

Living Clean & Green!

Invasive Species: How to Stop the Alien Invasion!

What are Invasive Species?

An invasive species is defined as an organism (plant, animal, fungus, or bacterium) that is not native and has negative effects on our economy, our environment, or our health. After habitat loss, invasive species are the biggest threat to biodiversity.

More about Invasive Species

Many plant species that are not native to the Southern Appalachians add beauty and variety to our gardens. A very small number of these species have become highly invasive and destructive in our environment.

Many natural controls, such as disease and insects, that normally kept them “in check” in their homeland do not exist or are not as effective here. This gives invasive plants an advantage, making it easy for them to take over the habitat of other plants.

As some plant invasions affect the native wildlife and insects too, the balance and diversity of our environment will decline as these invasive plants continue to spread, impacting all species that live here.

On the back of this flyer are some of the invasive plants in our region. Parks, forests, and even private landowners are spending millions of dollars trying to control the spread of invasive plant species. We need your help if we are to effectively control invasive plants and maintain a balanced, healthy ecosystem.



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Climbing Euonymus
Euonymus fortunei



Japanese honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica



Porcelain-berry
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata



Mimosa
Albizia julibrissin



Tree-of-heaven
Ailanthus altissima



Privet
Ligustrum spp.



Bush Honeysuckle
Lonicera maackii



Kudzu
Pueraria montana

How Can You Help?

- Avoid planting invasive species, especially if you live near natural areas such as parks and forests.
- Practice invasive species control in your yard by removing, pruning, and/or cutting invasive species.
- Plant native plant species in your yard.

