

Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States

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Swearingen, J., K. Reshetiloff, B. Slattery, and S. Zwicker. 2002. Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas. National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 82 pp.

Japanese Spiraea
Spiraea japonica

Japanese spiraea, a native of Japan, Korea and China, was introduced into the United States for ornamental cultivation around 1870. It is a very popular landscape shrub that produces showy pink flowers in spring. Spiraea invades a variety of natural habitats including fields, forests, stream and river edges, and disturbed areas like roadsides and power line rights-of-way. It tolerates a wide range of soil and light conditions. Spiraea grows rapidly and densely, displacing many native herbs and shrubs. It flowers profusely, producing large numbers of seeds that are dispersed away from the parent plant by water.



William S. Justice

Prevention and Control

Cutting may be effective for small populations or environmentally sensitive areas. Repeated mowing or cutting will control the spread of spiraea, but will not eradicate it. Systemic herbicides can also be used.

Native Alternatives

sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), pinxterbloom azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)

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