



# Alabama Invasive Plant Council

"Rescuing and Preserving Our Natural Heritage"

P.O. Box 2033, Auburn, AL 36831-2033

[www.se-eppc.org/alabama/](http://www.se-eppc.org/alabama/)

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## **The Purpose and Objectives for Listing and Categorizing Invasive Plants in Alabama**

The intent of this list is to:

1. Rank plants based on their invasive characteristics;
2. Foster early detection of invasive plants so that landowners, managers, and stewards can implement a rapid response action to prevent them from becoming established and spreading;
3. Educate the general public, land based and water-use resource managers, landowners, and plant growers in an effort to eliminate the use of invasive plants in landscaping, restoration, and enhancement projects.

This list has no regulatory authority but provides useful information to help guide agencies, private landowners, and water managers in making responsible decisions about plant use and management decisions. The Council acknowledges that most introduced species are harmless. However, it also realizes that many species do escape cultivation, pasturage, landscaping, and water gardens and have the potential to spread and become ecological disasters.

# Alabama Invasive Plant Council

## Criteria for Evaluating Plant Species for Invasiveness in Alabama

### Category 1:

- 1) The plant species or sub-species or variety is non-native to Alabama.
- 2) The plant has the potential for rapid growth, high seed or propagule production and dispersal, and establishment in natural communities or in managed areas where it is not desired.
- 3) The plant is able or known to be able to out-compete other species in plant communities or cropping systems thereby impacting native plant biodiversity, ecosystem functions, or crop productivity.
- 4) The plant persists in free living infestations (without cultivation) within Alabama.
- 5) The plant is widespread and occurs in two or more invasive regions, which are
  1. Plateaus and Piedmont
  2. Mountains
  3. Middle Coastal Plain
  4. Black Belt
  5. Lower Coastal Plain
- 6) It occurs in dense stands of numerous individuals in frequent infestations.

### Category 2:

- 7) The plant meets criteria 1-4.
- 8) The plant occurs within one or more cultural uses and one or two invasive regions
- 9) It occurs as scattered individuals or widely scattered dense infestations.

### Watch list A:

- 10) The plant meets criteria 1-3.
- 11) a. The plant has recently appeared as free living populations within Alabama, or  
b. The plant is invasive in nearby states but its status in Alabama is unknown or unclear, and it has the potential, based on its biology and its colonization history in the Southeast and elsewhere, to become invasive in Alabama.

