

Invasive plants negatively impact our natural areas and neighborhoods. While most of the non-native species introduced to the United States for use as ornamentals, forage, erosion control, and other uses are generally well-behaved, some have escaped cultivation and become weedy pests. Some have spread to the extent that they now threaten our native ecosystems and reduce productivity of our forests, agricultural lands and waterways. The damage caused by invasive plants and efforts to manage these difficult to control species costs billions of dollars each year.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve and the affiliated organizations listed below encourage Alabama home owners, nursery owners, landscape designers/architects, and landscapers to reduce their use of plants shown to be invasive.

The following species, many of which are readily available commercially, are spreading within Ruffner Mt and other parks and green spaces in the Birmingham metro area. We encourage phasing out their use wherever possible. While an exact substitute with all of the same traits may not exist for each species, a potential alternative for each species is suggested. In addition to reducing the spread of invasive plants, a landscape rich in native plants sustains insect and wildlife biodiversity. As our cities continue to sprawl and native habitat is lost, the plants we use in our yards and landscapes really can make a difference!

#### **Shrubs and Vines**

Heavenly Bamboo/Nandina (*Nandina domestica*)\*  
Oregon Grape/Leatherleaf Mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*)  
Privet, Chinese, Japanese and glossy (*Ligustrum sinense*, *L. japonicum*, *L. lucidum*)  
Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)  
Chinese and Japanese Wisterias (*Wisteria sinensis*, *Wisteria floribunda*)  
Non-native Olives (*Elaeagnus pungens*, *E. umbellata*, *E. angustifolia*)  
Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)  
English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

#### **Trees**

Mimosa/Silktree (*Albizia julibrissin*)  
Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)  
Tallowtree/Popcorn tree (*Triadica sebifera*)  
Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)  
Chinese Parasol Tree (*Firmiana simplex*)  
Callery Pear/Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)  
Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*)

#### **Grasses and Forbs**

Chinese Silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)\*  
Japanese Blood Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*)\*  
Non-native Bamboos (*Phyllostachys* spp., *Bambusa* spp.)  
Periwinkles (*Vinca major*, *Vinca minor*)  
Monkey Grass (*Liriope* spp)

\* Cultivars with viable seed production

For a comprehensive list of invasive plants in Alabama visit the Alabama Invasive Plant Council's web page:

[www.se-eppc.org/alabama](http://www.se-eppc.org/alabama).

#### **Please Help Us to Reduce the Impact of Non-native Invasive Plants:**

I am committed to reducing the spread of non-native invasive plants. (Check all that apply)

- I am a home owner. I will stop and think before buying or propagating the plants listed above. I will also try to remove the plants listed above if they occur on my property.
- I am a nursery owner. I will stock and encourage the use of alternative plants, and reduce the propagation and sale of the plants listed above.
- I am a landscape designer or landscape architect (circle which one) and will make an effort to develop landscape designs that do not include the plants listed above.
- I am a landscaper and my business will make an effort to stop installing the plants listed above.
- I will encourage customers and clients to remove invasive plants from their landscaping, and to purchase and garden with non-invasive alternatives.
- I am interested in my business being listed as a location where native plants can be purchased or installed.

Individual/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business owner name (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of Stock that is Natives: \_\_\_\_\_