

The **Alabama Invasive Plant Council (ALIPC)** is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC). The ALIPC is able to accomplish its goals through the efforts and support of its members. Your membership helps provide the needed resources to host annual meetings, workshops, and print educational brochures to raise awareness on critical invasive species issues. ALIPC needs your support and participation. For more information visit SE-EPPC's web site at se-eppc.org and go to the ALIPC link. Membership in ALIPC also confers membership in SE-EPPC and a free subscription to Wildland Weeds.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____
 Business or Agency _____
 Phone _____
 FAX _____
 E-Mail _____

Check appropriate membership category

INDIVIDUAL

- Student - \$10
- General - \$20
- Contributing - \$50
- Donor - \$51-\$500

INSTITUTIONAL

- General - \$100
- Contributing - \$500
- Donor - \$501-\$10,000
- Patron - greater than \$10,000

Gift: _____

Mail completed form and check (no cash) made payable to:

Alabama Invasive Plant Council.

Alabama Invasive Plant Council

Curtis J. Hansen, Treasurer
 101 Life Sciences Building
 Auburn University
 Auburn, AL 36849
 334-844-1630
hansecj@auburn.edu

INVASIVE ROSES



multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), **Cherokee rose** (*R. laevigata*), and **Macartney rose** (*R. bracteata*)

Native to Asia and introduced into the US in early times as ornamentals, livestock containment and wildlife habitat plantings.

These roses are increasingly invading pastures, forest edges, right-of-ways, and wetland habitats displacing native species. Cherokee and Macartney roses are evergreen and multiflora is deciduous, but all form impenetrable entanglements that stop land use and management.

Cherokee rose is a major plant pest in the Blackbelt, while multiflora and Macartney roses occur throughout Alabama. Effective eradication can be achieved with repeated herbicide applications, while biocontrol agents will weaken plants

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL



Myriophyllum spicatum

Native to Eurasia and introduced into the US in 1940s as an aquarium plant. This submersed, mat-forming perennial remains green during winter and occurs throughout Alabama in both fresh and brackish waters.

It is an aggressive invader of reservoirs, rivers, and lakes. It forms dense mats that replaces native plants and prevents light penetration causing fish habitat destruction.

It spreads by plant fragments hitch-hiking on boats and trailers, but also produces seeds. Carefully planned herbicide applications can reduce infestations in some cases.

HYDRILLA



Hydrilla verticillata

Native to Asia or Africa and first introduced into Florida in 1950s or early 1960s. This is a submersed herbaceous plant that infests freshwater ponds, rivers and lakes.

Like many invasive aquatic plants, hydrilla was introduced by the aquarium trade and now spreads by plant parts hitch-hiking on boats and trailers. Dense surface mats of hydrilla crowd out native plants and

cause reduced oxygen conditions unsuitable for fish. The mats interfere with water flow, drainage, navigation, and often harbor mosquitoes. This is a federal and Alabama State listed noxious weed. Carefully applied herbicide applications can reduce infestations.

ALLIGATOR WEED



Alternanthera philoxeroides

Native to South America and introduced into the US in the 1890s in ship ballast water. This herbaceous freshwater perennial invader forms dense mats in water bodies, wetlands, and low-lying as well as upland areas.

The thick mats in water replace native species and can result in fish kills and prevent recreational use as well as slow drainage that may cause flooding. Dense upland infestations make the land useless for any type of production. A South American flea beetle introduced in the 1980s in Florida for biological control of alligatorweed has reduced the spread but is less effective in central and northern Alabama because of low overwinter survival. Several herbicides are available for effective treatment of alligatorweed. Eradication requires multi-year applications.

Alabama Invasive Plant Council



Alabama's 10 WORST INVASIVE WEEDS



ALABAMA'S WORST INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive, or exotic pest plants are a growing problem in Alabama. Non-native plant invasions can be seen in natural areas, croplands, pasturelands, forests, wetlands and waterways, parks and refuges, and on right-of-ways. Not all non-native plants are invasive. In fact, a large number of our agricultural crops and ornamental plants are non-native (exotic) in origin. Exotic plants are only a problem when they escape cultivation, spread, and aggressively replace native species. Some are overwhelming entire landscapes.

The "10 Worst Invasive Weeds" described here are biological pollutants that stop land and water productivity, displace native species, degrade wildlife and fish habitat, and threaten many endangered species. Management of invasive plants is difficult and complex and requires an organized and concerted effort. The Alabama Invasive Plant Council was formed to help all citizens take part in stopping this unfriendly takeover.

