

# UNWANTED



KUDZU



TREE OF HEAVEN



ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET



PRIVET



PRINCESS TREE



MISCANTHUS



HONEYSUCKLE



MULTIFLORA ROSE



SEEDLING BRADFORD PEAR

## INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE POLK COUNTY REGION



## INVASIVE PLANT TIDBITS

1. **Kudzu** — is a perennial vine that is extremely vigorous. It possesses the ability to climb trees and cover acreage in a very short period of time. Photo credit: Johnny Randall, NC Botanical Garden.
2. **Tree of Heaven** — is an invasive tree that will grow nearly anywhere. A prolific seed producer, one mature tree can produce 100,000 seeds. Photo credit: Chuck Barger, Univ of Georgia.
3. **Oriental Bittersweet** — is another perennial vine that will grow in sun or shade. The US Forest Service views it as a serious pest of all forest trees. Photo credit: James H Miller, USDA Forest Service.
4. **Privet** — is a woody, semi-evergreen shrub that can easily grow into a small tree. Songbirds readily spread this plant pest and it is commonly found thriving along the banks of creeks and streams.  
Photo credit: Ronald F Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service.
5. **Princess Tree (aka Paulownia)** — is a non-native tree that spreads by lightweight seeds dispersed by the wind. Seedlings frequently grow and root next to structures and walls and should be removed.  
Photo credit: Pennsylvania Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources.
6. **Miscanthus** — is a large growing exotic grass that is spreading along sunny roadsides displacing many native plant species. Photo credit: Mariah Hughes, Ivy River Partners, Madison County, NC.
7. **Honeysuckle** — is a perennial vine that commonly climbs native trees & shrubs and even landscape plantings. The woody weed possesses pretty, fragrant flowers but too aggressive to keep despite its attractive merits. Photo credit: Chris Evans, Univ of Illinois.
8. **Multiflora Rose** — is a non-native rose that was introduced as a food source for wildlife.  
Commonly spread by birds and other wildlife. This plant has thorns.  
Photo credit: James H Miller, USDA Forest Service.
9. **Seedling Bradford Pear** — is an escaped ornamental tree that is fast becoming one of the region's most serious, quickly spreading, non-native woody weeds. Nearly half of all Bradford pear seedlings have exaggerated and painful thorns. Photo credit: Britt Slattery, US Fish and Wildlife.

### Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the help from the Invasives.org website and the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (Univ of Georgia) for the photos used in this publication. The Miscanthus image was shared by Mariah Hughes of Ivy River Partners.

*Layout by Kate Craig, November 2020*