

2005 Invasive Plant Calendar

Weeds Gone Wild refers to invasive exotic plants that have been introduced by people into new areas outside their native ranges and have become pests in natural habitats. Exotic plants are also called alien, non-native, non-indigenous, foreign and introduced. Invasive exotic plants are ones that grow, reproduce, and spread rapidly, displacing native species and disrupting natural processes. They are able to establish and spread in part because they lack the natural controls present in their native lands. Native species occur in a particular habitat and ecosystem as a result of natural forces, excluding human activities.

For more information on the identification and management of invasive plants affecting natural areas, including fact sheets for species shown in this calendar, visit the site at (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>).

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a web-based project of the Alien Plant Working Group that provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers and others on the serious threats and impacts of invasive alien plants to the native flora, fauna and natural ecosystems of the United States. The site provides:

- A list of invasive plants affecting natural areas in the U.S.
- Background on the problem including terminology
- Downloadable publications on invasive plants and much more!
- Illustrated fact sheets with control options and alternative plants
- Internet links to information sources and organizations

Conferences, meetings, workshops, weed pulls and other invasive plant events are posted regularly to an online calendar (http://www.eventcal.net/weeds_gone_wild). If you have an event you'd like to have included, please send an email to the Alien Plant Working Group Chair, Jil Swearingen (jil_swearingen@nps.gov).

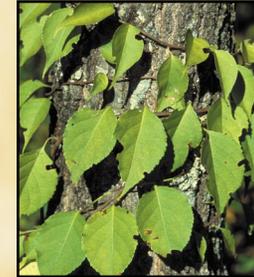
January 2005

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LEAST WANTED



CELASTRUS ORBICULATUS

Known Aliases: Oriental Bittersweet, Asiatic Bittersweet

Native Range: Eastern Asia, Korea, China, and Japan

Plant Type: Deciduous, Woody, Perennial Vine

Unwanted For: Infesting forested & open areas, killing understory plants through shading & girdling; climbing up and pulling over large trees; hybridizing with and displacing native bittersweet; producing abundant flowers, fruits & seed that help it spread widely

Apprehend this plant carefully, it may be mistaken for others!

For more info & control options, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ceor1.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service; Leslie J Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut.

February 2005

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To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): Chuck Barger, The University of Georgia; Gerald D Carr, University of Hawaii.

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BROUSSONETIA PAPYRIFERA

Known Aliases: Paper Mulberry

Native Range: Japan and Taiwan

Plant Type: Deciduous Tree

Unwanted For: Exhibiting aggressive growth and invading disturbed lands, displacing native plants; having a shallow root system that leads to toppling over

May Be Mistaken For: Red mulberry, white mulberry, sassafras

Apprehend this plant carefully! For more info & control options, see: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/brpal.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

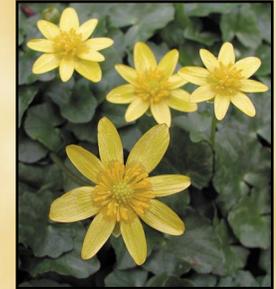
March 2005

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RANUNCULUS FICARIA

Known Aliases: Lesser Celandine, Fig Buttercup

Native Range: Europe

Plant Type: Herbaceous Spring-Flowering
Perennial

Unwanted For: Emerging early in winter ahead of most native spring-blooming plants; spreading to form extensive patches that displace native spring wildflowers and their insect pollinators & seed-dispersers; producing abundant tubers and bulblets that help it spread

Apprehend this plant carefully, it may be mistaken for others!

For more info & control options, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/rafil.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): Jill M Swearingen, National Park Service; Leslie J Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut.

April 2005

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WISTERIA SINENSIS

Known Aliases: Chinese Wisteria

Native Range: China

Plant Type: Woody Twining Ornamental Vine

Unwanted For: Killing and displacing native shrubs and trees through girdling & shading; spreading through above-ground stems that root to form new plants; sometimes spreads by seed; forming dense thickets

Apprehend this plant carefully, it may be mistaken for others!

For more info & control options, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/wist1.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (left to right): Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Sci. Soc.; James R Allison, Georgia Dept. of Nat. Res.; Ted Bodner, SWSS.

June 2005

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POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM

Known Aliases: Japanese Knotweed, Mexican Bamboo, Reynoutria

Native Range: Eastern Asia

Plant Type: Shrub-like Herbaceous Perennial

Unwanted For: Growing & spreading aggressively through long underground stems; pushing out native vegetation; forming dense tall thickets that increase shading of low-growing plants; posing a special threat to riparian areas

Apprehend this plant carefully, it may be mistaken for others!

For more info & control options, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pocul.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): Jack Ranney, University of Tennessee; Britt Slattery, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

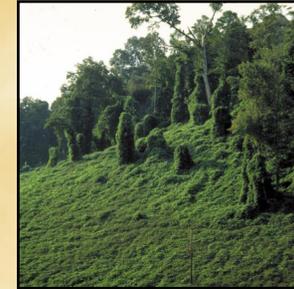
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POLYGONUM PERFOLIATUM

Known Aliases: Mile-A-Minute Weed, Devil's Tail Tearthumb

Native Range: India, Eastern Asia and the islands from Japan to the Philippines

Plant Type: Herbaceous, Annual, Trailing Vine

Unwanted For: Growing rapidly and scrambling over shrubs & other vegetation in upland and wetland habitats; shading out and smothering native tree seedlings in forests, on Christmas tree farms and managed pine plantations

Apprehend this plant carefully! For more info & control options, see:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/popel.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): Jill M. Swearingen, USDI National Park Service; Randy Westbrook, US Geological Survey.

