INVASIVE & VULNERABLE PLANT LIST

This list includes common invasive *plant* species causing harm in Fairfax City and the region or vulnerable species susceptible to significant insects or diseases. Fairfax City does not recommend planting species from this list. This list is not comprehensive and monitored frequently as new species are introduced or concerns become more known. Control timing and methods provide starting guidance and awareness of typical removal needs. Ask a professional to confirm plant identification and removal recommendations before starting.

Last updated: 07/2024

See Notes for definitions, herbicide timing, and additional control method guidance.

Genus	Species	Common Name	Classification	Priority	Notes	Plant Type	Recommended Removal Season	Control Method
Acer	*platanoides*	Norway maple	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings; hand remove from forests
Acer	*palmatum*	Japanese maple	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings
Acer	*tataricum* subsp. *ginnala*	Amur maple	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings
Ailanthus	*altissima*	Tree of heaven	Invasive	High	vegetative buffers	tree	year-round	Hand remove or cut low and paint herbicide on stump, monitor for resprouting
Albizia	*julibrissin*	Mimosa	Invasive	Medium	vegetative buffers	tree	year-round	Hand remove or cut and paint herbicide on stump, monitor for resprouting
Ampelopsis	*glandulosa* var. *brevipedunculata*	Porcelainberry	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	vine	May-October	Cut low and paint on herbicide; herbicide treatments and monitoring
Bambusa	*vulgaris*	Common bamboo	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, screening	grass	May-October	Cut low, stump grind* or cut and herbicide treatments, monitor for resprouting
Berberis	*thunbergii*	Japanese barberry	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	shrub	May-October	hand remove
Berberis	*julianae*	Wintergreen barberry	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	shrub	May-October	hand remove
Broussonetia	*papyrifera*	Paper mulberry	Invasive	Low	vegetative buffers and disturbed areas	tree	year-round	hand remove and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
Buddleja	*davidii*	Butterflybush	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove
Celastrus	*orbiculatus*	Asiatic bittersweet	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, vegetative buffers and forest edges	vine	May-October	hand remove
Cenchrus	*setaceus*	Crimson fountaingrass	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	grass	year-round	hand remove
Cenchrus	*alopecuroides*	Chinese fountaingrass	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	grass	year-round	hand remove

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6	**Genus**	**Species**	**Common Name**	**Classification**	**Priority**	**Notes**	**Plant Type**	**Recommended Removal Season**	**Control Method**
21	*Cupressocyparis*	*leylandii*	Leyland cypress	Vulnerable	N/A	disease/insect prone, weak branches, overplanted, shortlived	tree	year-round	hand remove
22	*Dioscorea*	*polystachya*	Chinese yam	Invasive	Low	disturbed areas	vine	March - November	hand remove small populations; foliar herbicide treatments and monitoring larger populations
23	*Elaeagnus*	*umbellata*	Autumn olive	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
24	*Elaeagnus*	*angustifolia*	Russian olive	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
25	*Euonymus*	*alatus*	Winged burning bush	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove, monitor for resprouting
26	*Euonymus*	*fortunei*	Winter creeper	Invasive	Medium	forest edges and gaps	vine	year-round	hand remove small populations; foliar herbicide treatments and monitoring larger populations
27	*Ficaria*	*verna*	Lesser celandine	Invasive	Medium	forested floodplains	herbaceious perennial	February - April	hand remove small populations; foliar herbicide treatments and monitoring larger populations
28	*Fraxinus*	spp.	Ash species	Vulnerable	N/A	Emerald ash borer, prone to sprouting from stumps, most don't survive past 3-inch diameter	tree		monitor for safety concerns - hand remove when necessary
29	*Hedera*	*helix*	English ivy	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	vine	year-round	hand remove
30	*Hemerocallis*	*fulva*	Tawny daylily	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	bulbous perennial	May - October	hand remove
31	*Hibiscus*	*syriacus*	Rose of Sharon	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	May - October	hand remove
32	*Ilex*	*aquifolium*	English holly	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests
33	*Ilex*	*crenata*	Japanese holly	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests
34	*Ilex*	*cornuta*	Chinese holly	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests
35	*Koelreuteria*	*paniculata*	Golden raintree	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests
36	*Lespedeza*	*bicolor*	Shrubby lespedeza	Invasive	Medium	extremely aggressive, open fields	vine	May - October	hand remove or foliar herbicide treatments and monitor

