

Kentucky Exotic Non-native Invasive Plant List

An army of invasive plants has elbowed its way into Kentucky, slowly but inexorably crowding out or overwhelming many native plants. Kentucky's landscape is being subtly transformed in the process.

Often, when a plant or animal that is not native to a habitat is introduced, disastrous results can happen. A non-native species can become "invasive" and grow and spread quickly--taking over and choking out the native plants and animals. This can cause changes in the environment by taking away food supplies of other plant and animal life.

What **you** can do to guard against invasive plants (tips courtesy of the Union of Concerned Scientists):

- If you don't know it, don't grow it. Avoid buying or growing known invaders, such as purple loosestrife, English ivy and Oriental bittersweet.
- Be wary when buying plants and seeds by mail or over the Internet. Some companies – but not all – label high-risk species. Lists of known invaders can be obtained from state and federal agencies and from nonprofit groups, such as The Nature Conservancy, state native plant societies and various exotic pest plant councils.
- Avoid buying and planting mixtures of seeds, especially those labeled "wildflowers."
- Landscape and garden with plants native to your area.
- Be a good neighbor. Never dispose of unwanted plants or lawn and garden clippings in parks or natural areas.

1. Severe Threat

Exotic plant species which possess characteristics of invasive species and spread easily into native plant communities and displace native vegetation; includes species which are or could become widespread in Kentucky.

<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-heaven
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	oriental bittersweet
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	water hemlock
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	crown vetch
<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>	Chinese yam
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	autumn olive
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	winged euonymus, burning bush
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	winter creeper
<i>Festuca elatior</i> (= <i>F. pratensis</i>)	Kentucky 31 fescue
<i>Lespedeza cuneata sericea</i>	lespedeza
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> , <i>L. vulgare</i>	privet
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera maackii</i> , <i>L. morrowi</i> , <i>L. tartarica</i>	amur/bush honeysuckle, Morrow's h.s., tartarian h.s.
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	white sweet clover
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	yellow sweet clover
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese grass

Miscanthus sinensis	miscanthus
Phragmites australis	common reed
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese knotweed
Pueraria lobata	kudzu
Rosa multiflora	multiflora rose
Sorghum halapense	Johnsongrass

2. Significant Threat

Exotic plant species which possess some invasive characteristics, but have less impact on native plant communities; may have the capacity to invade natural communities along disturbance corridors, or to spread from stands in disturbed sites into undisturbed areas, but have fewer characteristics of invasive species than those that are a severe threat.

Akebia quinata	akebia
Albizia julibrissin	mimosa
Arthraxon hispidus	hairy jointgrass
Arctium minus	common burdock
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese barberry
Centaurea biebersteinii	spotted knapweed
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	ox-eye daisy
Daucus carota	Queen Anne's lace
Dipsacus sylvestris	common teasel
Eleusine indica	goose grass
Glechoma hederacea	ground ivy
Hedera helix	English ivy
Ipomoea hederacea	ivy-leafed morning-glory
Ipomoea purpurea	purple morning-glory
Lespedeza bicolor	bicolor lespedeza
Lespedeza stipulacea	Korean lespedeza
Mentha piperata	mint
Morus alba	white mulberry
Mosla dianthera	miniature beefsteak
Ornithogalum umbellatum	star-of-Bethlehem
Paulownia tomentosa	Chinese empress-tree
Poa pratensis	bluegrass
Polygonum cespitosum	smartweed
Polygonum persicaria	lady's thumb
Populus alba	white poplar
Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum	water cress
Setaria viridis	green foxtail
Spiraea japonica	Japanese spiraea
Stellaria media	chickweed
Taraxacum officinale	common dandelion
Vinca minor	lesser periwinkle

3. Lesser Threat

Exotic plant species which seem to principally spread and remain in disturbed corridors, not readily invading natural areas; also some agronomic weeds.

<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	thyme-leaf sandwort
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	yellow rocket
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	lamb's quarters
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>	Mexican tea
<i>Commelina communis</i>	dayflower
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	deptford pink
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Indian strawberry
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	barnyard grass
<i>Eragrostis cilianensis</i>	lovegrass
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers
<i>Galium pedemontanum</i>	cleavers
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	day lily
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	velvet grass
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> common	St. John's-wort
<i>Ipomoea lacunosa</i>	white morning-glory
<i>Lactuca saligna</i>	willowleaf lettuce
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	henbit
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	motherwort
<i>Lespedeza thunbergii</i>	shrubby lespedeza
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	corn-gromwell
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian rye
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medic
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	catnip
<i>Oxalis stricta</i> (= <i>O. europea</i>)	common yellow wood-sorrel
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy
<i>Poa annua</i>	speargrass
<i>Poa compressa</i>	"Canada" bluegrass
<i>Potentilla recta</i>	sulphur five-fingers
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	self-heal
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	bulbous buttercup
<i>Rumex acetocella</i>	dock, red sorrel
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bitter nightshade
<i>Thlaspi perfoliatum</i>	field cress
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i> alsike	clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Dutch white clover
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	common cocklebur

Information provided by the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council.