper, Chinese Spindle-tree
Gill-over-the-ground, Ground-ivy
Cogongrass, Japanese Blood Grass [FNWL]
Water Flag, Yellow Flag
Common Privet
Sweet-breath-of-spring, Fragrant Honeysuckle
Amur Honeysuckle
Morrow's Honeysuckle
Standish's Honeysuckle
Pretty Honeysuckle
Japanese Climbing Fern
Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie
Purple Loosestrife [NCNWL]
Leatherleaf Mahonia, Chinese Mahonia
White Mulberry
Eurasian Water-milfoil [NCNWL]
Nandina, Sacred-bamboo
Water Hyacinth
Perilla, Beefsteak-plant
Longbristle Smartweed
Lady's-thumb, Heart's-ease
Golden Bamboo, Fishpole Bamboo
Memorial Rose
Wineberry, Wine Raspberry
Tropical Soda Apple [FNWL]

Sorghum halapense
Stellaria media
Triadica sebifera
Tussilago farfara
Ulmus parviflora
Verbascum phlomoides
Viburnum dilatatum
Vinca major
Vinca minor

Johnson Grass
Common Chickweed
Chinese Tallow-tree, Popcorn Tree
Coltsfoot
Chinese Elm
Clasping Mullein, Orange Mullein
Linden Arrow-wood
Greater Periwinkle
Common Periwinkle, Myrtle

Rank 3 – Lesser Threat: Exotic plant species that spread into or around disturbed areas and are presently considered a low threat to native plant communities in NC.

Scientific Name

Agrostis gigantea
Ajuga reptans
Anthoxanthum odoratum
Artemisia vulgaris
Arundo donax
Bromus catharticus var. *catharticus*
Bromus commutatus
Bromus japonicus
Bromus secalinus
Bromus tectorum
Cardiospermum haliacacabum
Cichorium intybus
Cirsium vulgare
Conium maculatum
Cynodon dactylon
Daucus carota
Dipsacus fullonum
Emblica urinaria [= *Phyllanthus urinaria*]
Eremochloa ophiuriodes
Fatoua villosa
Firmiana simplex
Helleborus species
Hibiscus syriacus
Holcus lanatus
Ilex cornuta + varieties
Kummerowia stipulacea
Kummerowia striata
Lamium purpureum
Leucanthemum vulgare
 [= *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*]
Liriope muscari
Lolium pratense [= *Festuca pratensis*]
Ludwigia hexapetala
 [= *Ludwigia grandiflora* ssp. *hexapetala*, *Ludwigia uruguayensis*]
Melia azedarach
Melilotus albus
Melilotus officinalis
Mosla dianthera
Najas minor

Common Name

Redtop, Black Bentgrass
Carpet Bugle, Bugleweed
Sweet Vernal Grass
Common Mugwort, Wormwood
Giant Reed
Rescue Grass, Bromegrass
Meadow Brome, Hairy Chess
Japanese Brome, Japanese Chess
Cheat, Common Chess, Rye-brome
Cheatgrass, Downy Brome, Downy Chess
Balloon Vine, Heartseed
Chickory, Succory
Bull Thistle
Poison-hemlock
Bermuda Grass, Scutch Grass
Queen-Anne's-lace, Wild Carrot
Wild Teasel, Fuller's Teasel
Chamber-bitter, Gripeweed
Centipede Grass
Mulberry-weed, Crabweed
Chinese Parasol-tree
Hellebore, Lenten-rose, Christmas-rose
Rose-of-Sharon, Althaea
Common Velvet Grass
Chinese Holly, Burford Holly
Korean Lespedeza, Korean-clover
Japanese-clover, Common Lespedeza
Purple Archangel, Purple Dead-nettle
Oxeye Daisy, White Daisy
Liriope, Big Blue Lilyturf
Meadow Fescue
Common Water-primrose [NCNWL]
Chinaberry, Pride-of-India
White Melilot, White Sweetclover
Yellow Melilot, Yellow Sweetclover
Minature Beefsteakplant, Mosla
Spinyleaf Naiad, Brittle Naiad

<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Yellow Floating Heart [NCNWL]
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem, Nap-at-noon
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Dallis Grass
<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Bahia Grass
<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	Vasey Grass
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Flat-stemmed Bluegrass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Bluegrass
<i>Populus alba</i>	Silver Poplar, White Poplar
<i>Potentilla indica</i> [= <i>Duchesnea indica</i>]	Wolf Strawberry, Indian Strawberry
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn, European Buckthorn
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Jetbead
<i>Securigera varia</i> [= <i>Coronilla varia</i>]	Crown-vetch
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common Groundsel
<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Nodding Foxtail-grass
<i>Setaria pumila</i>	Yellow Foxtail, Yellow Bristlegrass [NCNWL]

Watch List A: Exotic plants that naturalize and may become a problem in the future; includes species that are or could become widespread in North Carolina. At this time, more information is needed.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder, European Alder
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Sprenger's Asparagus Fern
<i>Azolla pinnata</i> ssp. <i>asiatica</i>	Asian Mosquito Fern [FNWL]
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth Brome, Hungarian Brome
<i>Buddleja lindleyana</i>	Lindley's Butterfly-bush
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn-gromwell
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Creeping Bellflower
<i>Camphora officinarum</i>	Camphortree
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Plumeless Thistle [NCNWL]
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding Thistle, Musk Thistle [NCNWL]
<i>Carex kobomugi</i>	Sea Isle Sedge, Japanese Beach Sedge
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed
<i>Clerodendrum trichotomum</i> var. <i>ferrugineum</i>	Harlequin Glory-bower
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Coco Yam, Taro, Dasheen
<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	Tropical Spiderwort [FNWL]
<i>Commelina communis</i>	Common Dayflower
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampasgrass
<i>Crotolaria spectabilis</i>	Showy Rattlebox
<i>Cuscuta cassyoides</i>	African Dodder [FNWL]
<i>Cyanus segetum</i> [= <i>Centaurea cyanus</i>]	Cornflower, Bachelor's-buttons
<i>Deutzia scabra</i>	Deutzia, Pride of Rochester
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss, Bluweed
<i>Elymus tsukushiensis</i>	Kamoji Wild-rye
[= <i>Elymus kamoji</i> , <i>Agropyron kamoji</i> , <i>Agropyron semicostatum</i> var. <i>transiens</i>]	
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Weeping Love Grass

