

Invasive Trees of Georgia

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Georgia has many species of trees. Some are native trees and some have been introduced from outside the state, nation, or continent. Most of Georgia’s trees are well-behaved and easily develop into sustainable shade and street trees. A few tree species have an extraordinary ability to usurp resources and take over sites from other plants. These trees are called invasive because they effectively invade sites, many times eliminating other species of plants.

There are a few tree species native to Georgia which are considered invasive in other parts of the country. These native invasives, may be well-behaved in Georgia, but reproduce and take over sites elsewhere, and so have gained an invasive status from at least one other invasive species list. Table 1.

There are hundreds of trees which have been introduced to Georgia landscapes. Some of these exotic / naturalized trees are considered invasive. The selected list of Georgia invasive trees listed here are notorious for growing rampantly and being difficult to eradicate. Table 2. They should not be planted.

Table 1: Georgia native trees considered invasive in other parts of the country.

scientific name	common name	scientific name	common name
<u>Acacia farnesiana</u>	sweet acacia	<u>Myrica cerifera</u>	Southern bayberry
<u>Acer negundo</u>	boxelder	<u>Pinus taeda</u>	loblolly pine
<u>Acer rubrum</u>	red maple	<u>Populus deltoides</u>	Eastern cottonwood
<u>Fraxinus americana</u>	white ash	<u>Prunus serotina</u>	black cherry
<u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	green ash	<u>Robinia pseudoacacia</u>	black locust
<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>	honeylocust	<u>Toxicodendron vernix</u>	poison sumac
<u>Juniperus virginiana</u>	eastern redcedar		

Table 2: Introduced (exotic) tree / shrub species found in Georgia listed at a regional / national level as being ecologically invasive. Trees listed alphabetically by scientific name and includes the most widely used common name.

scientific name	common name
<u>Acer pseudoplatanus</u>	sycamore maple
<u>Ailanthus altissima</u>	tree-of-heaven
<u>Albizia julibrissin</u>	mimosa
<u>Alnus glutinosa</u>	European alder
<u>Betula pubescens</u>	downy birch
<u>Broussonetia papyrifera</u>	paper-mulberry
<u>Cinnamomum camphora</u>	camphor tree
<u>Clerodendrum bungei</u>	rose glorybower
<u>Clerodendrum indicum</u>	turk's turbin
<u>Clerodendrum trichotomum</u>	harlequin glorybower
<u>Ligustrum japonicum</u>	Japanese privet
<u>Ligustrum sinense</u>	Chinese privet
<u>Melia azedarach</u>	chinaberry
<u>Morella rubra</u>	red bayberry
<u>Morus alba</u>	white mulberry
<u>Nicotiana glauca</u>	tree tobacco
<u>Paulownia tomentosa</u>	royal paulownia
<u>Pittosporum tobira</u>	Japanese cheesewood
<u>Populus alba</u>	white poplar
<u>Populus nigra</u>	Lombardy poplar
<u>Populus X canescens</u>	gray poplar
<u>Salix alba</u>	white willow
<u>Salix babylonica</u>	weeping willow
<u>Salix cinerea</u>	gray willow
<u>Salix purpurea</u>	purpleosier willow
<u>Salix X pendulina</u>	Wisconsin weeping willow
<u>Salix X rubens</u>	crack willow
<u>Sapindus mukorossi</u>	Chinese soapberry
<u>Sapium sebiferum</u>	Chinese tallow-tree
<u>Senna corymbosa</u>	Argentine senna
<u>Tamarix gallica</u>	French tamarisk
<u>Tamarix pentandra</u>	tamarisk
<u>Triadica sebifera</u>	Chinese tallow-tree
<u>Ulmus pumila</u>	Siberian elm



Outreach

Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Thompson Mills Forest & State Arboretum of Georgia

Citation:

Coder, Kim D. 2018. Invasive Trees of Georgia. Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Thompson Mills Forest & State Arboretum Outreach Product. ARBORETUM-18-11. Pp.3.

ARBORETUM-18-11

August 2018

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