The **Alabama Invasive Plant Council** was established in 2003 as a non-profit state-wide organization to:

- provide a forum for all interested parties to participate and provide input on the problem and solutions.
- raise awareness about the threat posed by invasive pest plants in Alabama.
- facilitate communication and exchange of information on the threat and management of invasive pest plants.
- initiate actions to prevent future introductions and the spread of invasive pest plants in Alabama and the Southeast.
- serve as an educational, advisory, and technical support council on all aspects of invasive plant issues.

Council partners are:

Alabama Forestry Commission
 Co-Sponsor of this brochure
 Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
 Alabama Department of Transportation
 Auburn University Cooperative Extension
 The Nature Conservancy
 USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 USDA Forest Service
 US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Alabama Wildflower Watch
 Alabama Farmers Federation
 Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association
 Alabama Forestry Association
 Alabama Power
 Alabama Crop Management Association
 The John D. Freeman Herbarium, Auburn University

KUDZU



Pueraria montana var. lobata

Native to China and introduced into the South in the 1930s to 50s for forage and erosion control, but it was finally realized that it could not be used or contained. This highly-recognized perennial vine, "The Vine that Ate the South", continues to spread along edges of forests, pastures, and right-of-ways and around cities and towns. During spring, kudzu vines can grow up to a foot a day, covering trees, buildings, fences, road signs, and telephone and utility poles.

In the late 1980s, a county agent survey estimated about 250 thousand acres were infested by kudzu in Alabama. Control treatments have been successful using herbicides, overgrazing, and mechanical root removal.

TALLOWTREE



Triadica sebifera or *Sapium sebiferum*

Native to Eastern Asia and first introduced into South Carolina in 1700s and then spread wider by federally-sponsored plantings in the gulf coast during the early 1900s for a failed seed oil industry.

This deciduous tree's colorful fall foliage and rapid growth has made it a popular landscape tree. Prolific seed production and dispersal by birds and water has resulted in increasingly infested stream banks, riverbanks, and wet areas as well as upland forests, especially in southern Alabama. This aggressive species is replacing valuable bottomland forests and has limited value for honey production. Several southern states have banned or in the process of banning sales of this species. Plants are controlled by application of herbicides to foliage, stems, or cut stumps.

COGONGRASS



Imperata cylindrica

Native to Asia and introduced into the Mobile area in early 1900s. This tall perennial grass with yellowish foliage forms dense circular infestations that exclude all native species and has no known uses.

It is highly flammable and poses a severe fire hazard. Over half of Alabama's counties have cogongrass infestations with the most severe being in the southern tier of counties. Cogongrass is steadily spreading northward by windblown seeds, movement of contaminated fill dirt, and probably through horticultural plantings (commercial red variety) as well as hay, pine straw, and straw sells from infested areas. This is a federal and Alabama State listed noxious weed. Successful eradication is achieved with multiple herbicide treatments over several years.

CHINESE PRIVET



Ligustrum sinense

Native to China and first introduced into US as an ornamental shrub in 1853. This mostly evergreen shrub has been a traditional ornamental hedge species and continues to be sold and planted principally as the variegated variety.

It spreads across the landscape by abundant seeds carried by birds and water, while infestations grow by prolific root-suckering. Chinese privet is just one of several species of privet invading Alabama's fencerows, forested creek bottoms, and upland forests. The dense stemmy infestations reaching 30 ft tall displace most native species and prevent regeneration of bottomland hardwood and upland pine forests. Chinese privet has some value as an ornamental, deer browse, and bird habitat. Plants are controlled by application of herbicides to foliage, stems, and cut stumps.

TROPICAL SODA APPLE



Solanum viarum

Native to Brazil and Argentina and first found in Florida in 1988 and Alabama in 1994. This thorny perennial shrub invaded an estimated 1 million acres in five southern states within 7 years after its arrival.

Over 15 thousand acres are currently infested in Alabama with extremely rapid spread underway. Entire pastures are occupied following an initial plant. It migrates by interstate movement of cattle, hay, and composted manure from infested areas, while local spread by wildlife is now suspected. This is a federal and Alabama State listed noxious weed. Eradication requires multi-year application of herbicides.

JAPANESE CLIMBING FERN



Lygodium japonicum

Native to Asia and Australia and introduced into the US in 1930s. This perennial viney fern is rapidly spreading by wind-blown and water carried spores and shipments of contaminated pine straw, and now is increasingly found scattered throughout Alabama.

Although dying back each winter, prior year's vines provide a trellis for expansive new growth that eventually covers shrubs and trees. Native species of plants are displaced, wildlife habitat is destroyed, and access to lands is denied by this species. Range expansion could now be stopped or slowed by control of scattered infestations. Careful prescribed burns can reduce vines and applications of herbicides to foliage can control underground stems.