

## Invasive Plants

• **Native** or indigenous species are those that occur in a particular place without the help of humans, and they are generally considered as plants that occurred in an area prior to European settlement. Natives provide food and shelter for wildlife.

• **Exotic** plants have been introduced by humans to a location outside their native or natural range.

• **Invasive** plants are exotics that aggressively spread and establish over large areas and persist without assistance from humans. Invasives displace natives and reduce habitat and food for wildlife.

### Air Potato Vine *Dioscorea bulbifera*

- Evergreen vine growing from "potatoes"
- Aggressively overtakes & shades out trees & shrubs
- Introduced from Africa
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Passionvine**



**Invasive!  
Do Not Plant**

### Australian Pine *Casuarina equisetifolia*

- Fast-growing deciduous pine-like tree
- Displaces native dune & beach vegetation & destroys habitat for wildlife
- Introduced from Asia/Australia
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Mesquite**



**Invasive!  
Do Not Plant**

### Brazilian Pepper *Schinus terebinthifolius*

- Large shrub or small tree with berries spread by birds
- Difficult to kill; may re-sprout for years
- Introduced from Brazil
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Wax Myrtle**



**Invasive!  
Do Not Plant**

### Castor Bean *Ricinus communis*

- Shrub-like annual herb
- Seed source of highly toxic poison ricin, which can be fatal
- All parts of plant are toxic
- Takes over wild areas
- Introduced from Africa
- **Plant a non-invasive alternative: Split-leaf Philodendron**



**Invasive!  
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### Cats Claw Vine *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

- Vine with clinging tendrils to 40 ft
- Tuber-like roots
- Extremely invasive vine, difficult to eradicate
- Introduced from Central America
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Crossvine**



**Invasive!  
Do Not Plant**

**Chinaberry**  
*Melia azedarach*



**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**



- Large tree outcompetes natives
- Leaf litter alters soil
- Spread by birds
- Introduced from Asia
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative:** Sugarberry hackberry



**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**

**Chinese Tallow**  
*Triadica sebifera*





- Crowds out natives wherever it grows
- Reproduces early & easily
- Introduced from China
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative:** Chinquapin Oak

**Chinese Wisteria** **Invasive!**  
*Wisteria sinensis* **Do Not Plant**

- Exotic wisteria vines impair & overtake native shrubs & trees through strangling or shading
- Introduced from China & Japan
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative:** Texas Wisteria



**Giant Reed**  
*Arundo donax*

- Rhizomatous grass with plume-like flowers to 30 ft
- Forms dense stands; crowds out natives, interferes with flood control
- Introduced from India
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative:** Common Reed

**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**

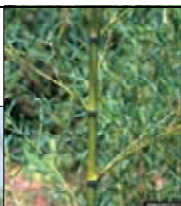




**Japanese Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera japonica*

- Vine out-competes natives
- Engulfs small trees & shrubs, blocking sunlight from leaves & girdling stems, cutting off flow of water through plant
- Introduced from Japan
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative:** Coral Honeysuckle

**Invasive!**  
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**Golden Bamboo**  
*Phyllostachys aurea*

- Rhizomatous perennial grass
- Aggressively forms dense thickets that displaces natives
- Introduced from China
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative:** Bamboo Muhly grass

**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**



**Nandina**  
*Nandina domestica*

- Evergreen shrub with red berries spread by birds
- Displaces native plants
- Native to China & Japan
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Barbados Cherry**

**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**

**Russian Olive**  
*Elaeagnus angustifolia*

- Evergreen shrub or tree
- Out-competes native plants
- Spread by birds
- Native to Europe & Asia
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Wild Olive**

**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**



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**Salt Cedar**  
*Tamarix aphylla*

- Monopolizes limited water using long tap roots
- Degrades native habitat by out-competing native plants
- Introduced from Eurasia & Africa
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Bald or Montezuma Cypress**



**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**

**Water Hyacinth** **Invasive!**  
*Eichhornia crassipes* **Do Not Plant**

- Free-floating aquatic
- Displaces all native aquatic plants
- Lowers oxygen levels
- Can double biomass every 6 to 18 days
- Introduced from Amazon basin
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Arrowhead**



**Water lettuce**  
*Pistia stratiotes*

- Evergreen leaves thick, hairy, ridged
- Found in still/slow water, mud
- Blocks waterways with dense growth
- Reduces dissolved oxygen & prevents light penetration
- Banned in most of US
- Introduced from South America
- **Plant a non-invasive native alternative: Water Lily**



**Invasive!**  
**Do Not Plant**

**Other Invasives to Avoid & Alternatives:**

<u>Invasive to avoid</u>	<u>Non-invasive Alternative</u>
• Wax Leaf Ligustrum	-----Barbados Cherry
• Japanese Ligustrum	-----Yaupon Holly
• Mimosa	-----Desert Willow
• White Mulberry	-----Red Mulberry
• Chinese Photinia	-----Yaupon Holly
• Red-tipped Photinia	-----Cape Honeysuckle
• Common Privet	-----Dwarf Yaupon Holly
• Pyracantha	-----Yaupon Holly
• Tree of Heaven	-----Chinquapin Oak
• Vitex	-----Mexican Buckeye
• Elephant Ear	-----Caladiums
• English Ivy	-----Virginia Creeper
• Pampas Grass	-----Big Muhly
• Asian Jasmine	-----Wedelia, Frogfruit
• Elaeagnus	-----Texas Sage
• Giant Salvinia	-----Water Lily