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37	*Ligustrum*	*amurense*	Amur privet	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
38	*Ligustrum*	*obtusifolium*	Border privet	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
39	*Ligustrum*	*vulgare*	European privet	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
40	*Ligustrum*	*sinense*	Chinese privet	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
41	*Ligustrum*	*lucidum*	Glossy privet	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
42	*Liriope*	*muscari*	Monkeygrass	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts, hand remove in forests
43	*Liriope*	*spicata*	Creeping liriope	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	semi-evergreen perennial	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts, hand remove in forests
44	*Lonicera*	*xylosteum*	Dwarf honeysuckle	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
45	*Lonicera*	*japonica*	Japanese honeysuckle	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	vine	year-round	hand remove
46	*Lonicera*	*maackii*	Amur honeysuckle	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
47	*Lonicera*	*morrowii*	Morrow's honeysuckle	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
48	*Mahonia*	*bealei*	Leatherleaf mahonia	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
49	*Malus*	*floribunda*	Japanese crabapple	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests
50	*Melia*	*azedarach*	Chinaberry	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests
51	*Microstegium*	*vimineum*	Japanese stiltgrass	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, floodplains	grass	July - August	hand remove

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52	*Morus*	*alba*	White mulberry	Invasive	Medium	hybridizes with native, vegetative buffers and forest edges	tree	year-round	monitor and hand remove sprouts; hand remove in forests; identification challenging with hybrids - monitor invasive tendencies
53	*Oplismenus*	*hirtellus* subsp. *Undulatifolius*	Wavyleaf basketgrass	Invasive	High	disturbed areas, floodplains	grass	July - August	hand remove
54	*Pachysandra*	*terminalis*	Pachysandra	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	evergreen perennial	November - Feburary	hand remove or foliar herbicide treatments
55	*Parthenocissus*	*tricuspidata*	Boston ivy	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	vine	year-round	hand remove
56	*Paulownia*	*tomentosa*	Princess tree	Invasive	Low	disturbed areas	tree	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings; hand remove from forests
57	*Persicaria*	*orientalis*	Mile-a-minute	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive	vine	May - October	hand remove
58	*Populas*	*nigra*	Lombardy poplar	Vulnerable	N/A	extremely weak wood, shortlived, messy seeds, invasive tendencies	tree	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
59	*Populus*	*alba*	White poplar	Invasive	Low	vegetative buffers	tree	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
60	*Pseudosasa*	*japonica*	Arrow bamboo	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, screening	grass	May-October	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
61	*Pueraria*	*montana*	Kudzu	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, vegetative buffers	vine	May-October	hand remove, foliar herbicide, or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
62	*Pyrus*	*calleryana*	Callery pear (all cultivars)	Invasive	Medium	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
63	*Quercus*	*acutissima*	Sawtooth oak	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings; hand remove from forests
64	*Reynoutria*	*japonica*	Japanese knotweed	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, floodplains, disturbed areas	shrub	May-October	hand remove
65	*Rhamnus*	*cathartica*	European buckhorn	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	May-October	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting

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66	*Rosa*	*canina*	Dog rose	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	May-October	hand remove and herbicide treatments, monitoring for resprouting
67	*Rosa*	*multiflora*	Multiflora rose	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, landscape into forests	shrub	May-October	hand remove and herbicide treatments, monitoring for resprouting
68	*Rubus*	*phoenicolasius*	Wine raspberry	Invasive	Medium	forest edges and gaps	shrub	May-October	hand remove and herbicide treatments, monitoring for resprouting
69	*Spiraea*	*japonica*	Japanese spiraea	Invasive	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	May-October	hand remove
70	*Taxus*	*cuspidata*	Japanese yew (many varieties)	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings; hand remove from forests
71	*Ulmus*	*parvifolia*	Chinese elm	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	tree	year-round	Monitor and hand remove seedlings; hand remove from forests
72	*Viburnum*	*dilatatum*	Linden viburnum	Caution	Low	landscape into forests	shrub	year-round	hand remove and monitor resprouting for herbicide treatment
73	*Vinca*	*major, minor*	Periwinkle (many varieties)	Invasive	Medium	landscape to forest floor	vine	year-round	hand remove
74	*Wisertia*	*sinensis*	Chinese wisteria	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, landscape into forests	vine	May-October	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting
75	*Tsuga*	*canadensis*	Eastern hemlock	Vulnerable	N/A	hemlock woolly adelgid (insect), needle loss and branch dieback causing tree death	tree		monitor for forest health and safety concerns - hand remove when necessary
76	*Wisteria*	*floribunda*	Japanese wisteria	Invasive	High	extremely aggressive, landscape into forests	vine	May-October	hand remove or cut low and paint on herbicide, monitor for resprouting

