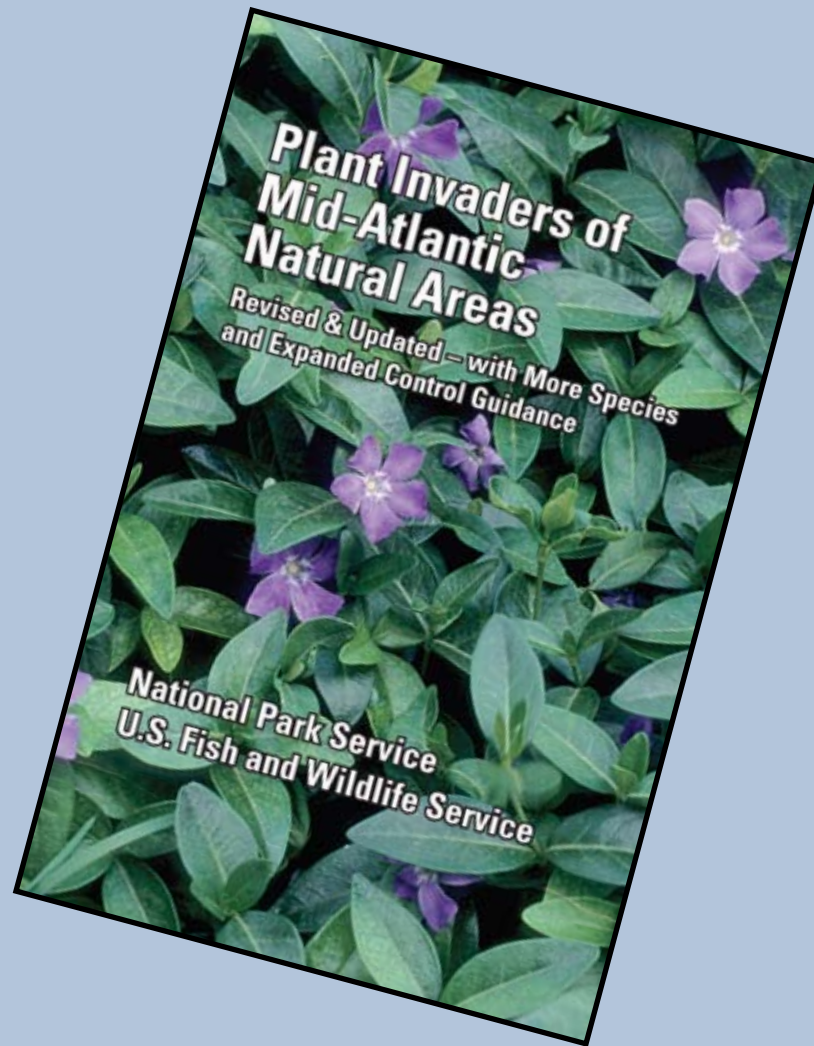


The Alien Plant Working Group's 2010 Invasive Plant Calendar

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas





Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group

Weeds Gone Wild are plants introduced by people into new areas outside their native ranges which have become weedy or “invasive” in natural habitats. Introduced plants are also referred to as alien, exotic, non-native, and non-indigenous. Native plants occur in a particular habitat and ecosystem as a result of natural forces, excluding human activities. Invasive plants cause harm when they crowd out native species by competing for light, water, nutrients, and soil, and changing the composition of native plant communities which has major consequences for native wildlife. Invasive plants also change soil chemistry, hydrology and fire regimes resulting in significant environmental and economic damage. They reproduce and spread rapidly because they lack the natural controls present in their native lands.

For more information on the identification and management of invasive plants affecting natural areas from the aquatic to the terrestrial, including fact sheets for some of the species in this calendar, take a look at the website (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>).

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a web-based project of the Alien Plant Working Group that provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers, and others on the serious threat and impacts of invasive alien plants to the native flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems of the United States. The site provides:

- * A web version and PDF file of the complete **Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas** publication
 - * Illustrated fact sheets with control options
 - * Background on the problem including terminology
- * Link to APWG's invasive plant list for the United States (hosted by invasive.org)
 - * Other useful invasive species website links
 - * And much more!

The Alien Plant Working Group provides public education, invasive plant management advice, networking, regional support, and policy guidance. APWG works with a variety of organizations across the United States and internationally. If you would like to get involved with APWG, please join our discussion list (instructions on the website) or send an email to the Alien Plant Working Group Chairperson, Jil Swearingen (jil_swearingen@nps.gov).

AQUATIC PLANTS



Alison Fox, University of Florida (invasive.org)

Eurasian Water-Milfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum L.

