



North Carolina  
Forest Service

# FORESTRY Leaflets

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## Exotic, Non-native & Invasive Plants Are a Problem

Non-native and invasive (NNI) plants pose a serious problem and health threat to our forests. These invading plants can quickly take over your forestland. If not controlled, NNI plants will:

- Increase wildfire hazard
- Decrease biological diversity
- Disrupt the ecological balance
- Inhibit growth of timber
- Choke out plants favored by wildlife
- Increase costs of managing your land

NNI plants are particularly a problem in the South, which has a warm and moist climate that promotes the establishment of these plants and their rapid growth. Also, since the winters often are mild with only slight die-back from freezes or frosts, these plants can over-winter and quickly rebound in the spring. Hurricanes and tropical storms can also spread the plant seeds across the southern U.S. landscape. There are dozens of NNI plants now identified in the U.S., and so they cannot all be listed in this leaflet.

### A few examples of NNI plants that create problems in our forests:

<i>Grasses</i>	<i>Shrubs</i>	<i>Trees</i>	<i>Vines</i>
-- Chinese silvergrass ( <i>miscanthus</i> )	-- Autumn olive	-- Mimosa (silktree)	-- Chinese/Japanese wisteria
-- Cogongrass	-- Bamboo	-- Princesstree ( <i>pawlonia</i> )	-- Honeysuckle
-- Japanese stiltgrass ( <i>microstegium</i> )	-- Privet	-- Tree-of-heaven ( <i>ailanthus</i> )	-- Kudzu

### Invasive Species Leaflets for more Information

The N.C. Forest Service has a series of “Invasive Species Leaflets”, including measures on how to identify and control them. Copies of these Leaflets are available at your County Forest Ranger office, or from the Forest Health Publications section of our agency website, [www.ncforestsERVICE.gov](http://www.ncforestsERVICE.gov).

### Additional Online Resources

Identify NNI plants and learn how to substitute native plants for wildlife benefits:

North Carolina State University and Cooperative Extension Service

[www.ncsu.edu/goingnative/](http://www.ncsu.edu/goingnative/)

Full-color field identification and control booklet from the USDA-Forest Service:

“Nonnative Invasive Plants of the Southern Forests.” General Technical Report SRS-62.

[www.treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/5424](http://www.treearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/5424)

Learn the life cycle and geographic ranges of all plants across the United States:

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://plants.usda.gov/>



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