Notes and Glossary

Invasive species management is most effective through prevention but as new species are introduced through human activity then control becomes necessary. The first step is learning to recognize invasive species and their possible look-alike native species. Practice by identifying what's in your yard or neighborhood park. Watch as they change seasonally and from year to year. Remove any positively confirmed invasives on your property as early as possible. Once invasives are established different methods can be used to control and dispose them. Before starting, identify the invasive species and traits, consider surrounding site factors, look up applicable regulations, and set a goal to guide your management actions.

Removal and maintenance of vegetation on City of Fairfax owned land is not permitted without city permission.

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Glossary:	
Useful Terms-	
Invasive	any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological materials capable of reproducing that species and whose introduction does or is likely to cause environmental or economic harm including to human health. Plants, insects, pathogens, and other living species may be considered invasive. It may include native, non-native, or exotic species (not from that ecosystem). Tendenicies typically include fast reproduction, high reproduction rates, minimal competition, and causes major disturbance. Classifications may vary with geographic location.
Non-native	any species that does not occur naturally in the geographic area, but has been introduced deliberately or accidentally by human activity, both directly and indirectly. These may not cause harm, hinder or prevent the survival of species native to the area and/or the ecosystem. Non-natives may be invasive requiring management action. Classification varies with geographic location.
Native	definitions are highly variable and geographically context specific. Fairfax City plant lists define a plant's native classification within the context of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. (Local - native to the Piedmont region within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Region - native to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Non-native - native to any area outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed.) Non-native may be native to Virginia, Mid-Atlantic, Eastern US, North America, or elsewhere in the world. Before planting research a plant's native range and the definition being used by a nursery tag or resource.
Vulnerable	problematic in the landscape due to susceptibility to pests and pathogens, physiological traits, excessive maintenance needs, short lifespan compared to most urban plantings. New plantings are not recommended at this time. This may change as more becomes known or new management practices emerge.
Caution	reports of invasive tendencies in surrounding states or regionally, highly monitored, and new plantings are not recommended. Invasives are best control by early detection rapid response so as emergence or prevalence changes individual plant classifications will be updated. Other resources may use the term *threat* .
Table Headers -	
Genus	A group of plants marked by common characteristics, like Quercus (Oaks), Acer (Maples), or Cornus (Dogwoods)
Species	A group of individual plant types capable of interbreeding, like Quercus phellos (Willow oak), or Tilia americana (American linden)

