

WHAT ARE INVASIVES?

Invasive plants are species that are not native to a particular area and have a tendency to spread, causing harm to the environment, economy, or human health. They are determined invasive based on their ability to outcompete native species, disrupt local ecosystems, and rapidly increase in population without natural predators to keep them in check. These plants are detrimental to the environment because they can lead to the loss of biodiversity, alter soil chemistry, and disrupt food chains, ultimately threatening native wildlife and plant species.

COMMON INVASIVES

Kudzu



Kudzu is a fast-growing vine native to East Asia, notorious for its ability to rapidly cover vast areas and outcompete other vegetation.

Bradford Pear



The Bradford pear is invasive because it spreads rapidly, outcompetes native species, and disrupts local ecosystems by cross-pollinating with the Callery Pear and creating dense, thorny thickets.

Chinese Privet



Chinese privet is considered invasive due to its aggressive growth and adaptability. This shrub can quickly establish dense thickets, which crowd out native vegetation by monopolizing sunlight, nutrients, and water resources and changing soil chemistry.

You Can Make A Difference!

Planting native plants instead of invasive species is a powerful way for an individual to enhance their local environment. These plants are adapted to local conditions, requiring less water and maintenance while supporting wildlife by providing essential habitats and food. By choosing native species, individuals contribute to restoring ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and preventing the spread of invasive species.

For more information on native plants

CONTACT US

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NC STATE EXTENSION

Master Gardener | Clay County



Rooted in the Right Place

Native plants are better than invasive plants in the home landscape because they are adapted to the local environment, making them more resilient and requiring less maintenance. They support local wildlife by providing essential habitats for native birds, insects, and other animals. Additionally, native plants help preserve biodiversity and prevent the spread of invasive species that can disrupt ecosystems. By choosing native plants, homeowners contribute to a healthier, more sustainable environment.

VINES

Don't Plant This

- Chocolate Vine
- English Ivy
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Kudzu
- Vinca Major/Minor

Plant this instead

- American Wisteria
- Coral Honeysuckle
- Crossvine
- Dutchman's Pipe
- Trumpet Vine
- Virgin's Bower
- Virginia Creeper



Coral Honeysuckle



Trumpet Vine

GROUND COVERS

Don't Plant This

- English Ivy
- Vinca Major/Minor

Plant this instead

- Allegheny Spurge
- Barren Strawberry
- Christmas Fern
- Dwarf Crested Iris
- Foam Flower
- Green & Gold
- Marginal Wood Fern
- Phlox
- Sedges
- Wild Ginger
- Wintergreen
- Lamium



Green & Gold



Phlox

SCREENS

Don't Plant This

- Golden Bamboo

Plant this instead

- American Holly
- Arborvitae
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Hemlocks
- Native Rhododendrons



American Holly

SHRUBS (FALL COLOR)

Don't Plant This

- Burning Bush



Winterberry Holly

Plant this instead

- Blueberries
- Native Viburnums
- Nine Bark
- Oak Leaf Hydrangea
- Red Chokeberry
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Virginia Sweetspire
- Witch Alders
- Winterberry Holly

SHRUBS (FLOWERING)

Don't Plant This

- Japanese Spirea
- Japanese Barberry
- Multiflora Rose
- Chinese Privet



Sweetshrub

Plant this instead

- Black Chokeberry
- Blueberries
- Dwarf Fothergilla
- Mountain Laurel
- Native Azaleas
- Native Rhododendrons
- Native Viburnums
- New Jersey Tea
- Nine Bark
- Summer Sweet
- Sweet Shrub
- Virginia Sweetspire

GRASSES

Don't Plant This

- Chinese Silvergrass



Switchgrass

Plant this instead

- Big Blue Stem
- Little Blue Stem
- Switchgrass



Little Blue Stem

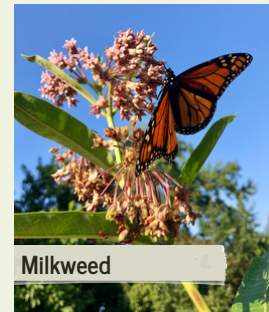
FOR BUTTERFLIES & BIRDS

Plant this

- Beebalm
- Blueberries
- Chokeberries
- Cardinal Flower
- Cinnamon Bark Clethra
- Columbine
- Coral Honeysuckle
- Crossvine
- Dogwoods
- Elderberry
- Inkberry
- Joe Pye Weed
- Milkweed, Butterfly Weed
- Mountain Laurel
- Native Azaleas
- Native Hawthorns
- Native Viburnums
- New Jersey Tea
- Purple Coneflower
- Red Cedar
- Native Rhododendrons
- Service Berry tree
- Summersweet
- Trumpet Vine
- Wild Geranium
- Winterberry



Cardinal Flower



Milkweed



Dogwood

FOR WILDLIFE

Plant this

- Allegheny Blackberry
- Chinquapin
- Eastern Black Walnut
- Elderberry
- Persimmon
- White Oak



Chinquapin