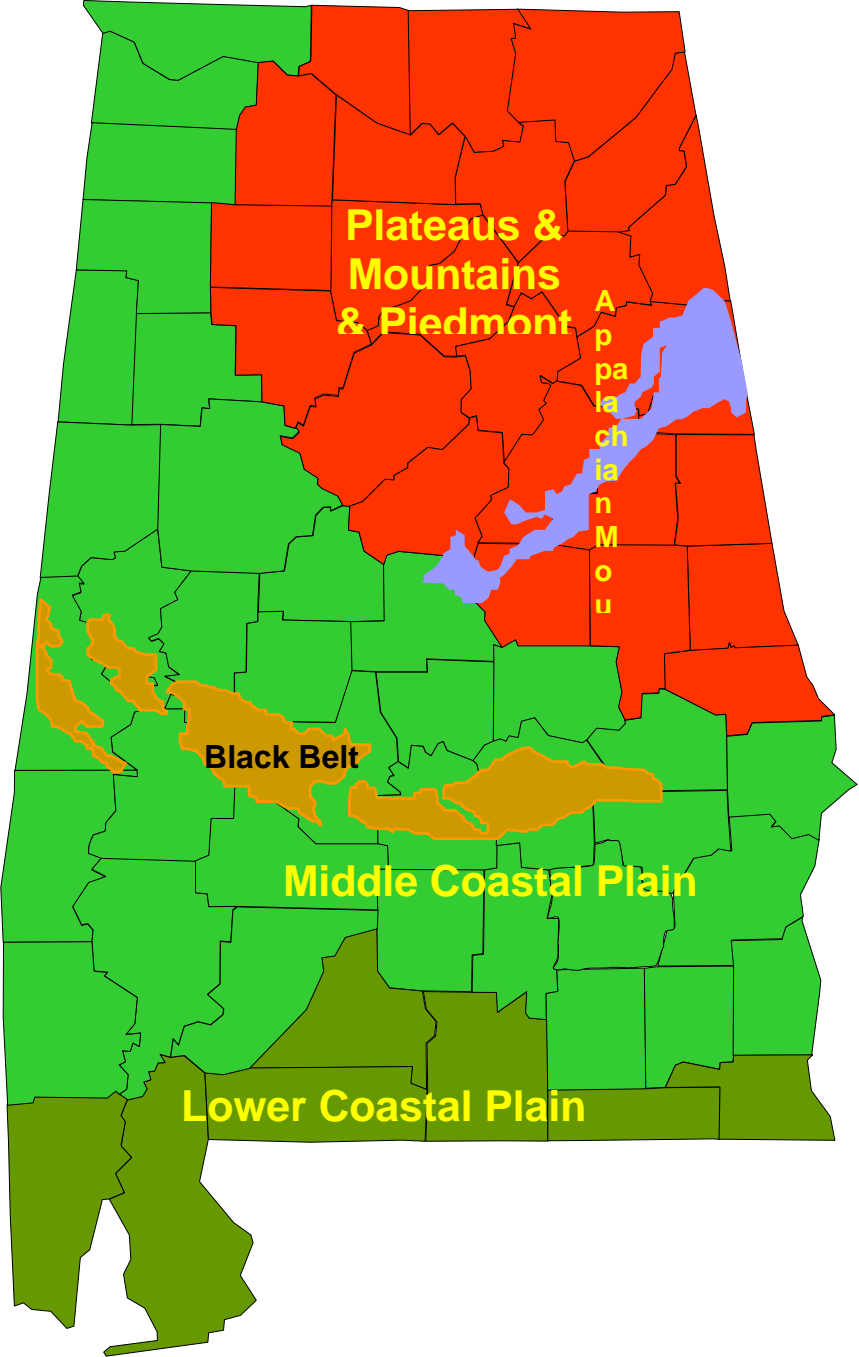
### Watch list B:

- 12) The plant meets criteria 1-3.
- 13) The plant is grown in Alabama.
- 14) The plant has a documented history of invasiveness in other areas of the Southeast and/or is listed by the Global Invasive Species Program as a world-class invasive plant for habitats similar to those in the Southeast.

### Watch list C:

- 15) The plant meets criteria 14 only.

