



Virginia's Alien Plant Invaders

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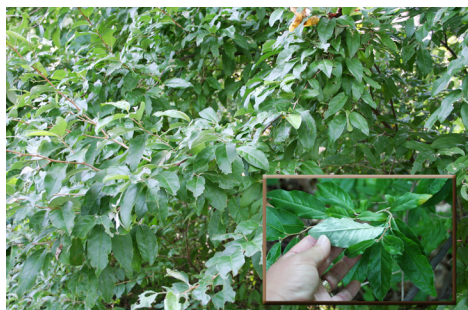
Tree-of-Heaven
(*Ailanthus altissima*)



Oriental Bittersweet
(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Wavyleaf Basketgrass
(*Oplismenus hirtellus* ssp. *undulatifolius*)



Autumn olive
(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Chinese Privet
(*Ligustrum sinense*)



English Ivy
(*Hedera helix*)



Japanese Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera japonica*)



Japanese Stiltgrass
(*Microstegium vimineum*)



Kudzu
(*Pueraria lobata*)



Multiflora Rose
(*Rosa multiflora*)



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Species Spotlight: Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Wavyleaf basketgrass has been found only in a few Virginia locations, but it is a species to watch. This grass produces sticky seeds that adhere to animals and clothing, making it easy to spread. It forms a dense groundcover in the forest understory, crowding out native species and suppressing the reproduction of new trees and other plants.

Wavyleaf Basketgrass Can It Be Stopped?

You can help...

- Learn what this grass looks like and report infestations at <http://imapinvasives.org/vaimi/map>
- Stay away from this plant once it has set seed. Remove any seeds found sticking to clothes, shoes or pets before leaving the area.
- Eliminate this grass if you find it on your land. Pull it by hand before mid-summer to avoid dropping seeds, or use a recommended herbicide. Control may take several years.

What Problems Do Invasive Plants Cause?

Non-native invasive plants cause harm by:

- Upsetting the natural balance of ecosystems
- Crowding out economically important species
- Causing declines in wildlife numbers and diversity
- Serving as carriers for plant diseases
- Reducing biodiversity of plants
- Changing soil chemistry, hydrology or natural fire regimes

How Can We Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants?

- Learn to recognize invasive species.
- Don't plant any species known to be invasive.
- Get rid of invasive plants on your property. Contact your Cooperative Extension or Department of Forestry office for control recommendations.
- Avoid moving seeds or plant parts to new areas, either purposely or accidentally.
- Teach others about invasive plants and encourage them to take action.

What Are Characteristics of Invasive Plants?

Plants that invade a new environment tend to have:

- Rapid growth and early maturity
- Heavy seed production, easy dispersal, and/or ability to spread vegetatively
- Few or no natural predators or diseases
- Traits that help them physically limit competition from other plants