



RCHOA Educational Guidelines for Invasive and Native Plants

(September 2026)

These Guidelines are intended to provide education for our residents to promote landscaping that is compatible with the Western North Carolina environment and the character of our community. The recommendations outlined below apply when adding, removing, or modifying landscaping on your property.

GUIDELINES for New Plantings and Replacement of Plants/Trees etc.

Residents are encouraged to remove invasive species and consider replacing them with native or other non-invasive vegetation.

What is considered an Invasive Species?

- An invasive species is considered invasive when it can aggressively spread, outcompetes native vegetation for light, water, and nutrients, and lacks the natural controls, like insects or diseases, that help control its growth.
- Invasive plants typically also serve as hosts for invasive insects and pests. For example, the Tree of Heaven is a preferred host of the Spotted Lanternfly.
- The **NATIVE/REPLACEMENT** plants listed **BELOW** are provided for general educational guidance. Residents should also consider sunlight, soil conditions, drainage, maturity of the plant, deer resistance and proximity to structures when selecting plants. Native plants are encouraged, however, suitable non-native plants not considered invasive may also be used.

INVASIVE/REMOVE

NATIVE/REPLACEMENT

LATIN NAME

TREES

Bradford Pear	Flowering Dogwood Sweet Crabapple	Cornus Florida Malus Coronaria
Mimosa, Silk Tree	Eastern Redbud White Fringe Tree Serviceberry	Cercis Canadensis Chionanthus Virginicus Amelanchier Arborea
Princess Tree	Black Cherry Eastern Redbud	Prunus Serotina Cercis Canadensis
Tree of Heaven	Staghorn Sumac Sourwood Tree American Beech	Rhus typhina Oxydendrum Arboreum Fagus Grandifolia

SHRUBS/VINES/GRASSES

Burning Bush	Viburnum Arrowwood Red Chokeberry	Viburnum Dentatum Aronia Arbutifolia
Butterfly Bush	Wild Hydrangea False Indigo Bush	Hydrangea Arborescens Amorpha Fruticosa
Crown Vetch	Creeping Phlox Purple Vetch	Phlox Subulata Vicia Americana
Japanese Barberry	Blackhaw Viburnum Spicebush	Viburnum Rufidulum Lindera Benzoin
Japanese Knotweed	Elderberry Staghorn Sumac	Sambucus Canadensis Rhus Typhina
Japanese Spiraea	Sweet Shrub Hydrangea	Calycanthus Floridus Hydrangea Macrophylla
Periwinkle	Creeping Phlox Moss Phlox	Phlox Stolonifera Phlox Subulata
Privet	American Holly Mountain Pepperbush	Ilex Opaca Clethra Acuminata

Autumn Olive	Chokecherry Persimmon	Prunus Virginiana Diospyros Virginiana
Chinese Silvergrass	Broomsedge Grass Bottle Brush Grass	Andropogon Elymus Hystrix
English Ivy	Trumpet Creeper Crossvine	Parthenocissus Quinquefolia Bignonia Capreolata
Honeysuckle	Trumpet Honeysuckle Clematis Virginiana	Lonicera Sempervirens Clematis Virginiana
Wisteria	American Wisteria Dutchman's Pipevine	Wisteria Frutescens Isotrema Macrophylla
Oriental Bittersweet	Passion Vine	Passiflora Incarnata
Pampas Grass	Pink Muhly Grass	Muhlenbergia Capillaris
Miscanthus	Indian Grass	Sorghastrum Nutans
Bamboo	(Extremely aggressive growth and difficult to remove)	