Alabama Invasive  
Regions



**Alabama Invasive Plant Council's 2012  
List of Alabama's Invasive Plants by Land-Use and Water-Use Categories**

| O= ornamental<br>C = crop<br>W= Watch  | 1= Extensive and dense infestations in AL<br>2= Scattered and localized infestations in AL |                                     | Overall ranking | Urban and Interface | Managed Forests | Natural Areas and Parks | Wildlife Habitat/<br>Food Plots | Rights-of-Way/<br>Fencerows | Aquatic-Wetland/<br>Riparian | Pastures/<br>Orchards | Rowcrops/<br>Nurseries |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>TREES</b>                           |  |                                     |                 |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | tree-of-heaven   | <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>          | 2               | 2,0                 | 2               | 2                       |                                 | 1                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | silktree   | <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>          | 1               | 2,0                 | 2               | 1                       |                                 | 1                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | camphor tree   | <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>          | 2               | 2                   | 2               | 2                       |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | Chinese parasoltree  | <i>Firmiana simplex</i>             | 2               | 2,0                 |                 | 2                       |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Chinaberrytree   | <i>Melia azedarach</i>              | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | 2                       |                                 | 2                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | princesstree   | <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>          | 2               | 1,0                 | 2               | 2                       |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | trifoliolate orange, hardy orange  | <i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>          | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | 2                       |                                 |                             |                              | 2                     |                        |
|  | callery pear "Bradford" *  | <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>             | 2               | 1,0                 | W               | 2                       |                                 | 0                           | 2                            | 2                     |                        |
|  | tallowtree   | <i>Triadica sebifera</i>            | 1               | 2,0                 | 1               | 1                       | 1                               | 1                           | 1                            | 2                     |                        |
|  | tungoil tree   | <i>Vernicia fordii</i>              | 2               | W                   | 2               | 2                       |                                 | W                           |                              |                       |                        |
| <b>SHRUBS</b>                          |  |                                     |                 |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | coralberry, hen's eyes   | <i>Ardisia crenata</i>              | 2               | 2                   | W               | 2                       |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | thorny olive   | <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>            | 2               | 2,0                 | 2               | 2                       | 2                               | 2,0                         |                              |                       |                        |
|  | autumn olive   | <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>          | 2               | W,0                 | 2               | 1                       | C                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | lantana  | <i>Lantana camara</i>               | 2               | W,0                 | W               | 2                       | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | shrubby lespedeza  | <i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>            | 2               |                     | 2               | 2                       | C                               | 2,C                         |                              |                       |                        |
|  | glossy privet  | <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>            | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | 2                       |                                 | 2                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Japanese privet  | <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>          | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | W                       |                                 | 2                           | W                            |                       |                        |
|  | Chinese privet   | <i>Ligustrum sinense</i>            | 1               | 1,0                 | 1               | 1                       | 1                               | 1                           | 1                            | 1                     | W                      |
|  | Bell's honeysuckle   | <i>Lonicera X bella</i>             | 2               | W,0                 | 2               | 2                       | C                               | 2                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | sweet breath of spring   | <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>      | 2               | 2,0                 |                 | 2                       |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Amur honeysuckle   | <i>Lonicera maackii</i>             | 2               | W,0                 | W               | 1                       | C                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | leatherleaf mahonia, Beale's barberry  | <i>Mahonia bealei</i>               | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | 2                       | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | nandina, sacred bamboo*  | <i>Nandina domestica</i>            | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | 2                       |                                 |                             | W                            |                       |                        |
|  | Macartney rose   | <i>Rosa bracteata</i>               | 2               | W                   | W               | W                       |                                 |                             |                              | 2                     |                        |
|  | Cherokee rose  | <i>Rosa laevigata</i>               | 2               | W                   | 2               | 2                       |                                 | W                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | multiflora rose  | <i>Rosa multiflora</i>              | 1               | 2,0                 | W               | 1                       | 1                               | 2                           |                              | 1                     |                        |
|  | tropical soda apple  | <i>Solanum viarum</i>               | 2               |                     | W               | 2                       | W                               | W                           |                              | 1                     |                        |
|  | beach vitex  | <i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>           | 2               |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
| <b>VINES</b>                           |  |                                     |                 |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Oriental bittersweet   | <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>        | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | W                       |                                 |                             | 2                            | W                     |                        |
