

The Worst Invasive Species in Southern Forest and Grassland Ecosystems

USDA Forest Service Southern Regional Task Force for Assessment to Nonnative Invasive Species

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The listed Worst Invasive Species were selected from a larger list of "high threat" nonnative invasive species to represent the range of organism types invading Southern Forests and Grasslands, both public and private. The listing order does not infer priority. Species that span the region or pose severe threats in specific areas were included to convey the breadth of the problem and to engage a range of viewers and users to support prevention and management programs. A short list of severe invasive threats are included that warrant careful surveillance to preclude entrance to safeguard our valuable Forest and Grassland Ecosystems.

The purpose of this "Short List of Worst Invasives Species" is for use with communication tools such as posters, brochures, signage, and web pages, which can include images, short descriptions, and details on impacts and prevention measures. Also included could be Information about the Southern Region's invasive species problem and "what you can do to help".

<u>Type</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
tree	Chinese tallowtree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i> (<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>)
tree	tree of heaven, ailanthus	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
shrub	Non-native privets	<i>Ligustrum</i> sp.
vine	kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> (<i>P. lobata</i>)
grass	cogongrass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
grass	Japanese stiltgrass, microstegium	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>
aquatic	Eurasian water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
aquatic	hydrilla, waterthyme	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
aquatic	didymo (alga near dams in VA & KY)	<i>Didymosphenia geminata</i>
pathogen	dogwood anthracnose	<i>Discula destructiva</i>
pathogen	laurel wilt	<i>Raffaelea lauricola</i>
insect	redbay ambrosia beetle (laurel wilt vector)	<i>Xyleborus glabratus</i>
insect	balsam woolly adelgid	<i>Adelges piceae</i>
insect	hemlock woolly adelgid	<i>Adelges tsugae</i>
insect	gypsy moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>
mammal	feral hog, European wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
bird	European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
fish	grass carp (non-sterile)	<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>
mollusk	zebra mussel	<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>
earthworm	Canadian nightcrawler	<i>Lumbricus terrestris</i>

Imminent Threats Poised to Enter the Region's Forest Ecosystems

pathogen	sudden oak death	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
insect	emerald ash borer	<i>Agilus planipennis</i>
insect	sirex woodwasp	<i>Sirex noctilio</i>

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