Water-milfoil family (Haloragaceae)

Origin

Eurasia and Africa

About

Introduced accidentally in the 1940s, Eurasian water-milfoil possibly escaped from an aquarium or was brought in on a commercial or private boat. It occurs in at least 33 states east of the Mississippi River and has recently been found in Colorado. Typical habitat includes fresh to brackish water of ponds, lakes, slow-moving streams, reservoirs, estuaries and canals. It is tolerant of many water pollutants. Water-milfoil tends to invade disturbed areas and does not typically spread into undisturbed areas where native plants are well established. Read more about Eurasian water-milfoil and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

PCA Alien Plant Working Group • <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>

JANUARY 2011

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GRASSES AND SEDGES



Joseph McCauley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (invasive.org)

Common Reed

Phragmites australis (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

Grass family (Poaceae)

Origin

Europe

About

European forms of *Phragmites* were probably introduced to North America by accident in ballast material in the late 1700s or early 1800s. Research shows three separate lineages occur in North America, including the European introduced invasive form. Common reed occurs in disturbed to pristine wet areas including tidal and non-tidal wetlands, brackish and fresh-water marshes, river edges, shores of lakes and ponds, roadsides and ditches. It spreads quickly by wind-dispersed seed and rhizomes, forming dense monotypic stands that exclude all other plants. Read more about common reed and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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FEBRUARY 2011

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HERBACEOUS FORBS



Bill Johnson Nature Stock Photography, Inc.

Beefsteak Plant

Perilla frutescens (L.) Britt.

Mint family (Lamiaceae)

Origin

Asia (China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and other countries)

About

Beefsteak plant is a traditional Asian crop, is often planted as an ornamental and spreading by seed, escapes cultivation. It has become a problematic invasive plant in natural areas across the mid-Atlantic region and elsewhere, establishing along streams and rivers, gravel bars, forest edges, roadsides, railroad right-of-ways, pastures, fields and other disturbed areas in soils that are rich, alluvial or dry. It forms dense patches that displace native plants. It has toxic characteristics which may explain why very few herbivores feed on it. Read more about beefsteak plant and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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MARCH 2011

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Chris Evans, River to River CWMA (invasive.org) (*Ligustrum sinense*)

Privets

Border privet - *Ligustrum obtusifolium* Sieb. & Zucc.

California privet - *L. ovalifolium* Hassk.

Chinese privet - *L. sinense* Lour.

European privet - *L. vulgare* L.

Olive Family (Oleaceae)

Origin

Japan (Border); Japan and South Korea (California); China (Chinese);
Europe, Morocco, Western Asia and Caucasus (European)

About

Privets are not native to the U.S. They are commonly used as hedges in yards, gardens and other landscapes from which they have escaped and are now well established in the wild. Privets form dense thickets that shade out and take the place of native shrubs and herbaceous plants. Read more about privets and their control options on the APWG website.

APRIL 2011

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T R E E S



Bill Johnson Nature Stock Photography, Inc.

White Mulberry

Morus alba L.

Mulberry family (Moraceae)

Origin

China

About

White mulberry was introduced to the U.S. during colonial times for the purpose of establishing a silkworm industry. It is widespread in the U.S., occurring in every state of the lower 48 except for Nevada. It invades old fields, urban lots, roadsides, forest edges, and other disturbed areas. White mulberry invades forest edges and disturbed forests and open areas, displacing native species. It is slowly outcompeting and replacing native red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) through hybridization and possibly through transmission of a harmful root disease. Read more about white mulberry and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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MAY 2011

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Bill Johnson Nature Stock Photography, Inc.

Common Periwinkle

Vinca minor L.

Dogbane family (Apocynaceae)

Origin

Europe

About

Common periwinkle was first introduced into North America in the 1700s as an ornamental. It is still commonly sold as an ornamental ground cover. This vine-like erect or trailing groundcover has escaped cultivation and is invading natural areas throughout the eastern U.S. It inhabits open to shady sites including forests and often escapes from old homesites. Common periwinkle grows vigorously and forms dense and extensive mats along the forest floor, displacing native herbaceous and woody plant species. Read more about common periwinkle and its control options on the APWG website.

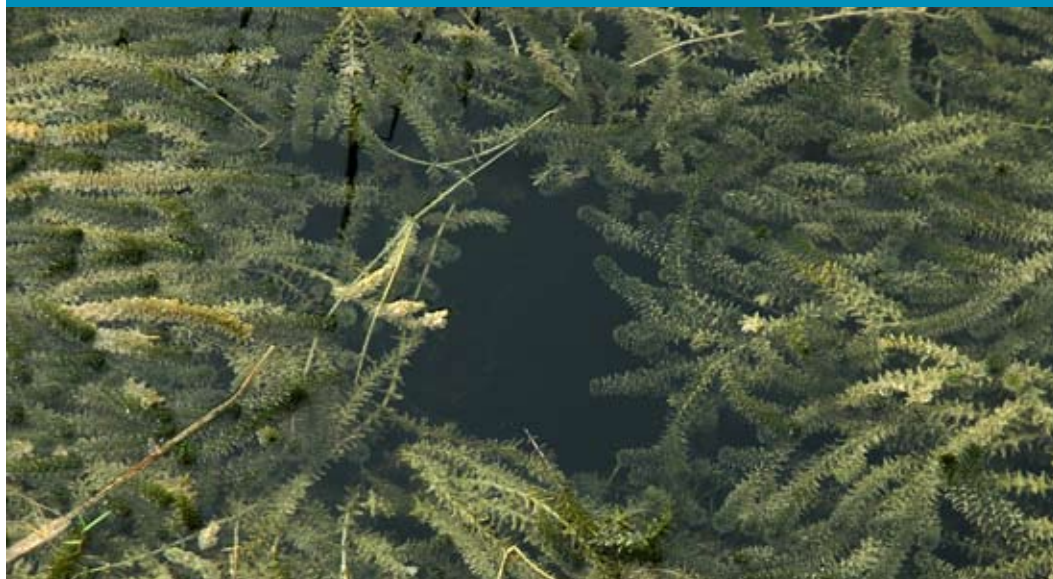
Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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JUNE 2011