August 2005

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AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA

Known Aliases: Tree-Of-Heaven, Chinese Sumac, Stinking Shumac

Native Range: Central China

Plant Type: Deciduous Tree

Unwanted For: Producing prolific seed and vegetative sprouts; growing and spreading rapidly, over-running fields, forest edges & interiors, and disturbed areas; establishing impenetrable thickets

May Be Mistaken For: Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and other trees with large compound leaves

Apprehend this plant carefully! For more info & control options, see: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/aial1.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

To learn more about this invasive plant and others, visit Weeds Gone Wild at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>.

Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): Paul Wray, Iowa State University; James H Miller, USDA Forest Service.

September 2005

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MICROSTEGIUM VIMINEUM

Known Aliases: Japanese Stilt Grass, Nepalese Browntop

Native Range: Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, and India

Plant Type: Annual, Shade-Adapted Grass

Unwanted For: Threatening native plants and natural habitats that range from full sun to deep shade and moist to dry soils; spreading rapidly to form extensive patches at forest edges and deep into interiors; impeding or preventing natural succession

Apprehend this plant carefully, it may be mistaken for others!

For more info & control options, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/mivil.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

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Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service; Ted Bodner, Southern Weed Science Society.

October 2005

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Photos from www.invasive.org: Shep Zedaker, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

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AKEBIA QUINATA

Known Aliases: Fiveleaf Akebia, Chocolate Vine
Native Range: Central China to Korea and Japan
Plant Type: Evergreen Twining Woody Vine
Unwanted For: Growing aggressively, smothering ground level vegetation, and climbing understory shrubs and trees; forming dense patches that prevent seed germination and seedling establishment of native plants
May Be Mistaken For: Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), Creeping euonymus (Euonymus fortunei), Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica)

Apprehend this plant carefully! For more info & control options, see: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/akqul.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

November 2005

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EUONYMUS FORTUNEI

Known Aliases: Climbing/Creeping Euonymus, Wintercreeper, Emerald'n Gold, Gaiety

Native Range: China

Plant Type: Evergreen, Clinging Vine

Unwanted For: Outcompeting native understory vegetation by depleting soil moisture & nutrients, blocking sunlight, and forming a dense vegetative mat that impedes the growth of native seedlings; climbing trees and causing toppling from added weight

Apprehend this plant carefully, it may be mistaken for others!

For more info & control options, see:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/eufol.htm>

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Photo from www.invasive.org: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service.

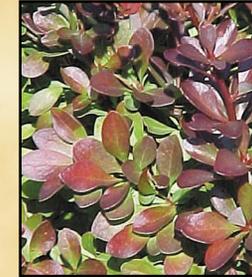
December 2005

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BERBERIS THUNBERGII

Known Aliases: Japanese Barberry

Native Range: Japan

Plant Type: Dense, Deciduous, Spiny Shrub

Unwanted For: Forming dense stands in natural habitats and altering soil pH, nitrogen levels, and biological activity in the soil; displacing native plants and reducing wildlife habitat and forage; possessing painful, barb-like spines

May Be Mistaken For: Other barberry species, winged burning bush (*Euonymus alata*), and exotic bush honeysuckles

Apprehend this plant carefully! For more info & control options, see:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/beth1.htm>

GREEN AND ECOLOGICALLY DANGEROUS

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Photos from www.invasive.org (from left to right): Jill M. Swearingen, National Park Service; Britt Slattery, US Fish and Wildlife Service.



The **Plant Conservation Alliance** (PCA) is a consortium of federal government Member agencies and non-federal Cooperators representing various disciplines within the conservation field: biologists, botanists, habitat preservationists, horticulturists, resources management consultants, soil scientists, special interest clubs, non-profit organizations, concerned citizens, nature lovers, and gardeners. Since 1994, PCA has worked collectively to solve the problems of native plant extinction and native habitat restoration, ensuring the preservation of our ecosystem. Federal plant conservation resources are pooled at the national level to provide a focused, strategic approach to plant conservation at the local level on public and private lands, eliminating duplication of effort and increasing the effectiveness of these programs.

Each year, PCA awards thousands of dollars for on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects through a matching funds grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. However, native plant conservation does not consist of funding alone; as a public-private partnership, PCA also serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, expertise and information between public and private organizations engaged in habitat restoration and preservation. These exchanges take place in various forms of public outreach, including e-mail lists, website, and meetings. Committees include the Alien Plant, Medicinal Plant, Native Plant Materials Development, and Restoration Working Groups.

Using these efforts, PCA strives to achieve its mission:

“To protect native plants by ensuring that native plant communities and their populations are maintained, enhanced, and restored.”

For more information, go to our website (<http://www.nps.gov/plants>) or e-mail us (plant@plantconservation.org).