

# INVASIVE SPECIES OF DELAWARE

## Delaware Natural Heritage Program

This list documents plants and animals that are – or have great potential to be - invasive in the state of Delaware. These invasives are known to displace native species and/or disrupt natural ecological processes, with species in **reverse text** being the most troublesome. The list is based on personal knowledge, consultation with experts, and review of the literature. Origin, Growth Form and Wetland Indicator codes are described following the list.

**THIS LIST IS NOT REGULATORY**; it is intended to serve only as a reference for those interested in invasive species in Delaware. Also, the focus of the list is on plants and animals that **IMPACT NATURAL AREAS**; some of these species may be appropriate in other settings, although they should be used with caution.

Contact the Delaware Natural Heritage Program at (302) 653-2880 or <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/fw/wildrehe.htm> for more information.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	ORIGIN	PIEDMONT	COASTAL PLAIN	GROWTH FORM	WETLAND INDICATOR	HABITAT
----- PLANTS -----							
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	A	Yes	Yes	DT	UPL	Upland forests and slopes
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore maple	A	Yes	No	DT	UPL	Escape from cultivation
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-Heaven	A	Yes	Yes	DT	FACU-	Disturbed woods, roadsides, fields
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	five-leaf akebia	A	Yes	No	WV	UPL	Cultivated and occasionally escaping
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard	A	Yes	Yes	BH	FACU-	Moist woods and floodplains
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	porcelain-berry	A	Yes	No	WV	UPL	Moist woods, slopes and thickets
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	joint-head arthraxon	A	Yes	Yes	AG	FAC	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	A	Yes	Yes	DS	FACU	Escape from cultivation, woods and thickets
<i>Bidens polylepis</i>	tickseed sunflower	Ad	Yes	Yes	AH	FACW	Marshes, wet meadows, depressions, ditches, fields
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Carolina fanwort	Ad	No	Yes	PAH	OBL	Ponds and quiet waters
<i>Carex kobomugi</i>	sedge	A	No	Yes	PS	UPL	Planted on coastal dunes
<i>Celastrus orbiculata</i>	Oriental bittersweet	A	Yes	Yes	WV	FACU	Woods, floodplains, thickets
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACU	Meadows and old fields
<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	Japanese virgin's-bower	A	Yes	Yes	PHV	FACU-	Stream and river banks, thickets, moist woods
<i>Commelina communis</i>	Asiatic dayflower	A	Yes	Yes	AH	FAC-	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	poison-hemlock	A	Yes	Yes	BH	FACW	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed	A	Yes	Yes	PHV	UPL	Meadows and old fields
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Indian mock-strawberry	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACU-	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, lawns
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian waterweed	A	No	Yes	PAH	OBL	Ponds and quiet waters
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water hyacinth	A	No	Yes	PAH	OBL	Rare escape in ponds and quiet waters
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	autumn olive	A	Yes	Yes	DS	UPL	Woods, thickets and fields
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	winged euonymus	A	Yes	No	DS	UPL	Moist woods and slopes
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	meadow fescue	A	Yes	Yes	PG	FACU-	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	A	Yes	Yes	WV	UPL	Thin woods, edges and thickets

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<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	orange daylily	A	Yes	Yes	PH	UPL	Floodplains, moist woods, roadsides, old homesites
<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Japanese hop	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACU	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	common hop	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACU	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla	A	No	Yes	PAH	OBL	Ponds and quiet waters
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow iris	A	Yes	Yes	PH	OBL	Fresh water tidal marshes
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European privet	A	Yes	Yes	DS	FACU	Woods and thickets
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	A	Yes	Yes	WV	FAC-	Woodlands throughout the state
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur honeysuckle	A	Yes	No	DS	UPL	Woods, thickets, old fields, edges
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle	A	Yes	Yes	DS	UPL	Woods, thickets, old fields, edges
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle	A	Yes	Yes	DS	FACU	Woods, thickets, old fields, edges
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> ssp. <i>glabrescens</i>	floating seedbox	Ad	Yes	Yes	PH	OBL	Ponds, slow shallow streams, impoundments, ditches
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	creeping Jennie	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACW-	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACW+	Tidal and nontidal marshes, stream banks, wet meadows
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stilt grass	A	Yes	Yes	AG	FAC	Moist woods and floodplains
<i>Murdannia keisak</i>	marsh dewflower	A	No	Yes	PH	OBL	Marshes, ponds, ditches
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	parrot feather	A	No	Yes	PAH	OBL	Ponds and quiet waters
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water-milfoil	A	No	Yes	PAH	OBL	Ponds and quiet waters
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	pachysandra	A	Yes	Yes	PH	UPL	Garden escape to woodlands
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canary grass	Ad	Yes	Yes	PG	FACW	Tidal and nontidal marshes and streams
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	A/N	Yes	Yes	PG	FACW	Alien form widely established in wetlands
<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>	Japanese black pine	A	No	Yes	ET	UPL	Coastal dunes
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	water lettuce	A	No	Yes	PH	OBL	Rare in ponds and quiet waters
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough bluegrass	A	Yes	Yes	PG	FACW	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Polygonum cespitosum</i>	tufted knotweed	A	Yes	Yes	AH	FACU-	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACU-	Roadsides, thickets, thin moist woods, edges
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	mile-a-minute	A	Yes	Yes	AH	FAC	Thin moist woods, floodplains, swales and marshes
<i>Pseudosasa japonica</i>	bamboo	A	Yes	Yes	PG	UPL	Edge of woods and roadsides
<i>Pueraria montana</i>	kudzu	A	Yes	Yes	PHV	UPL	Roadsides, edges of woods
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery (Bradford) pear	A	Yes	No	DT	UPL	Roadsides, edges. old fields
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	lesser celandine	A	Yes	No	PH	FAC	Floodplains and moist woods
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	jetbead	A	Yes	No	DS	UPL	Cultivated and occasionally escaping
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	multi-floral rose	A	Yes	Yes	DS	FACU	Meadows, old fields, thickets, edges
<i>Rubus idaeus</i> ssp. <i>strigosus</i>	red raspberry	Ad	Yes	No	DS	UPL	Old fields, thickets, edges, hedgerows
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	wineberry	A	Yes	Yes	DS	UPL	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches

