Virginia Invasive Plant Species List

Tree-of-heaven

Phragmites

Wavyleaf Grass

The Virginia Invasive Plant Species List comprises species that are established — or may become established — in Virginia, cause economic and ecological harm, and present ongoing management issues.

The list is for educational purposes only and has no regulatory authority.

To be included on the list, there must be demonstrable evidence that a species poses a threat to Virginia's forests, native grasslands, wetlands or waterways.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Invasive Species Assessment Protocol, approved by the Virginia Invasive Species Working Group, May 2015, was used to conduct a risk assessment for each listed species. Species were ranked as exhibiting **high**, **medium** or **low** levels of invasiveness based on their threat to natural communities and native species.

			REGION		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Virginia Invasiveness Rank	Mountain	Piedmont	Coastal
Ailanthus altissima	**Tree-of-heaven**	High	•	•	•
Alliaria petiolata	**Garlic Mustard**	High	•	•	•
Alternanthera philoxeroides	**Alligator-weed**	High			•
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata	**Porcelain-berry**	High		•	•
Carex kobomugi	**Japanese Sand Sedge**	High			•
Celastrus orbiculatus	**Oriental Bittersweet**	High	•	•	•
Centaurea stoebe ssp. micranthos	**Spotted Knapweed**	High	•	•	•
Cirsium arvense	**Canada Thistle**	High	•	•	•
Dioscorea polystachya	**Cinnamon Vine**	High	•	•	•
Elaeagnus umbellata	**Autumn Olive**	High	•	•	•
Euonymus alatus	**Winged Euonymus**	High	•	•	
Ficaria verna	**Lesser Celandine**	High		•	•
Hydrilla verticillata	**Hydrilla**	High	•	•	•
Iris pseudacorus	**Yellow Flag**	High	•	•	•
Lespedeza cuneata	**Chinese Lespedeza**	High	•	•	•
Ligustrum sinense	**Chinese Privet**	High	•	•	•
Lonicera japonica	**Japanese Honeysuckle**	High	•	•	•
Lonicera maackii	**Amur Honeysuckle**	High	•	•	•
Lonicera morrowii	**Morrow's Honeysuckle**	High	•	•	
Lythrum salicaria	**Purple Loosestrife**	High	•	•	•
Microstegium vimineum	**Japanese Stiltgrass**	High	•	•	•
Murdannia keisak	**Marsh Dewflower**	High	•	•	•
Myriophyllum aquaticum	**Parrot Feather**	High	•	•	•
Myriophyllum spicatum	**Eurasian Water-milfoil**	High	•	•	•
Persicaria perfoliata	**Mile-a-minute**	High	•	•	•
Phragmites australis ssp. australis	**Common Reed**	High	•	•	•
Pueraria montana var. lobata	**Kudzu**	High	•	•	•
Reynoutria japonica	**Japanese Knotweed**	High	•	•	•
Rosa multiflora	**Multiflora Rose**	High	•	•	•
Rubus phoenicolasius	**Wineberry**	High	•	•	•
Sorghum halepense	**Johnson Grass**	High	•	•	•
Urtica dioica	**European Stinging Nettle**	High	•	•	•
Acer platanoides	**Norway Maple**	Medium	•	•	•
Agrostis capillaris	**Colonial Bent-grass**	Medium	•	•	•
Akebia quinata	**Five-leaf Akebia**	Medium		•	•
Albizia julibrissin	**Mimosa**	Medium	•	•	•
Arthraxon hispidus var. hispidus	**Joint Head Grass**	Medium	•	•	•
Berberis thunbergii	**Japanese Barberry**	Medium	•	•	•
Cirsium vulgare	**Bull Thistle**	Medium	•	•	•
Dipsacus fullonum	**Wild Teasel**	Medium	•	•	•
Egeria densa	**Brazilian Waterweed**	Medium	•	•	•
Euonymus fortunei	**Winter Creeper**	Medium	•	•	•
Glechoma hederacea	**Gill-over-the-ground**	Medium	•	•	•
Hedera helix	**English Ivy**	Medium		•	•

continued

Invasiveness rank is higher for species that:

- Alter ecosystem processes, such as succession, hydrology or fire regime.
- Are capable of invading undisturbed natural communities.
- Cause substantial impacts on rare or vulnerable species or natural communities or high-quality examples of more common communities.
- Are found widely distributed and generally abundant where present.
- Disperse readily to new areas.
- Are difficult to control.

