



# Invasive Plant Guide of Kentucky

## What are invasive plants?

There are many different types of plants and animals on Earth, and they are found in different areas, based on their needs. This is called biodiversity. Where native plants have evolved and adapted to the soils and climate around them, invasive plants — sometimes called exotic plants — are plants from other areas that have been introduced into different ecosystems. Because invasive plants are capable of choking out the diverse mix of native plants in an area, they are often harmful to the natural ecosystem.

When invasive plants take over an area where they don't belong, they can often harm the life around them, including other plants, animals, pollinators, and even people. If not addressed quickly, invasive plants can spread and become a serious problem.

## Controlling invasive plants

Plants play a major role in improving water quality, which is one reason why it is important to control invasive plant species. Healthy native plants and trees break up heavy soils, retain and infiltrate water, and filter out pollutants before they can reach our waterways. Even the plants found in your home's and work's landscape can make a huge difference.

The invasive species in this pocket guide are some of the most common invasive plants to avoid. Some are even sold at nurseries, in catalogs, and on the internet, so it's important to be educated on problematic plants.

## How you can help

To protect the health of Kentucky's soil and waterways, here are a few ways you can help:

- Learn which plants are invasive in your area. This guide is a great start!
- Purchase and grow only non-invasive, native plants. (See our Native Plant Guide of Kentucky to learn more!)
- Take a class on invasive versus native plants.
- Volunteer to help control invasive plants in your area.
- Inform your neighbors and community about invasive plants.
- Visit <https://louisvillemad.org/WaterQuality>

### Bush Honeysuckle



### Japanese Honeysuckle



### Japanese Stiltgrass



### Garlic Mustard



### Japanese Knotweed



### Chinese Silvergrass



### Kudzu



### Multiflora Rose





**Asian/Oriental Bittersweet**



**Burning Bush**



**Wintercreeper**



**Chinese Privet**



**Tree of Heaven**



**Chickweed**



**Purple Loosestrife**



**Cogongrass**



**English Ivy**



**Ground Ivy**



**Princess-tree**



**Callery Pear**



**Crown Vetch**



**Musk Thistle**



**Poison Hemlock**



**Johnson Grass**

