

NWF Georgia Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Georgia Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
Grasses				
Chinese Silver Grass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	escapes from ornamental plantings, displaces native plants in areas of disturbance such as fields, edge of woodlands, and roadsides, highly flammable increasing fire risk	Switchgrass Indian Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
Golden Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> <i>Bambusa sp.</i>	available for sale online and in garden centers, quickly spreads by underground rhizomes and escapes cultivation	Switchgrass Eastern Gamagrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>
Weeping Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	originally planted for erosion control and ornamental use, it spreads along roadsides and other disturbed areas, escaped plants reported in dozens of Texas counties	Purple Lovegrass Little Bluestem	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Herbaceous Perennials				
Monkeygrass	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	grows in a wide range of conditions and spreads by seed, corm, and rhizome	Blue-Eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>
Tropical Milkweed	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	When planted in areas where it does not die back in the winter, this plant helps to sustain high levels of parasites called OE that are highly detrimental to the health and migration success of Monarch butterflies.	Butterfly Milkweed Whorled Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> <i>Asclepias verticillata</i>
Wild Taro, Elephant Ear	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	has widely invaded wet habitats, forms dense shade and shades out native vegetation, rhizomes easily spread by water to invade new areas	Arrow-Arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>
Ferns				
Japanese Climbing Fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	a viny habit allows this fern to climb and form mats which can outcompete even woody plant species	Crossvine Muscadine	<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> <i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>
Vines				
Chinese Wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	available at garden centers, highly aggressive habit of this vine girdles and shades out native vegetation, stems can become like tree trunks	Passion Vine American Wisteria	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i> <i>Wisteria frutescens</i>

NWF Georgia Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Georgia Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	This vine can kill trees that it climbs and smother vegetation along the ground. It also hosts Bacterial Leaf Scorch, a disease problematic to some native trees and shrubs.	Carolina Jessamine Coral/ Trumpet Honeysuckle	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Honeysuckle – Japanese and Fragrant	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	quickly outcompetes native trees and shrubs by pulling them down, makes it easier for other invasives to invade	Coral/ Trumpet Honeysuckle Carolina Jessamine	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> <i>G. sempervirens</i>
Shrubs				
Bush Honeysuckle – Amur, Sweet Breath of Spring	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	can become too tall to control as landscape shrub, seeds profusely which is then spread by birds and mammals, forms dense thickets	Blackberry Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Rubus sp.</i> <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	This deciduous shrub easily invades riparian areas and areas that have been disturbed. Although it provides nectar, it is not a source of food for butterflies and moths, so wildlife is impacted when it is planted instead of or when it displaces native host plants.	False Indigo-Bush Pinxterbloom Azalea	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> <i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>
Coral Ardisia	<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	produces large quantities of seed with high germination rate, displaces natural plant communities by shading out understory and seedlings of larger plants	Winterberry Red Chokeberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
Euonymous – Burning Bush, Winter Creeper	<i>Euonymous alata</i> <i>Euonymous fortunei</i>	found to be invasive and spreading into natural areas, the latter species can spread as a woody vine and put down new roots, escapes into native forests	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
Heavenly Bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	widely available in garden centers and nurseries, grows quickly from seed and root parts, forms dense thickets	Fragrant Sumac American Beauty-Berry	<i>Rhus aromatica</i> <i>Callicarpa americana</i>
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	considered a noxious weed in some states, seeds spread readily by birds, can outcompete native plants	Black Haw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>

NWF Georgia Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Georgia Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
Japanese Spiraea	<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	can spread by suckering, also self-seeds aggressively, escapes gardens and spreads into natural areas	Pinxterbloom Azalea	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i> (<i>Lantana strigocamara</i>)	This popular garden plant has escaped freely and become a noxious weed in areas without frost. It has invaded a variety of habitats and can form dense thickets that outcompete native vegetation. It can tolerate all sorts of conditions and is spread by birds who have eaten the seeds. Its hybridization with native lantana species has reduced their natural populations. This plant is also problematic due to its toxic properties affecting children, livestock, and domestic animals. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. Handling the plant may cause skin irritation or allergic reaction.	Beautyberry Shrubby St. John's Wort Butterfly Milkweed Blackeyed Susan	<i>Callicarpa americana</i> <i>Hypericum prolificum</i> <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Although attractive, all parts of this plant are highly toxic and can be fatal to humans, pets, and birds if ingested. Contact with the skin causes dermatitis. Oleander attracts pollinators with its flowers and scent, however offers no nectar reward, which wastes the pollinators' energy. Seeds of this plant are spread by wind, making it easy to spread to natural areas.	Steeplebush Mountain Laurel Pinxterbloom Azalea	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> <i>Kalmia latifolia</i> <i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>
Olive- Autumn and Russian Silverthorn	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	hybridizes with native <i>Elaeagnus sp.</i> , displaces native species, tolerant of a wide range of stressors including salt, drought, and shade, seeds are widely dispersed by wildlife	Smooth Alder American Hazelnut Groundsel Tree/ Sea Myrtle	<i>Alnus serrulata</i> <i>Corylus americana</i> <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>
Privet – Chinese, Japanese, Common	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	grows into dense thickets due to extensive root suckers, large quantities of fruit are produced and dispersed by birds and deer,	American Holly Black Haw	<i>Ilex opaca</i> <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>

NWF Georgia Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Georgia Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
		tolerates heavy shade and poor soil, fruits and leaves poisonous to mammals		
Trees				
Bradford/Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	used frequently due to tolerance of tough urban conditions, flowers have objectionable odor, weak branches frequently lead to limb breakage, naturalizes in native ecosystems	Serviceberry Chickasaw plum	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> <i>Prunus angustifolia</i>
Chinaberry Tree	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	outcompetes native plants, roots will sprout new trees and seeds are dispersed widely by birds, plant is poisonous	Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Chinese Tallow Tree	<i>Triadica sebifera</i> (<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>)	has naturalized throughout Georgia, displaces native species throughout a wide range of habitats, seeds spread by birds, trunks resprout when cut	Hornbeam Sugar Maple	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> <i>Acer saccharum</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	forms colonies at dry or wet habitats, also spreads by seeds that can be dispersed by water or animals	Southern Crab Apple Black Locust	<i>Malus angustifolia</i> <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	can resprout and quickly form a thicket taking over an area, produces large numbers of seeds as well, produces toxins that make it hard for other plants to survive, roots can damage building and water infrastructure	Pignut Hickory American Basswood	<i>Carya glabra</i> <i>Tilia americana</i>

denotes plants that have been specified on landscape plans for Taylor Morrison in GA

NWF Georgia Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

References:

Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council [List of Non-native Invasive Plants in Georgia](#)

UGA Bugwood Invasive.org [Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health](#)

University of Florida UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants [Plant Directory](#)

Invasive.org's [Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests A Field Guide for Identification and Control](#)

Trees Atlanta [Top 10 Invasive Plants That Harm Our Urban Forest](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution [5 invasive plants taking over Georgia in 2022](#)

[Federal Noxious Weed List](#)

(In addition to the plants listed above, species listed as noxious weeds may not be planted in Georgia under any circumstances.)