



(New additions and changes are in bold)

### 1. Severe Threat

Exotic plant species which possess characteristics of invasive species and spread easily into native plant communities and displace native vegetation; includes species which are or could become widespread in Kentucky.

***Achyranthes japonica* - Japanese chaff flower**

*Ailanthus altissima* - tree-of-heaven

*Alliaria petiolata* - garlic mustard

***Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* - porcelain berry**

***Arthraxon hispidus* - hairy jointgrass (moved from 2)**

*Carduus nutans* - musk thistle

*Celastrus orbiculatus* - oriental bittersweet

***Cirsium arvense* - Canada thistle (moved from 2)**

***Clematis terniflora* - leatherleaf clematis**

*Conium maculatum* - poison hemlock

*Coronilla varia* (= *Securigera varia*) - crown vetch

*Dioscorea polystachya* - Chinese yam

*Elaeagnus umbellata* - autumn olive

*Euonymus alatus* - burning bush

*Euonymus fortunei* - wintercreeper

*Festuca arundinacea* (= *Lolium arundinaceum*) - Kentucky 31 fescue

***Glechoma hederacea* - ground ivy (moved from 2)**

*Lespedeza cuneata* - sericea lespedeza

***Lespedeza stipulacea* (= *Kummerowia*) - Korean lespedeza (moved from 2)**

*Ligustrum sinense*, *L. vulgare* - privet

*Lonicera japonica* - Japanese honeysuckle

*Lonicera maackii*, *L. fragrantissima*, *L. standishii* - bush honeysuckles

***Lysimachia nummularia* - moneywort**

*Lythrum salicaria* - purple loosestrife

*Melilotus alba* - white sweet clover

*Melilotus officinalis* - yellow sweet clover

*Microstegium vimineum* - Japanese stiltgrass

*Miscanthus sinensis* - Chinese silver grass

*Paulownia tomentosa* - princess tree

*Phragmites australis* - common reed

*Polygonum cuspidatum* - Japanese knotweed  
*Pyrus calleryana* - callery pear  
*Pueraria lobata* - kudzu  
***Ranunculus ficaria* - lesser celandine**  
***Rhamnus cathartica* - European buckthorn**  
*Rosa multiflora* - multiflora rose  
*Sorghum halepense* - Johnson grass  
*Stellaria media* - chickweed

---

## 2. Significant Threat

Exotic plant species which possess some invasive characteristics, but have less impact on native plant communities; may have the capacity to invade natural communities along disturbance corridors, or to spread from stands in disturbed sites into undisturbed areas, but have fewer characteristics of invasive species than #1 rank.

***Agrostis stolonifera* - weeping love grass**  
*Akebia quinata* - akebia  
*Albizia julibrissin* - mimosa  
***Alternanthera philoxeroides* - alligatorweed**  
*Berberis thunbergii* - Japanese barberry  
*Bromus inermis* - smooth brome  
***Bromus tectorum*, *B. japonicus* - cheat grass**  
***Cardiospermum halicacabum* - balloon vine**  
*Centaurea biebersteinii* - spotted knapweed  
*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* - ox-eye daisy  
***Cirsium vulgare* - bull thistle**  
*Daucus carota* - Queen Anne's lace  
*Dipsacus sylvestris*, ***D. laciniata* - common teasel, cutleaf teasel**  
***Echinochloa crus-galli* - barnyard grass (moved from 3)**  
*Eleusine indica* - goose grass  
***Galium pedemontanum* - cleavers (moved from 3)**  
*Hedera helix* - English ivy  
***Hemerocallis fulva* - day-lily (moved from 3)**  
***Humulus japonicus* - Japanese hops**  
***Hydrilla verticillata* - hydrilla**  
*Lespedeza bicolor*, ***Lespedeza thunbergii* (moved from 3) - bicolor lespedeza and shrubby lespedeza**  
*Lespedeza striata* (= *Kummerowia*) - Kobe lespedeza  
***Medicago lupulina* - black medic (moved from 3)**  
*Mentha x piperata* - peppermint  
*Morus alba* - white mulberry  
*Mosla dianthera* - miniature beefsteak  
***Najas minor* - water nymph**  
*Ornithogalum umbellatum* - star-of-Bethlehem

