Other Plants to Control or Avoid

Running bamboos *(Phyllostachys, Bambusa, and Pseudosasa)*

Crown vetch *(Coronilla varia)*

Five-leaf akebia *(Akebia quinata)*

Mints *(Mentha spp.)* including Spearmint, Ground ivy, Gill-over-the-ground, Creeping Charlie, Henbit, and Purple dead nettle

Multiflora rose *(Rosa multiflora)*

Burning bush *(Euonymous alatus)*

Japanese barberry *(Berberis thunbergii)*

Japanese honeysuckle bushes *(Lonicera spp.)*

Japanese knotweed *(Polygonum cuspidatum)*

Japanese stiltgrass *(Microstegium vimineum)*

Purple loosestrife *(Lythrum spp.)*

Preferred Native Vines/Groundcover

Trumpet honeysuckle *(Lonicera sempervirens)* is evergreen and has tubular red flowers attractive to hummingbirds.

Trumpet vine *(Campsis radicans)* also has long tubular, red flowers attractive to hummimgbirds.

Virginia creeper *(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)* is deciduous with berries beneficial to birds.

Groundcover: Evergreen: Golden ragwort *(Senecio aureus)*, Green-and-gold *(Chrysogonum virginianum)*, Wild stonecrop *(Sedum ternatum)*, Moss phlox *(Phlox sublata)*, Allegheny spurge *(Pachysandra procumbens)* Deciduous: Wild ginger *(Asarum canadense)*

Ferns: Evergreen: Wood fern *(Dryopteris marginalis)* Christmas fern *(Polysticlum acrostichordes)* Deciduous: Cinnamon fern *(Osmunda cinnamomea)*

Note about herbicide use: Control of invasives requires perseverance. While it is preferable to remove plants mechanically, sometimes growth is so invasive that mechanical removal is not feasible. If so, apply herbicides properly and limit the application to the targeted plant. Always follow label directions when applying any pesticide. The chemicals cited in this brochure are recommended by the Plant Conservation Alliance, which includes numerous federal, state, and local government agencies including the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service provides additional information in their publications on chemical controls.

What you can do to help

- Eliminate or control invasives on your own property
- Don't buy potentially invasive plants
- Do not dump yard clippings into parks
- Learn to appreciate native wildflowers and plants
- Educate your neighbors and friends
- Help remove invasive plants from our parks and greenspaces by volunteering with organized removal programs. Call (703) 228 7636

For More Information Please Contact:
Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources – Park and Natural Resources Division and Virginia Cooperative Extension
Invasive Species Program 703 228 7636
http://www.co.arlington.va.us/prcr/scripts/parks/invasive_plants.htm

English Ivy photo courtesy of U.S. National Park Service, Washington, D.C.
Porcelain Berry photo courtesy Virginia Cooperative Extension

Arlington County, Virginia
Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources

Invaders in Our Backyards

Help Protect Arlington From Invasive Vines

For information call (703) 228-7636

The Problem of Invasive Species

Arlington County needs your help to protect parks and natural areas from invasive alien plant species.

About 40% of the trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in Arlington Parks are non-native species. Many of these alien plants are aggressive competitors with native plants. Here they have few natural controls such as insects and disease that keep them in balance in their native lands. While some of these exotic aliens are spread by wind or birds, many others have crept into parks from nearby residential properties.

Some plants are of greater concern than others. Some of the worst offenders are non-native vines that often have escaped from landscapes around homes. They overtake native undergrowth and out-compete it for nutrients and water. They shade out and replace the wildflowers, shrubs and young trees of the natural forest under-story. They also climb and may eventually kill trees. These vines change the open forests into dense monocultures, eliminating the diverse varieties of plants needed by birds and other wildlife to provide food and shelter through each of the seasons.

If you live near a park or natural area, you can help by removing these vines from your landscape or by confining them to limited and defined spaces and keeping them under control.

For a complete list of the most troublesome invasives in Virginia with much more detailed fact sheets on them and how to eradicate them write:

The Virginia Native Plant Society, 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620 or visit their website at www.vnps.org

Or visit the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation website at http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/invinfo.htm

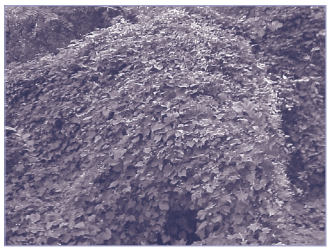
Eradicating Invasive Vines

The following are the most invasive vines in Arlington Parks:

English Ivy *(Hedera helix)* creeps into natural areas

and up trees, choking out anything in its path. The mature flowering and fruiting form of English ivy develops after it reaches a certain height and age. *To control:* Cut down from trees and mow once a year in late winter. Do not allow English ivy to spill from your yard into parks or other natural areas. *To eradicate:* Remove ivy from trees by cutting all vines at ground level. Cut the vines again several feet up the trunk. Peal the cut section of ivy off, but be careful not to strip the bark of the tree. The portion left growing on the tree will eventually die. Pull ground ivy back a few feet from the base of the tree to slow regrowth up the tree trunk. Remove ground ivy by hand pulling, cutting and mulching over top, and/or applying a systemic herbicide like triclopyr to leaves or freshly cut large stems. Expect all control techniques to require small amounts of monitoring and retreatment for complete eradication.

Porcelain Berry *(Ampelopsis brevipedunculata)*



from Asia can still be found in some nurseries. It looks like a wild grape, but has hard, glossy berries, which turn white, green, lilac, and bright blue in the fall. It is extremely invasive and can completely cover shrubs and canopy trees. *To control:* Prune back and cut off all berries. *To eradicate:* Hand-pull in summer before plants form berries, or treat with an herbicide containing the active ingredient glyphosate.

Oriental Bittersweet *(Celastrus orbiculatus)* has almost completely displaced native, American bittersweet. *To control:* Prune back and cut off all berries. *To eradicate:* Cut vines and hand pull roots. Treat dense infestations by cutting the vines and immediately painting a glyphosate herbicide to the stumps. Cutting vines without killing the roots will stimulate vigorous regrowth.

Kudzu *(Pueraria labata)* is a thick vine with three large, lobed leaves, purple flowers and bean-like seedpods. It is spreading into the Northeast. *To eradicate:* Use an herbicide containing glyphosate or triclopyr when in bloom in late summer.

Japanese Honey Suckle *(Lonicera japonica)* is the familiar rampant vine with gold and white fragrant flowers. *To control:* Treat the same as English ivy. *To eradicate:* Dig out or cut to the ground and treat re-growth with a glyphosate herbicide.

Periwinkle *(Vinca minor)* originated in Europe and has escaped into parks and natural areas, smothering the forest floor in many places. *To control:* Treat the same as English ivy. *To eradicate:* Dig out by hand or cut to the ground and treat re-growth with a glyphosate herbicide.

Climbing Euonymous *(Euonymous fortunei)* or wintercreeper is evergreen with egg-shaped leaves. *To control:* Treat the same as English ivy. *To eradicate:* cut the stem as close to the ground as possible and immediately paint the cut stem with glyphosate or triclopyr.

Mile-A-Minute *(Polygonum perfoliatum L.)* has spread from Pennsylvania, where it was accidentally introduced in 1930. It has thorny stems and leaves shaped like perfect triangles. *To eradicate:* Before it sets seed, pull by hand or use a glyphosate herbicide.

While it is preferable to remove plants mechanically, sometimes growth is so invasive that mechanical removal is not feasible.