

## WHAT ARE INVASIVE SPECIES?

An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. ([Executive Order 13112](#)).

An invasive species grows/reproduces and spreads rapidly, establishes over large areas, and persists. Species that become invasive succeed due to favorable environmental conditions and lack of natural predators, competitors and diseases that normally regulate their populations.

This includes a wide variety of plants, insects and animals from exotic places. As invasive species spread and take over ecosystems, they decrease biodiversity by threatening the survival of native plants and animals. In fact, invasive species are a significant threat to almost half of the native U.S. species currently listed as federally endangered.

In addition to negatively impacting ecosystems, invasive species are also costly. It is very expensive to prevent, monitor and control the spread of invasives, not to mention the damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources. Invasives cost the US \$137 billion annually. Some of the most harmful species cost in excess of \$100 million annually.

Sometimes you will see invasive species referred to as exotic, alien, or non-indigenous species. The problem with these names is that they only refer to the non-native part of the definition above. Many exotic or alien species do not cause harm to our economy, our environment, or our health. In fact, the vast majority of "introduced" species do not survive and only about 15% of those that do go on to become "invasive" or harmful.

## HOW DO INVASIVES SPREAD?

When a species ends up in a new ecosystem, it is considered "introduced". Often, invasive species are spread by humans who do not realize that these plants, animals and insects are highly destructive.

This may happen, for example, when people plant garden ornamentals, range forage plants for cattle, or plants used for erosion control and habitat enhancement for wildlife. This can also occur when animals and insects are introduced to be used to control other organisms (particularly in agriculture).

Other species are introduced accidentally on imported nursery stock, fruits, and in ship ballast waters, on vehicles, in packing materials and shipping containers, through human-built canals, and from human travel. Dumping aquarium exotic fish and unwanted exotics into the water or wild are other common ways invasive species spread.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Everyone who lives in Texas should care because unless we can reduce or stop their spread, invasive species will continue to require significant dollars to treat, control and to remedy damage that is caused to public resources.

Also if you love the Texas outdoors, recreate in the outdoors or are in a business that depends on the health of the natural resources of Texas, you should care about invasive species. Whether you are a hiker, biker, camper, bird watcher gardener, fisherman, boater, hunter, logger, forester, rancher or farmer, invasive species can have a negative impact on you.

For example, species like giant salvinia and zebra mussels can take over lakes and make boating, fishing and general water recreation less than enjoyable. Zebra mussels can clog water pipes, which can cost millions to replace or repair. Terrestrial species like king ranch bluestem and buffel grass can take over prairies and make the land uninhabitable for many plant and animal species.

## EDWARDS PLATEAU

The Edwards Plateau region comprises an area of central Texas commonly known as the Texas Hill Country. It is a land of many springs, stony hills, and steep canyons. The region is home to a whole host of rare plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. The limestone of the Edward's Plateau is honeycombed with thousands of caves. Beneath the eastern edge of the Plateau lies a hidden world of underground lakes known as the Edwards Aquifer. This precious water resource also is home to a number of curious creatures, such as the blind salamander. Today, the Edwards Plateau is characterized by grasslands, juniper/oak woodlands, and plateau live oak or mesquite savannah. Open grasslands and savannahs were more common in presettlement times than they are today. Ranching is the primary agricultural industry in the region.

## EDWARDS PLATEAU DIRTY DOZEN

These plants have been identified as particularly worrisome in the Edwards Plateau ecoregion. Click on their scientific names to go to the Invasive Plant Database and learn more.

[Glossy privet](#) - *Ligustrum lucidum*

[Chinese tallow tree](#) - *Triadica sebifera*

[Johnson grass](#) - *Sorghum halepense*

[Heavenly bamboo](#) - *Nandina domestica*

[Chinaberry tree](#) - *Melia azedarach*

[Japanese honeysuckle](#) - *Lonicera japonica*

[Giant reed](#) - *Arundo donax*

[Golden rain tree](#) - *Koelreuteria paniculata*

[Elephant ears](#) - *Colocasia esculenta*

[Paper mulberry](#) - *Broussonetia papyrifera*

[Tree of heaven](#) - *Ailanthus altissima*

[King Ranch bluestem](#) - *Bothriochloa ischaemum var. songarica*

## CROSS TIMBERS AND PRAIRIES

The Cross Timbers and Prairies region is a transitional area for many plants and animals whose ranges extend northward into the Great Plains or eastward into the forests. Vegetation on the landscape of the Cross Timbers and Prairies Ecological Region of Northcentral Texas has undergone

significant changes over the past 150 years. Early travelers through north Texas coined the name "Cross Timbers" by their repeated crossings of these timbered areas that proved to be a barrier to their travel on the open prairies to the east and west. The location of the East and West Cross Timbers was well known by these early travelers who used them as points of reference for travel.

## CROSS TIMBERS AND PRAIRIES DIRTY DOZEN

These plants have been identified as particularly worrisome in the Cross Timbers and Prairies ecoregion. Click on their scientific names to go to the Invasive Plant Database and learn more.

[Japanese honeysuckle](#) - *Lonicera japonica*

[Glossy privet](#) - *Ligustrum lucidum*

[Chinese privet](#) - *Ligustrum sinense*

[Giant reed](#) - *Arundo donax*

[Chinese wisteria](#) - *Wisteria sinensis*

[Lilac chastetree](#) - *Vitex agnus-castus*

[Brazilian vervain](#) - *Verbena brasiliensis*

[Guineagrass](#) - *Urochloa maxima*

[Common periwinkle](#) - *Vinca minor*

[Chinaberry tree](#) - *Melia azedarach*

[Chinese tallow tree](#) - *Triadica sebifera*

[Johnson grass](#) - *Sorghum halepense*

## BLACKLAND PRAIRIES

The Blackland Prairie ecoregion spans approximately 6.1 million hectares from the Red River on the north to near San Antonio in south Texas. It is part of a tallgrass prairie continuum that stretches from Manitoba to the Texas Coast. The Blackland Prairies is named for the deep, fertile black soils that characterize the area. Blackland Prairie soils once supported a tallgrass prairie dominated by tall-growing grasses such as big bluestem, little bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass. Because of the fertile soils, much of the original prairie has been plowed to produce food and forage crops.