|  | sweet autumn virginibower  | <i>Clematis terniflora</i>          | 2               | 2,0                 | W               | 2                       |                                 | 2                           | W                            |                       |                        |
|  | Chinese yam  | <i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>      | 2               | 2,0                 | 2               | 1                       |                                 | 2                           | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | English ivy  | <i>Hedera helix</i>                 | 1               | 1,0                 | 2               | 1                       |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Japanese honeysuckle   | <i>Lonicera japonica</i>            | 1               | 1,0                 | 1               | 1                       | C                               | 2                           | 1                            |                       |                        |
|  | Japanese climbing fern   | <i>Lygodium japonicum</i>           | 1               | 2                   | 1               | 1                       | 2                               |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
|  | kudzu  | <i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i> | 1               | 1                   | 1               | 1                       | 1                               | 1                           |                              | 1                     |                        |
|  | bigleaf periwinkle   | <i>Vinca major</i>                  | 2               | 2,0                 |                 | 2                       |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | common periwinkle  | <i>Vinca minor</i>                  | 2               | 2,0                 |                 | 2                       |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Chinese wisteria   | <i>Wisteria sinensis</i>            | 1               | 1,0                 | 2               | 1                       |                                 | 1                           |                              |                       |                        |
| <b>GRASSES, GRASS-LIKES, AND CANES</b> |  |                                     |                 |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | giant reed   | <i>Arundo donax</i>                 | 2               | W,0                 |                 | W                       |                                 | 2                           | W                            |                       |                        |
|  | pampas grass *   | <i>Cortaderia selloana</i>          | 2               | W,0                 |                 | 2                       |                                 | W                           | W                            |                       |                        |
|  | cogongrass   | <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>          | 1               | 1                   | 1               | 1                       | 1                               | 1                           | 1                            | 1                     | W                      |
|  | Japanese stiltgrass, Nepalese browntop   | <i>Microstegium vimineum</i>        | 1               | 2                   | 1               | 1                       |                                 | 1                           | 1                            |                       |                        |
|  | torpedo grass  | <i>Panicum repens</i>               | 2               | 1                   |                 | 2                       |                                 | 2                           | 2                            | 1                     |                        |
|  | Vaseygrass   | <i>Paspalum urvillei</i>            | 2               | 2                   | 2               | 2                       | 2                               | 2                           |                              | 2                     |                        |
|  | golden bamboo  | <i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>          | 2               | 2,0                 | 2               | 2                       |                                 | 1                           |                              |                       |                        |
|  | Johnsongrass   | <i>Sorghum halepense</i>            | 2               | 2                   | 2               | 2                       | 1                               | 1                           |                              | 2,C                   | 1                      |
| <b>FORBS (Broadleaf Plants)</b>        |  |                                     |                 |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | nodding plumeless thistle, musk thistle  | <i>Carduus nutans</i>               | 2               |                     |                 | 2                       |                                 | 1                           |                              | 1                     |                        |
|  | wild taro, coco yam, elephant ears   | <i>Colocasia esculenta</i>          | 2               | 2,0                 |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | tropical spiderwort, benghal dayflower   | <i>Commelina benghalensis</i>       | 2               |                     | W               |                         |                                 | 2                           | W                            |                       | 1                      |
|  | hairy crabweed, mulberry weed  | <i>Fatoua villosa</i>               | 2               | 2                   |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       | 2                      |
|  | Chinese lespedeza  | <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>            | 1               | 2                   | 2               | 2                       | C                               | 2,C                         |                              | 2,C                   |                        |
|  | purple loosestrife*  | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>            | 2               |                     |                 | 2                       |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | Asiatic dewflower, wartremoving herb   | <i>Murdannia keisak</i>             | 2               |                     |                 |                         | W                               |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | chamber bitter   | <i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i>         | 2               | 1                   |                 | W                       | W                               | W                           | W                            | 2                     | 2                      |
|  | rattlebox, scarlet wisteria  | <i>Sesbania punicea</i>             | 2               |                     |                 |                         |                                 | 2                           | 2                            |                       |                        |
| <b>AQUATIC and WETLAND PLANTS</b>      |  |                                     |                 |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|  | alligatorweed  | <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>  | 1               |                     |                 |                         | 1                               |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
|  | Brazilian elodea   | <i>Egeria densa</i>                 | 2               |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|  | common water hyacinth  | <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>         | 1               |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
|  | hydrilla, waterthyme   | <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>        | 1               |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
|  | parrot feather watermilfoil  | <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>       | 1               |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |

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|---|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
|   | <b>Eurasian water milfoil, spike watermilfoil</b>  | <b>Myriophyllum spicatum</b>       | <b>1</b>            |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
|   | Cuban bulrush*   | <i>Oxycaryum cubense</i>           | 2                   |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|   | common reed* (grass)   | <i>Phragmites australis</i>        | 2                   |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|   | water lettuce  | <i>Pistia stratiotes</i>           | 1                   |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
|   | giant salvinia, kariba-weed  | <i>Salvinia molesta</i>            | 1                   |                 |                         |                                 |                             | 1                            |                       |                        |
| <b>Watch list A: Recently appearing in Alabama as free living infestations</b>              |  |                                    |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | Japanese chaff flower (forb)   | <i>Achyranthes japonica</i>        | W                   |                 |                         | W                               |                             | W                            |                       |                        |
|   | porcelain berry, Amur peppervine (vine)  | <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               | W                           |                              |                       |                        |
|   | marlberry, Japanese ardisia (shrub)  | <i>Ardisia japonica</i>            | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             | W                            |                       |                        |
|   | Australian-pine (tree)   | <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>     | W                   | W               |                         | W                               |                             | W                            |                       |                        |
|   | bushkiller (vine)  | <i>Cayratia japonica</i>           | W                   | W               |                         | 2                               |                             |                              |                       | 2                      |
|   | Canada thistle (forb)  | <i>Cirsium arvense</i>             | W                   |                 |                         | 2                               | 2                           |                              | W                     |                        |
|   | bull thistle (forb)  | <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>             | W                   |                 |                         |                                 | W                           |                              | W                     |                        |
|   | water yam (vine)   | <i>Dioscorea alata</i>             | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             | W                            |                       |                        |
|   | air yam (vine)   | <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>         | W                   | W,O             |                         | 2                               |                             | 2                            |                       |                        |
|   | Japanese knotweed (shrub)  | <i>Fallopia japonica</i>           | W                   |                 | W                       | W                               | W                           |                              |                       |                        |
|   | tropical bushmint (forb)   | <i>Hyptis mutabilis</i>            | W                   |                 |                         | W                               | W                           | W                            |                       |                        |
|   | Morrow's honeysuckle (shrub)   | <i>Lonicera morrowii</i>           | W                   | W,O             | W                       | W                               | W                           |                              |                       |                        |
|   | water clover (aquatic fern)  | <i>Marsilea spp.</i>               | W                   | W,O             |                         |                                 |                             |                              | W                     |                        |
|   | brittleleaf naiad (aquatic)  | <i>Najas minor</i>                 | W                   | W,O             |                         |                                 |                             |                              | W                     |                        |
|   | sawtooth oak (tree)  | <i>Quercus acutissima</i>          | W                   | W,O             | W                       | W                               | C                           |                              |                       |                        |
|   | blessed milkthistle (forb)   | <i>Silybum marianum</i>            | W                   |                 |                         | W                               |                             |                              | W                     |                        |
| <b>Watch list B: Invasive in adjacent states and/or cultivated in Alabama</b>               |  |                                    |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | garlic mustard (forb)  | <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>          | W                   | W               | W                       | W                               | W                           |                              |                       |                        |
|   | Japanese barberry (shrub)  | <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>         | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | paper mulberry (tree)  | <i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>     | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | purple beautyberry (shrub)   | <i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>        | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | Japanese beautyberry (shrub)   | <i>Callicarpa japonica</i>         | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | winter creeper (vine)  | <i>Euonymus fortunei</i>           | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | Chinese silvergrass, silverplume grass*  | <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>         | W                   | W,O             | W                       | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | wetland nightshade (shrub)   | <i>Solanum tampicense</i>          | W                   |                 |                         | W                               |                             | W                            |                       |                        |
|   | Japanese spirea (shrub)  | <i>Spiraea japonica</i>            | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
|   | Chinese elm (tree)   | <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>            | W                   | W,O             |                         | W                               |                             |                              |                       |                        |
| <b>Bold indicates Alabama's Worst 10, * Invasiveness may vary by subspecies and variety</b> |  |                                    |                     |                 |                         |                                 |                             |                              |                       |                        |