



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Fact Sheet

Common Invasive Wetland Plants

Useful Web Sites:

National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact.htm>

The informational sheets on this website contain information on invasive exotic plants including: plant descriptions, native ranges, U.S. distributions & habitats, ecological threats, background of introductions, plant reproduction & dispersal, management approaches, alternative native plants, and other useful information. This website is maintained by the Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group.

Federal Government: <http://www.invasivespecies.gov>

This site includes information on the impacts of invasive species and the Federal government's response. It also includes profiles of invasive plant and animal species, with photographs, common names and scientific names.

USDA Forest Service and University of Georgia: <http://www.invasive.org>

This site includes photographs and identifying characteristics of invasive plants and animals. It also includes information on how to control each species.

Photos of Common Invasive Plants Specific to Wetlands



Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, is found in the eastern and western United States. An invasive wild plant, hybridized non-invasive varieties are sometimes available to gardeners.

Water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes*, clogs aquatic ecosystems in the South forming dense mats that block sunlight and prohibit boat traffic.



Melaleuca, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, an Australian tree, is spreading out of control in the Florida Everglades.

Saltcedars, *Tamarix aphylla*, have long tap roots that allow them to intercept deep water tables and interfere with natural aquatic systems in the intermountain region of the western United States, throughout the Great Basin, and California and Texas.



Mile-a-minute weed, *Polygonum perfoliatum*, is currently found in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, New York, Virginia, Ohio and Washington, D.C. It generally colonizes open and disturbed areas, along the edges of woods, wetlands, stream banks, and roadsides.

Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, is currently found in 36 states. It poses a significant threat to riparian areas, where it can survive severe floods and is able to rapidly colonize scoured shores and islands.



Burma reed, *Neyraudia reynaudiana*, is found throughout Southern Florida and damages native ecosystems by crowding and shading out understory plant species and by creating conditions for extremely hot and destructive wildfires.

Eurasian Watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, which forms large, floating mats of vegetation, occurs in thirty-three states east of the Mississippi River and has recently been found in Colorado. It is abundant in the Chesapeake Bay, the tidal Potomac River, and several Tennessee Valley reservoirs.



Japanese stilt grass, *Microstegium vimineum*, occurs on stream banks, river bluffs, floodplains, emergent and forested wetlands, moist woodlands, early successional fields, uplands, thickets, roadside ditches, gas and power line corridors and home lawns and gardens. Stilt grass is currently established in sixteen eastern states, from New York to Florida.

Carrotwood, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, invades a variety of natural communities, including dunes, coastal strand, sand pine scrub, slash pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, freshwater marshes and river banks, and poses a special threat to coastal ecosystems like mangrove swamps and tropical hammocks.



Source: Bureau of Land Management Environmental Education Homepage Plant Conservation Alliance Working Group

Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America is dedicated to common sense conservation that protects America's hunting, fishing, and outdoor heritage relying on solution-oriented conservation, education, and the promotion of outdoor recreation for the benefit of our citizens. The League has more than 40,000 members and supporters in 21 state divisions and more than 300 local chapters in 32 states.