***Pastinaca sativa* - wild parsnip**  
***Perilla frutescens* - beefsteak**  
***Poa compressa* - Canada bluegrass (moved from 3)**  
*Poa pratensis* - Kentucky bluegrass  
*Polygonum cespitosum* - bunchy knotweed  
*Polygonum persicaria* - lady's thumb  
*Populus alba* - white poplar  
***Potamogeton crispus* - curlyleaf pondweed**  
***Rhodotypos scandens* - jetbead**  
*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* - water-cress  
***Rubus phoenicolasius* - wineberry**  
***Schedonorus pratensis* - meadow fescue**  
*Setaria faberi* - giant foxtail  
*Setaria viridis* - green foxtail  
*Spiraea japonica* - Japanese spiraea  
***Thlaspi alliaceum* - garlic peppergrass (moved from 3)**  
***Tussilago farfara* - coltsfoot**  
***Typha xglauca* - cattail**  
***Ulmus pumila* - Siberian elm**  
***Verbascum thapsus* - common mullein**  
*Vinca minor* - lesser periwinkle

---

### 3. Moderate Threat

Exotic plant species which seem to principally spread and remain in disturbed corridors, not readily invading natural areas; also some agronomic weeds.

***Agropyron repens* - quack grass**  
***Allium vineale* - field garlic**  
***Arctium minus* - common burdock (moved from 2)**  
*Arenaria serpyllifolia* - thyme-leaf sandwort  
*Barbarea vulgaris* - yellow rocket  
***Bromus arvensis*, *B. catharticus*, *B. hordeaceus*, *B. racemosus* - field bromes**  
***Buddleja davidii* - orange-eye butterfly bush**  
***Carduus acathoides* - spiny plumeless thistle**  
***Chenopodium album* - lamb's quarters**  
*Cichorium intybus* - chicory  
*Commelina communis* - dayflower  
*Convolvulus arvensis* - field bindweed  
*Duchesnea indica* - Indian strawberry  
***Duetzia scabra* - fuzzy deutzia**  
***Elaeagnus angustifolia*, Russian olive**  
***Eleusine indica* - goose grass**  
***Fatoua villosa* - hairy crabweed**  
***Hesperis matronalis* - Dame's rocket**

*Holcus lanatus* - velvet grass  
*Hypericum perforatum* - common St. John's-wort  
***Ipomoea hederacea* - ivy-leafed morning-glory (moved from 2)**  
***Ipomoea purpurea* - purple morning-glory (moved from 2)**  
*Iris pseudoacorus* - pale yellow iris  
***Lamium purpureum* - purple deadnettle**  
*Lamium amplexicaule* - henbit  
*Lithospermum arvense* - corn-gromwell  
*Lolium multiflorum* - Italian rye  
***Lonicera xbella*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tartarica* - bush honeysuckle (New- bella, moved from 1 - morrowii and tartarica)**  
***Lotus corniculatus* - birdsfoot trefoil**  
***Mahonia bealei* - leatherleaf mahonia**  
***Mentha spicata* - spearmint**  
*Nepeta cataria* - catnip  
*Oxalis stricta* (= *O. europea*) - common yellow wood-sorrel  
***Paspalum dilatatum* - dallisgrass**  
***Phyllostachys aurea* - golden bamboo**  
*Poa annua* - speargrass  
*Potentilla recta* - sulphur five-fingers  
***Prunus mahalab* - Mahalab cherry**  
*Ranunculus bulbosus* - bulbous buttercup  
*Rumex acetosella* - sheep sorrel  
*Solanum dulcamara* - bitter nightshade  
*Thlaspi perfoliatum* - field cress  
***Torillis arvensis*, *T. japonica* - hedge parsley**  
***Wisteria sinensis*, *W. floribunda*, *W. xformosa* - exotic wisterias**

---

#### 4. Watch List

Exotic plant species that have either not been observed or well-documented in Kentucky, but have invaded native plant communities in neighboring states.

