# **Invasive Plants in the Home Landscape**

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#### What Makes a Plant Invasive?

- Non-native plant that displaces native species, reduces prolifically and has no predators
- Causes economic and environmental harm
- Utilize a longer growing season to out compete
- Utilize chemical warfare (allelopathy)
- Produce many seed with high viability and successful dispersal mechanisms
- Thrive on disturbance and in almost any habitat
- Second largest threat to biodiversity globally



#### **Coral Ardesia**



• Introduced to US from Japan and Northern India. Prevents native seedlings from establishing by shading the understory.



#### Lantana



• Introduced to the US from West Indies as an ornamental. Invades disturbed areas and crowds out native species. Leaves and unripened fruit are poisonous.



#### Nandina



• Introduced to the US from China and Japan. Berries contain cyanide that kills native birds that consume them.



## **Glossy Privet**



 Introduced to the US from Asia. Forms dense thickets that outcompete desirable plants.
Produces many seeds which allows it to spread easily and makes it more difficult to eradicate.



## **Elephant Ear**



- Introduced to the US from Northern South America. Big leaves and ability to grow up to 9 feet tall can shade out many native plants.
- Spreads profusely in landscape – especially wet areas



#### Rattlebox



 Introduced to the US from South America. Displaces native vegetation and wildlife by forming dense thickets.



## **Mexican Petunia**



• Introduced to the US from Mexico and South America. Popular landscape plant but is aggressive and crowds out native plants.



#### **Sword Fern**



 Introduced to Georgia from Asia and Australia.
Takes over low growing plants by forming impenetrable dense stands.



# Periwinkle (Vinca)



 Introduced to US from Europe and West Asia.
Forms extensive mats along forest floors displacing native plants.



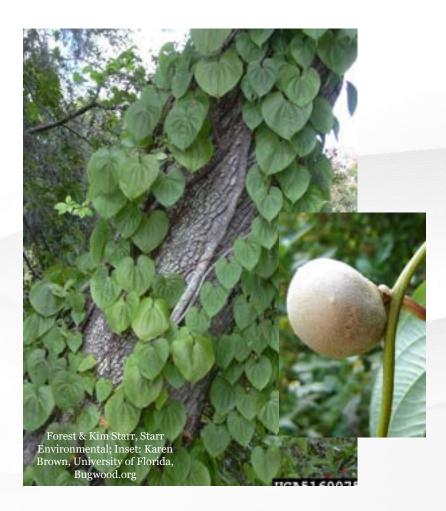
#### Skunkvine



• Introduced to the US from Asia. Can survive a variety of habitats and become so dense that tree branches, or even whole trees, collapse under its weight.



#### **Air Potato**



• Introduced to the US from Africa. Smothers other plants by restricting sunlight and disrupts processes such as water flow.



## **English Ivy**



 Introduced to the US by European colonists as a year round groundcover.
Is an aggressive invader that can weaken or kill infested trees and shade out understory plants.



## Japanese Honeysuckle



• Introduced to the US from Japan as an ornamental. Readily outcompetes understory plants and smothers small trees and shrubs.



## Chinese/Japanese Wisteria



 Introduced to the US from China and Japan. Kills native plants by aggressively shading and strangling them.



### **Chinese Tallow**



• Introduced to US from China. Fast growth crowds out native species. 100,000 seeds/tree. Alters soil chemistry. Toxic to cattle and causes vomiting in humans.



#### **Mimosa**



• Introduced to the US from China. Invades disturbed habitat, reducing sunlight and nutrients for native plants.



## **Camphor Tree**



 Introduced to Florida from China and Japan for camphor production.
Grows and produces seed quickly which allows them to rapidly take over.



## Callery (Bradford) Pear



 Introduced to the US from China as a sterile flowered ornamental.
Increased genetic diversity has lead to plants with substantial thorns and viable seeds that invade old fields and forest edges.



#### What Can I Do?

- Don't buy invasive plants
- Don't share invasive plants
- Remove invasive plants from your landscape
  - Physically remove all plants, roots, and debris and burn or bag and trash
  - Spray with high concentration of glyphosate or triclopyr (will take more than one application)
  - Cut and paint trees with herbicide (must paint very quickly before the tree begins to protect the wound)
- Educate others!



# Questions?

