

Bad Neighbors

Invasive Species: Impacts on the Environment

Invasive Species?

Referred as non-natives, exotic, noxious, alien plants, or weeds; an invasive plant is any plant species not native to the ecosystem, whose introduction does or will cause economic or environmental damage or harm to human health.



Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) often invades native areas dominated by grasses and other low growing plants. The biomass change from flammable grasses to less flammable woody brush disrupts the natural disturbance cycle and hinders land managers conducting prescribed burns.



Non-native wisteria produces beautiful flowers in the spring; however, wisteria is also one of the worst invaders in the Sandhills of North Carolina.

Reproducing rapidly, wisteria quickly dominates an area's groundcover. Wisteria's climbing vines wrap around tree trunks and other bushy vegetation, constricting native vegetation, effectively strangling host plants by cutting off the flow of nutrients.

Environmental Impacts?

Non-native invasive plants competitively displace native species, alter community structures and function by altering water, energy, nutrient, and disturbance cycles, which may cause loss of biodiversity; increase soil erosion; and habitat degradation.

What can YOU do about invasive species?

Be Selective... Many invasive plants are first introduced in landscape plantings. When selecting plants for YOUR landscaping needs, avoid purchasing or planting non-native plants. A listing of native landscaping vegetation for North

Carolina Sandhills is available on our website, www.ncswma.org.

Be Proactive... When shopping for landscaping plants, inform local nurseries of your native plant preferences. Encourage

your local supplier to sell only native species.

Don't pickup hitchhikers... Muddy boots and recreational boats are two examples of non-native species transportation. Seeds and fragments of aquatic invasive plants often

hitch a ride on the soles of your boots or a boat's sides and bottoms. Take a few minutes after enjoying the great outdoors to scrape your boots or spray down your boat before returning home, preventing the spread of invasive plants.