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AQUATIC PLANTS



David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia (invasive.org)

Hydrilla

Hydrilla verticillata (L. f.) Royle
Frog-bit family (Hydrocharitaceae)

Origin

Central Africa

About

Hydrilla first appeared in the Crystal River system of Florida in 1960. Imported by the aquarium trade, its presence on the Delmarva Peninsula was confirmed in 1981. It is a federal noxious weed. It is not salt tolerant. Hydrilla outcompetes native submerged aquatic vegetation and can quickly fill a pond or lake, thus choking off the water body for boating, fishing, swimming and other recreational uses. Although non-native and invasive, it provides good quality habitat for fish and shellfish as well as water quality benefits. Read more about hydrilla and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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JULY 2011

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GRASSES AND SEDGES



Kerrie L. Kyde, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (invasive.org)

Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Oplismenus hirtellus ssp. *undulatifolius* (Ard.) U. Scholz

Grass family (Poaceae)

Origin

Southern Europe and Southeast Asia

About

Wavyleaf basketgrass was first discovered in Maryland in 1996 along the Patapsco River in Baltimore County and is spreading rapidly. It is highly shade-adapted and is found in forested areas from the margins to interior. The grass grows low to the ground and spreads across the forest floor displacing native plant species completely or nearly so. It often occurs with Japanese stiltgrass. An urgent effort is underway to eradicate this fast-spreading invasive that has the potential to become much more widespread. Read more about wavyleaf basketgrass and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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AUGUST 2011

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HERBACEOUS FORBS



Bill Johnson Nature Stock Photography, Inc.

Ground Ivy

Glechoma hederacea L.

Mint family (Lamiaceae)

Origin

Eurasia

About

Ground ivy was introduced into North America as an ornamental or medicinal plant, as early as the 1800s. It has been reported to be invasive in natural areas in various states from Wisconsin to Connecticut to Tennessee to North Carolina. It is common in moist areas such as floodplains, low woods and disturbed sites and is a significant weed in lawns. It grows on damp, heavy, fertile and calcareous soils and does not tolerate highly acidic or saline soils. Ground ivy is a vigorous grower that spreads across the ground forming dense patches. Read more about ground ivy and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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SEPTEMBER 2011

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Jill M. Swearingen, National Park Service (invasive.org)

Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii DC.

Barberry family (Berberidaceae)

Origin

Japan

About

Japanese barberry was introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental in 1875. It was eventually promoted as a substitute for *Berberis vulgaris*, an exotic plant introduced and used by early settlers from Europe, and later found to be a host for black stem rust of wheat. It grows well in full sun to deep shade and forms dense stands in closed canopy forests, open woodlands, wetlands, fields and other areas. Where it is well established, it displaces many native herbaceous and woody plants. In large infestations, its leaf litter causes changes in the soil, increasing soil pH. Read more about Japanese barberry and its control options on the APWG website.

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OCTOBER 2011

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T R E E S



Paul Wray, Iowa State University (invasive.org)

Norway Maple

Acer platanoides L.

Maple family (Aceraceae)

Origin

Europe and Western Asia

About

Norway maple was introduced for use as an ornamental landscape plant in 1756. It was planted on farms and in towns for its shade, hardiness and adaptability to adverse conditions. Over time, as reforestation occurred across the Northeast, it joined native tree species as a component of eastern forest ecosystems. It also escaped from town plantings. Norway maple forms monotypic populations by displacing native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous understory plants. Once established, it creates a canopy of dense shade that prevents regeneration of native seedlings. Read more about Norway maple and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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NOVEMBER 2011

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Chris Evans, River to River CWMA (invasive.org)

Japanese Hop

Humulus japonicus Siebold & Zucc.

Hemp family (Cannabaceae)

Origin

Temperate Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the Russian Federation) and tropical Asia (Vietnam)

About

Japanese hop was originally imported to the U.S. in the late 1800s for use as an Asian tonic and ornamental vine. It prefers plentiful sunlight and moisture, rich exposed soil, and is most commonly found along stream banks and floodplains. Japanese hop can spread to cover large areas of open ground or low vegetation including understory shrubs and small trees. Many thousands of hop plants per acre may be produced, eventually blanketing the land and vegetation. Read more about Japanese hop and its control options on the APWG website.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

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DECEMBER 2011

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