*Acer platanoides* - Norway maple  
*Allium sativum* - garlic  
*Alnus glutinosa* - European alder  
*Artemisia vulgaris* - mugwort  
*Arundo donax* - giant reed  
*Broussonetia papyrifera* - paper mulberry  
*Didymosphenia geminata* - rock snot  
*Egeria densa* - Brazilian elodea  
*Eichhornia crassipes* - water hyacinth  
*Eragrostis cilianensis* - lovegrass (moved from 3)  
*Eragrostis curvula* - weeping lovegrass

*Euphorbia esula* - leafy spurge  
*Hibiscus syriacus* - rose of Sharon  
*Koelreuteria paniculata* - golden raintree  
*Lactuca saligna* - willowleaf lettuce (moved from 3)  
*Lamium maculata* - spotted deadnettle  
*Nandina domestica* - heavenly bamboo  
*Phellodendron amurense* - Amur corktree  
*Polygonum perfoliatum* - mile-a-minute vine  
*Polygonum sachalinense* - giant knotweed  
*Quercus acutissima* - sawtooth oak  
*Rhamnus frangula* - alder buckthorn  
*Rubus bifrons* - Himalayan berry  
*Setaria verticillata* - bur-foxtail  
*Sonchus asper* - spiny sowthistle  
*Sonchus oleraceus* - annual sowthistle  
*Trifolium campestre*, *T. pratense*, *T. repens* - clovers  
*Ulmus parvifolia* - lacebark elm  
*Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus* - European highbush cranberry  
*Vicia cracca* - bird vetch  
*Vicia sativa* - common vetch  
*Vicia villosa* subsp. *Villosa* (= *V. dasycarpa*) - winter vetch  
*Zelkova serrata* - zelkova

Contributors:

Joyce Bender, Andrew Berry, Scott Beuerlein, Tom Borgman, Larry Brewer, Portia Brown, Rick Caldwell, Julian Campbell, Chris Chandler, Mary Carol Cooper, Dan Cox, Carolyn Cromer, Andrea Dee, Mary Catherine Dickerson, Chris Evans, Steve Foltz, Shannon Galbraith-Kent, Pat Haragan, Brian Heinz, Jesse Hensen, Martina Hines, Aubrey Hoaglin, Mark Jacobs, Beverly James, Ron Jones, Mike Klahr, Bryan Lewis, Gary Libby, Tara Littlefield, Cora Martin, Rex McBride, Frank Melton, Lisa Morris, Alan Nations, J.T. Netherlands, Will Overbeck, Clint Patterson, Deryck Rodgers, Devin Shenk, Josh Selm, Clare Sipple, Mike Smith, Kris Stone, Carl Suk, David Taylor, Jody Thompson, Ralph Thompson, Mary W. Turner, Kelly Vowles, Major Waltman, Jared Weaver, Zeb Weese, Deb White, Robert Woodford

References:

Campbell, Julian. 2012. *Atlas of Vascular Plants in Kentucky*. <<http://www.bluegrasswoodland.com/>>

"Distribution Maps." *EDDMapS Southeast Species*. Southeast Early Detection Network, n.d. Web. Mar. 2013. <<http://www.eddmaps.org/southeast/distribution/>>.

Heffernan, K.E., P.P. Coulling, J.F. Townsend, and C.J. Hutto. 2001. Ranking Invasive Exotic Plant Species in Virginia. Natural Heritage Technical Report 01-13. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, Richmond, Virginia. 27 pp. plus appendices.

"Invasive Exotic Pest Plants in Tennessee." *Tneppc.org*. Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, n.d. Web. Mar. 2013. <[http://www.tneppc.org/invasive\\_plants](http://www.tneppc.org/invasive_plants)>.

Jones, Ronald. 2005. *Plant Life of Kentucky: an illustrated guide to the vascular flora*. University of Kentucky Press, Lexington, KY.