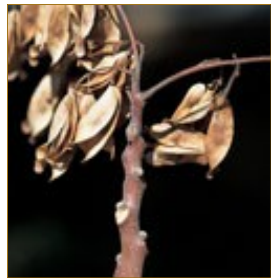


NC Sandhills Weed Management Area's LEAST WANTED

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Found primarily in disturbed areas, the Tree of Heaven; a deciduous tree with pinnately compound leaves, competes with native vegetation by prolifically producing seeds that spread by wind and water. It's root system exude a chemical, discouraging the growth of other plants.

Identifying characteristics: each leaflet has a small lobe at its base, with a gland that feels like a hard bump. Leaves, when crushed, produce a "peanut butter-like" smell.



Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

An evergreen shrub, Chinese privet invades lowland sites, forming dense thickets. Shade tolerant, it can grow up 30 feet in height. Mainly

spread by birds eating the seeds, it can colonize an area through root sprouts. Chinese privet shades out plants native to bottomlands.

Identifying characteristics: opposite, regularly shaped oblong

leaves with fine hairs along twigs and leaves' undersides.

introduced by humans as an ornamental, it is often used for hedges. Also



Chinese/Japanese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*/*Wisteria floribunda*)



A deciduous, woody vine, this plant climbs and twines its way along the ground, over shrubs and up trees creating dense infestations. Vines often wrap around tree trunks, strangling the trees, opening the canopy to more sunlight thereby increasing its aggressive growth. It spreads rapidly from its point of introduction by runners that root at the nodes.

Identifying characteristics: leaves are elliptical and pinnately compound with 7-19 leaflets. It produces showy, fragrant, hanging clusters of purple flowers in the spring.

Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)

A tall perennial grass with corn-like stems, this invasive plant can grow in height 20 feet or more.



Introduced as an ornamental to control roadside erosion, it forms dense thickets of stem clumps. Tolerant of both dry and wet soils, it reproduces from compact, branching, tuberous rhizomes and can be transported to new areas by movement of stem parts in the

soil.

Leaves are alternate, long lanceolate shaped clasping the stem at a whitish base. It has a conspicuous terminal seed plume.

Golden Bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*)

A perennial with jointed cane stems, this species may grow up to 40 feet in height. Introduced as an ornamental in the late 1800's, it colonizes by underground rhizomes, spreading rapidly into disturbed areas forming dense stands.

Lanceolate blades with parallel veins, it's leaves form fan-like clusters arranged alternately. Color ranges from golden to green. It forms monoculture thickets that displace native plant species.