<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed [FNWL]
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	Fishmint, Chameleon-plant
<i>Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides</i>	Lawn Water-pennywort
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	European St. John's-wort, Klamath-weed
<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese Holly
<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i>	Cypress-vine
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> var. <i>obtusifolium</i> & cultivars	Border Privet
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> var. <i>suave</i> & cultivars	Amur Privet
<i>Ligustrum quihoui</i> & cultivars	Waxy-leaf Privet
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	Creeping Liriope
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Tall Fescue
[= <i>Schedonorus arundinaceum</i> , <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> , <i>Schedonorus phoenix</i>]	
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle
<i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i>	Showy Water-primrose
[= <i>Ludwigia grandiflora</i> ssp. <i>grandiflora</i>]	
<i>Lysimachia clethroides</i>	Gooseneck Loosestrife
<i>Macrothelypteris torresiana</i>	Mariana Maiden Fern
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Sacred-lotus, Oriental Lotus-lily
<i>Oplismenus undulatifolius</i>	Wavyleaf Basketgrass
[= <i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> ssp. <i>undulatifolius</i>]	
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Hellroot, Lesser Broomrape [FNWL]
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	Skunkvine
<i>Panicum repens</i>	Torpedo Grass
<i>Philydrum lanuginosum</i>	Woolly Waterlily, Frog's-mouth
<i>Phyllostachys bambusoides</i>	Giant Timber Bamboo
<i>Pistacia sinensis</i>	Chinese Pistacia
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water Lettuce
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly Pondweed, Curled Pondweed
<i>Pourthiaea villosa</i> [= <i>Photinia villosa</i>]	Oriental Photinia
<i>Pseudosasa japonica</i>	Arrow Bamboo
<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Sawtooth Oak
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Creeping Yellow Cress [NCNWL]
<i>Rosa bracteata</i>	McCartney Rose, Chickasaw Rose
<i>Rosa laevigata</i>	Cherokee Rose
<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>	Itch-grass [FNWL]
<i>Rubus bifrons</i> [= <i>Rubus armeniacus</i>]	Himalayan Blackberry
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	Rattlebox, Red Sesban
<i>Setaria italica</i>	Italian Millet, Foxtail-millet
<i>Setaria viridis</i>	Green Millet, Green Bristlegrass
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet, Climbing Nightshade
<i>Stachys floridana</i>	Florida Betony, Florida Hedge-nettle [NCNWL]
<i>Striga asiatica</i>	Witchweed [FNWL]
<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Tamarisk
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	Small-flower Tamarisk
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Salt-cedar
<i>Torilis helvetica</i> [= <i>Torilis arvensis</i>]	Spreading Bur-parsley, Field Hedge-parsley
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Goat's-beard, Yellow Salsify
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture-weed, Caltrop [NCNWL]
<i>Tripidium ravennae</i>	Ravenna-grass
[= <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , <i>Erianthus ravennae</i>]	

Ulmus pumila
Verbascum thapsus
Vernicia fordii
Xanthium spinosum

Siberian Elm
Woolly Mullein, Common Mullein
Tung-oil Tree
Spiny Cocklebur

Watch List B: Exotic plant species that cause problems in adjacent states but have not yet been reported to cause problems in NC.

Scientific Name

Achyranthes japonica var. *hachijoensis*
Aldrovanda vesiculosa
Alternanthera sessilis
Ardisia crenata
Callitriche stagnalis
Crassula helmsii
Cyperus entrerianus
Dioscorea alata
Dioscorea bulbifera
Hygrophila polysperma
Ipomoea aquatica
Lagarosiphon major
Ligustrum ovalifolium & cultivars
Limnophila sessiliflora
Lygodium microphyllum
Melaleuca quinquenervia
Melinis repens
Nassella trichotoma
Nymphoides cristata
Nymphoides indica
Phyllostachys nigra
Schinus terebinthifolius
Tamarix africana
Trapa natans

Common Name

Japanese Chaff-flower
Waterwheel-plant
Sessile Joyweed [FNWL]
Hen's Eyes, Coral Ardisia
European Water-starwort
Swamp Stonecrop, New Zealand Pigmyweed [NCNWL]
Deep-rooted Sedge, Woodrush Flatsedge
White Yam, Great Yam
Air Yam
West Indian Swampweed, Hygro [FNWL]
Water Spinach, Swamp Morning-glory [FNWL]
African Elodea, Oxygen-weed [FNWL, NCNWL]
California Privet
Asian Marshweed [FNWL]
Old World Climbing Fern [FNWL]
Melaleuca, Punktree [FNWL]
Rose Natalgrass, Creeping Molasses-grass
Serrated Tussockgrass [FNWL]
Crested Floating Heart, Water Snowflake [NCNWL]
Water Snowflake [NCNWL]
Black Bamboo
Brazilian-pepper, Christmasberry Tree
African Tamarisk
European Water-chestnut, Water-caltrop [NCNWL]