

NWF North Carolina Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

North Carolina 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, also highly flammable increasing fire risk where it invades	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>
Herbaceous Perennials				
Lesser celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i> <i>(Ranunculus ficaria)</i>	has naturalized throughout many states, forms dense mats that prevent native vegetation from surviving, spreads from underground tubers as well as bulblets that drop from the stems and spread by water	Golden Alexander Lobed Tickseed	<i>Zizia aurea</i> <i>Coreopsis auriculata</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>
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	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>
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	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>

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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 Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Shrubs				
Bush Honeysuckle – Amur, Morrow’s, Standish’s, hybrids	<i>Lonicera maackii</i> <i>Lonicera morrowii</i> <i>Lonicera standishii</i> <i>Lonicera x bella</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>
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	Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</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>
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	Shrubby St. John's Wort Beautyberry	<i>Hypericum prolificum</i> <i>Callicarpa americana</i>

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		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.	Butterfly Milkweed Blackeyed Susan	<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.	Pinxterbloom Azalea Pasture Rose	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i> <i>Rosa carolina</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	<i>Alnus serrulata</i> <i>Corylus americana</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, tolerates heavy shade and poor soil, fruits and leaves poisonous to livestock and people	Wax Myrtle Black Haw	<i>Morella cerifera</i> <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>
Trees				

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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>
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 NC

References:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services [NC Noxious Weed List](#)

NC Invasive Plant Council [NC Invasive Plants](#)

NC State Extension [Invasive Plants](#)

North Carolina Native Plant Society [Invasive Exotic Species List](#)

[Federal Noxious Weed List](#)

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

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