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<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson grass	A	Yes	Yes	PG	FACU	Crop land, meadows, moist swales
<i>Trapa natans</i>	water chestnut	A	No	Yes	AAH	OBL	Rare in ponds and quiet waters
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle	A	Yes	Yes	PH	FACU	Disturbed areas, edges, old fields, roadsides, ditches
<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	Siebold's viburnum	A	Yes	No	DS	UPL	Upland forests, edges of woods
<i>Vinca minor</i>	periwinkle	A	Yes	Yes	PH	UPL	Thin woods, edges and thickets
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese wisteria	A	Yes	Yes	WV	UPL	Roadside thickets and abandoned gardens, old homesites
----- ANIMALS -----							
<i>Anaplophora glabripennis</i>	Asian long-horned beetle	A	No	No	I	N/A	Urban and suburban areas, woods <NOT YET FOUND IN DE>
<i>Carcinus maenas</i>	green crab	A	No	Yes	C	N/A	Intertidal coastline
<i>Corbicula fluminea</i>	Asiatic clam	A	Yes	Yes	BV	N/A	Streams, ponds
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	mute swan	A	Yes	Yes	B	N/A	Marshes, ponds
<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>	zebra mussel	A	No	No	BV	N/A	Streams, ponds <NOT YET FOUND IN DE>
<i>Hemigrapsus sanguinensis</i>	Japanese shore crab	A	No	Yes	C	N/A	Rocky intertidal coastline, jetties, rip-rap
<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	European gypsy moth	A	Yes	Yes	I	N/A	Woods, urban and suburban areas
<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	nutria	A	No	Yes	M	N/A	Marshes
<i>Solenopsis invicta</i>	red imported fire ant	A	No	Yes	I	N/A	Nurseries, fields, pastures

### Origin codes

A	alien to the US
Ad	adventive in DE, native elsewhere in the US
N	native to DE

### Growth Form codes

AAH	annual aquatic herb	C	crustacean	PAH	perennial aquatic broad-leaf herb
AG	annual grass	DS	deciduous shrub	PAS	perennial aquatic sedge
AH	annual broad-leaf herb	DT	deciduous tree	PG	perennial grass
AHV	annual herbaceous vine	ES	evergreen shrub	PH	perennial broad-leaf herb
AS	annual sedge	ET	evergreen tree	PHV	perennial herbaceous vine
B	bird	F	fern	PS	perennial sedge
BH	biennial broad-leaf herb	FA	fern ally	WV	woody vine
BHV	biennial herbaceous vine	I	insect		
BV	bivalve	M	mammal		

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### Wetland Indicator codes

OBL	occurs almost always (> 99%) under natural conditions in wetlands
FACW	usually occurs in wetlands (67 - 99%), but occasionally found in non-wetlands
FAC	equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (34 - 66%)
FACU	usually occurs in non-wetlands (67 - 99%), but occasionally found in wetlands (1 - 33%)
UPL	occurs almost always (> 99%) under natural conditions in non-wetlands
WETL	DNHP designation for taxa not yet given a national wetland indicator, but occurs in wetland habitats in Delaware
+ sign indicates a frequency toward the higher end of the category (more frequently found in wetlands)	
- sign indicates a frequency toward the lower end of the category (less frequently found in wetlands)	