Common Name	The commonly used or familiar name of a plant, like American Holly, or Tuliptree. A tree can have several common names, or even different trees may share similar common names. This is unlike scientific names which uses binomial nomeclature to assign each individual species a unique name.
Classification *(Invasive, Vulnerable, Caution)*	Status or categories that provide a high level indication of management needs. Plants are then provided a priority ranking with more detailed notes, recommended removal season, and control method recommendations. No new plantings are recommended for any of these plants.
Priority *(High, Medium, Low)*	Priority ranking for management/action. Ranking is based upon commonly known characteristics, such as growth rate and threat of disturbance to the environment, and prevelance in Fairfax City or the region. Priority rankings may change as more becomes known or prevalence changes. Note - "Vulnerable" classified plants were not provided a priority as they do not pose an invasive threat to the environment. They should be monitored for tree health and safety concerns.
Notes	Basic information to describe its classification tendencies such as it spreads from landscape plantings into natural forested areas, used as screening, or most commonly seen in floodplains or recently disturbed areas. Extremely aggressive - typically high priority for removal and monitoring, tends to cause significant harm to mature trees or degradation of forested areas.
Recommended Removal Season	Recommendation assumes that plant identification has been confirmed and is not seasonally dependent. See additional notes for precautions on control and management. Some methods may be more effective in narrower, targeted time windows and with site specific considerations. Key considerations: treatment method and chemical label requirements, vulnerable and surrounding vegetation to remain, fruiting and flowering cycles (see additional notes), proximity to water bodies and sensitive surroundings, infestation level and site accessibility, number of treatments.
Control Method	Ask a professional for site specific guidance and any local restrictions prior to starting removal or maintenance. Herbicides - Read and follow the label, it's the law! A license may be required. Stump grinding - caution! Any land disturbance over 2,500 square feet or in the resource protection area may require a city permit. Contact 811 before you dig to mark any underground utilities, its the law! Precautions: understand how the control method may impact surrounding vegetation (above and below ground), not all methods may be appropriate for every site, wear personal protective gear, be aware of "slips, trips, and falls" hazards when in forested areas. High infestations - likely need multiple methods, treatments, monitoring, and professional assistance.
Control Notes -	
plant life cycle	understand a plant's life cycle of growth and reproduction for most effective control and safety precautions. Control and disposal methods may change when a plant is flowering or going to seed. Plants are more vulnerable at different times of year making control more successful when targeted.
herbicide	read and follow the label, it's the law and for your safety! Ask a professional for guidance as a license may be required. Extra caution should be taken near bodies of water, resource protection areas, adjacent to sensitive habitats and vegetation. Treatments require application in the growing season and best immediately after any cutting. Some plants and/or products are most effectively controlled in Spring or Fall when plant growth is fastest and weather conditions are appropriate.

vines on trees		using a sharp, clean hand saw, carefully and slowly cut through the vine making a 12-24-inch band or window all around the trunk. Remove the vine carefully unless fully embeded so there is a vine free area visible. DO NOT PULL on remaining vines as this may injure the bark tissue, break above branches, or create other hazardous conditions. Canopy vines will die over time. Chainsaws are not recommended for this method as this poses a higher risk of injury to the tree and self. See forest floor vines/mats for groundcover removal.
woody stems and shrubs		if full removal of the root ball is not possible with hand tools then cut as low as possible and paint herbicide directly on fresh cut for most effective control. Follow label and time based on plant. Minimize soil disturbance.
forest floor vines/dense mats		best removed when ground is soft. Using hand tools, hard racks, cut sections slowly pulling back like lifting a carpet. Heavy infestations may require hand cutting overtime or multiple control methods. Hand cutting ground vines back and away from the base of trees is highly recommended to prevent excessive moisture and blocked visibility of the tree's root flare.
hand removal		full plant removal including digging or grubbing out the rootball with a weed wrench, shovel, or other gardening tools. Avoid excessive soil disturbance and consider other control methods when necessary. Contact a professional for tree removal services and check for any applicable regulations.
stump grinding		machine grinding of stump and major roots within 2 feet of surface and directly adjacent to stump (varies). Caution to avoid excessive land disturbance, injury to surrounding vegetation, irrigation systems,call 811 for underground utility marking. Used most frequently for individual tree removals within the landscape. Contact a professional for services and check for any applicable regulations.
disposal		debris from invasive or diseased plants should be placed in plastic trash bags to prevent future spread. Dispose with your trash not yard waste. Never dump illegally in natural areas as this spreads invasives.
aftercare		continue to monitor the site in following growing seasons for resprouting and extra treatments. Natural mulch (shredded leaves and woody material) protect newly exposed soil and rebuilds forest floors. Then see what plants come in and thrive to help guide future planting selection.
Regulations -		
Zoning Ordinance - Chapter 110		
	land disturbance	land disturbance of 2,500 square feet or more may require erosion and sediment controls in accordance to the Zoning Ordinance Chapter 110
	resource protection areas	vegetation maintenance and removal is regulated under the Chesapeake Bay Act
	Tree Removal Permits	may be required prior to the destruction or removal of any tree greater than 5-inches in diameter at standard height
Call 811 - utility marking		call before you dig! Underground utility marking is free and required by law.