Early detection species

The list includes a subcategory of invasive plants that are considered early detection species. These are species not yet established or, if established, are not yet widespread in Virginia but known to be highly invasive in habitats similar to those found here. If discovered in Virginia, these species need to be quickly mapped, photographed and reported to DCR. The management goal for early detection species is eradication, as preventing the establishment and spread of newly arrived species will save valuable natural and economic resources.

INFORMATION

For more information, or to report early detection species, contact Stewardship Biologist Kevin Heffernan with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation at 804-786-9112 or kevin.heffernan@dcr.virginia.gov

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DCR
Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml

Scientific Name	Common Name	Virginia Invasiveness Rank	REGION		
			Mountain	Piedmont	Coastal
Holcus lanatus	**Common Velvet Grass**	Medium	•	•	•
Humulus japonicus	**Japanese Hops**	Medium	•	•	•
Ligustrum obtusifolium var. obtusifolium	**Border Privet**	Medium	•	•	•
Lonicera tatarica	**Tartarian Honeysuckle**	Medium	•	•	
Lysimachia nummularia	**Moneywort**	Medium	•	•	•
Miscanthus sinensis	**Chinese Silvergrass**	Medium	•	•	•
Najas minor	**Brittle Naiad**	Medium	•	•	•
Paulownia tomentosa	**Royal Paulowina**	Medium	•	•	•
Persicaria longiseta	**Long-bristled Smartweed**	Medium	•	•	•
Phyllostachys aurea	**Golden Bamboo**	Medium	•	•	•
Poa compressa	**Flat-stemmed Bluegrass**	Medium	•	•	•
Poa trivialis	**Rough Bluegrass**	Medium	•	•	•
Pyrus calleryana	**Callery Pear**	Medium	•	•	•
Rhodotypos scandens	**Jetbead**	Medium	•	•	•
Rumex acetosella	**Sheep sorrel**	Medium	•	•	•
Spiraea japonica	**Japanese Spiraea**	Medium	•	•	
Stellaria media	**Common Chickweed**	Medium	•	•	•
Veronica hederifolia	**Ivy-leaved Speedwell**	Medium	•	•	•
Viburnum dilatatum	**Linden arrow-wood**	Medium		•	
Wisteria sinensis	**Chinese Wisteria**	Medium	•	•	•
Commelina communis	**Asiatic Dayflower**	Low	•	•	•
Elaeagnus pungens	**Thorny Olive**	Low	•	•	•
Lespedeza bicolor	**Shrubby Bushclover**	Low	•	•	•
Lonicera fragrantissima	**Winter Honeysuckle**	Low	•	•	•
Melia azedarach	**Chinaberry**	Low		•	•
Morus alba	**White Mulberry**	Low	•	•	•
Perilla frutescens	**Beefsteak Plant**	Low	•	•	•
Phleum pratense	**Timothy**	Low	•	•	•
Populus alba	**Silver Poplar**	Low	•	•	•
Rumex crispus ssp. crispus	**Curly Dock**	Low	•	•	•
Securigera varia	**Crown-vetch**	Low	•	•	•
Trapa natans	**European Water Chestnut**	Low			•
Ulmus pumila	**Siberian Elm**	Low	•	•	
Vinca major	**Greater Periwinkle**	Low	•	•	•
Vinca minor	**Periwinkle**	Low	•	•	•
Wisteria floribunda	**Japanese Wisteria**	Low		•	•
EARLY DETECTION SPECIES - not yet widely established in Virginia					
Aldrovanda vesiculosa	**Waterwheel**	High			•
Eichhornia crassipes	**Water Hyacinth**	High			•
Imperata cylindrica	**Cogon Grass**	High			•
Ludwigia grandiflora ssp. hexapetala	**Large Flower Primrose Willow**	High	•	•	•
Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. undulatifolius	**Wavyleaf Grass**	High	•	•	
Vitex rotundifolia	**Beach Vitex**	High			•
Heracleum mantegazzianum	**Giant Hogweed**	Medium	•	•	
Ipomoea aquatica	**Water Spinach**	Medium	•	•	•
Salvinia molesta	**Giant Salvinia**	Medium	•	•	•
Solanum viarum	**Tropical Soda Apple**	Medium		•	•