## BLACKLAND PRAIRIES DIRTY DOZEN

These plants have been identified as particularly worrisome in the Blackland Prairies ecoregion. Click on their scientific names to go to the Invasive Plant Database and learn more.

[Bastard cabbage](#) - *Rapistrum rugosum*

[Giant reed](#) - *Arundo donax*

[Johnson grass](#) - *Sorghum halepense*

[Chinese tallow tree](#) - *Triadica sebifera*

[King Ranch bluestem](#) - *Bothriochloa ischaemum var. songarica*

[Field bindweed](#) - *Convolvulus arvensis*

[Bermudagrass](#) - *Cynodon dactylon*

[Chinaberry tree](#) - *Melia azedarach*

[Redtip photinia](#) - *Photinia x fraseri*

[Heavenly bamboo](#) - *Nandina domestica*

[Pincushions](#) - *Scabiosa atropurpurea*

[Chinese privet](#) - *Ligustrum sinense*

<http://www.texasinvasives.org/i101/>

[http://www.texasinvasives.org/resources/publications/UOC\\_texasinvasives.pdf](http://www.texasinvasives.org/resources/publications/UOC_texasinvasives.pdf)

[http://www.texasinvasives.org/resources/publications/UOC\\_texasinvasives.pdf](http://www.texasinvasives.org/resources/publications/UOC_texasinvasives.pdf)

<http://www.brit.org/>

# Invasive and Noxious Weeds

[NRCS Invasive Species Policy](#)

[Invasive Species Executive Order 13112](#)

## Texas State-listed Noxious Weeds

31 records returned

Click on an accepted name below to view its PLANTS Profile with more information, and web links if available. Noxious weeds that are synonyms retain their noxious status, and are indented beneath the current PLANTS accepted name.

Texas Administrative Code. 2005. [Quarantines and noxious plants, Chapter 19](#) (24 May 2006). State of Texas.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Noxious Common Name</u>	<u>State Noxious Status†</u>	<u>Native Status*</u>
ALMA12	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i> Medik.			L48 (I)
ALCA	<i>Alhagi camelorum</i> Fisch.	camelthorn	NP	

ALPH	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> (Mart.) Griseb.	alligatorweed	NP	L48 (I), PR (I)
ARDO4	<i>Arundo donax</i> L.	giant reed	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I), VI (I)
CASE13	<i>Calystegia sepium</i> (L.) R. Br.	hedge bindweed	NP	L48 (NI), CAN (N), SPM (I)
CAHA13	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	balloonvine	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (N), VI (N)
COAR4	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.	field bindweed	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), CAN (I)
CUJA	<i>Cuscuta japonica</i> Choisy	Japanese dodder	NP	L48 (I)
EIAZ2	<i>Eichhornia azurea</i> (Sw.) Kunth	rooted waterhyacinth	NP	L48 (I), PR (I)
EICR	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> (Mart.) Solms	waterhyacinth	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I), VI (I), CAN (W)
HYVE3	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> (L. f.) Royle	hydrilla	NP	L48 (I)
IPAQ	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> Forssk.	water spinach	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I)
LAMA15	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i> (Ridley) Moss	lagarosiphon	NP	
LAPU12	<i>Landoltia punctata</i> (G. Mey.) D.H. Les & D.J. Crawford			L48 (N), HI (N)
SPOL2	<i>Spirodela oligorrhiza</i> (Kurz) Hegelm.	giant duckweed	NP	
LYSA2	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> L.	purple loosestrife	NP	L48 (I), CAN (I), SPM (I)
MEQU	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> (Cav.) S.F. Blake	paperbark	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I)
MYSP2	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> L.	Eurasian watermilfoil	NP	L48 (I), AK (I), CAN (I)
NATR3	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i> (Nees) Hack.	serrated tussock	NP	L48 (I)
ORRA	<i>Orobanche ramosa</i> L.	branched broomrape	NP	L48 (I)
PARE3	<i>Panicum repens</i> L.	torpedograss	NP	L48 (I), HI (I)
PIST2	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i> L.	waterlettuce	NP	L48 (N), HI (I), PR (N), VI (N)
PUMOL	<i>Pueraria montana</i> (Lour.) Merr. var. <i>lobata</i> (Willd.) Maesen & S. Almeida			L48 (I), HI (I)
PULO	<i>Pueraria lobata</i> (Willd.) Ohwi	kudzu	NP	
ROCO6	<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i> (Lour.) W.D. Clayton	itchgrass	NP	L48 (I), PR (I)
SALVI2	<i>Salvinia</i> Ség.	salvinia	NP	
SCTE	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Raddi	Brazilian peppertree	NP	L48 (I), HI (I), PR (I), VI (I)
SOVI2	<i>Solanum viarum</i> Dunal	tropical soda apple	NP	L48 (I)
TAMAR2	<i>Tamarix</i> L.	saltcedar	NP	
TRSE6	<i>Triadica sebifera</i> (L.) Small			L48 (I)
SASE5	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> (L.) Roxb.	Chinese tallow tree	NP	

**Code Noxious Status**

NP Noxious plant

**\*Code Native Status**

I Introduced

N Native

NI Native and Introduced

W Waif