

PROHIBITED PLANT LIST

For the South Carolina Upstate Region



**Plants to Avoid Using within Areas Regulated by
Landscape and Tree Ordinances within
The South Carolina Upstate Region**

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| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME 'CULTIVAR' | COMMENTS |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Acer negundo | Box Elder All cultivars | This tree is of poor quality, weak wooded, disease and insect susceptible, with frequent wind damage. |
| Acer saccharinum | Silver Maple | This tree is weak wooded, short lived, and sensitive to urban environments. |
| Ailanthus altissima | Tree of Heaven All cultivars | This tree is highly invasive, exotic, weak wooded, and of poor quality. |
| Albizia julibrissin | Mimosa Tree All cultivars | This tree is an invasive exotic noxious species. It is weak wooded, the seedpods litter the ground, and it is not very disease and insect tolerant. |
| Alliaria petiolata | Garlic Mustard | This plant rapidly invades moist, shady areas, especially where soil has been disturbed. It out-competes native plants by taking over light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space, while producing thousands of seeds that scatter several yards from the plant. |
| Arundo donax | Giant Reed | This grass highly invasive grass forms long fibrous roots, grows rapidly, and completely suppresses native vegetation. |
| Betula papyrifera | Paper Birch All cultivars | This tree is susceptible to Bronze Birch Borer. It is also intolerant of urban stress, short lived, and rarely survives in zones warmer than USDA hardiness zone six (Upstate SC is zone seven). |
| Betula pendula | European White Birch All cultivars | This tree is highly susceptible to leaf miner and Bronze Birch Borer. It is also intolerant of urban stress and is short lived. |
| Buddleia davidii | Butterfly Bush | This shrub is a problematic, noxious species that disrupts the natural succession by native herbaceous and shrub species. |
| Carduus nutans | Musk Thistle | This plant invades open natural areas (meadows, prairies, grassy balds). It spreads most rapidly where frequent natural disturbances occur (landslides, flooding). It does not grow invasively in excessively wet, dry or shady conditions. |
| Celastrus orbiculatus | Oriental Bittersweet | This rapidly growing vine climbs over and smothers other vegetation, which usually dies from excessive shading or breakage. It spreads through root suckering and prolific seed production. |
| Cirsium vulgare | Bull Thistle | This highly invasive plant crowds out native plants through shading, competition for soil resources, and possibly through the release of chemical toxins poisonous to other plants. |
| Commelina benghalensis | Benghal Dayflower | This invasive plant forms dense, pure stands that smother other plants. It thrives in moist soil along roadsides, grasslands, and other disturbed areas. Pastures and crop fields are most at risk, for it can destroy low-growing crops. |
| Cuscuta species | Dodders | This invasive and parasitic plant lacks chlorophyll. Its stems twist around a host plant, attach to the host stem, extract nutrients, and kill the host plant. |

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| <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> | Scotch Broom | This shrub invades roadsides, other disturbed areas, pastures and native grasslands. It is an abundant seed producer, and the seeds have hard coats allowing them to survive for up to 80 years. |
| <i>Daucus carota</i> | Queen Anne's Lace, Wild Carrot | This highly adaptable plant can become invasive, crowding out native species. |
| <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> , <i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i> | Air Yam, Chinese Yam | This invasive exotic vine thrives in open to shady areas, forming dense masses of vines that cover and kill native vegetation, including trees. |
| <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> (female) | Persimmon (females only) | The fleshy fruit makes this a messy tree for pedestrian and parking environments. |
| <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> | Russian Olive All cultivars | This thorny tree is susceptible to canker diseases and verticillium wilt. It is an invasive exotic. |
| <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> | Thorny Olive All cultivars | This shrub is too thorny for an urban environment. It thrives in sun or partial shade and is salt tolerant. It is an invasive exotic with rampant growth. |
| <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> | Autumn Olive All cultivars | This bushy shrub forms dense stands that grow at the expense of other species. It is an invasive exotic. |
| <i>Euonymus alatus</i> | Winged Euonymus All cultivars | This shrub is an invasive exotic that establishes reproducing populations in shady woodlands, occasionally becoming a dominant shrub at the expense of other species. |
| <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> | Wintercreeper Euonymus All cultivars | This vine-like evergreen shrub trails along the ground or climbs like ivy. It can smother and kill other shrubs and small trees. It is an aggressive invasive exotic species. |
| <i>Euonymus kiautschovicus</i> | Spreading Euonymus All cultivars | This shrub attracts swarms of bees and is susceptible to damage or death by winter burn, depending on the severity of the winter. |
| <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (female) | Ginkgo (females only) | The female of this species is unacceptable because of its fruit. The fleshy seed is extremely messy and malodorous. |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> | Common Honey Locust | This tree is too thorny for use in the urban environment. |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> | Thornless Honeylocust | This tree is short-lived in South Carolina. |
| <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> (female) | KY Coffee Tree (females only) | This tree produces 6-inch long leathery pods with sticky pulp, which produce a messy condition unacceptable for urban areas. |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | English Ivy | This is an invasive, fast growing, climbing vine and ground cover. As a vine, it covers branches and deprives them of light, eventually killing the host tree. As a ground cover, it forms dense thickets that exclude native plants, and houses Bacterial Leaf Scorch (<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>), a plant pathogen. |

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| Hibiscus syriacus | Rose of Sharon All cultivars | This exotic species seeds itself aggressively; therefore, it is unacceptable to meet long term landscaping needs. |
| Imperata cylindrical | Cogon Grass | Cogon grass is a highly invasive exotic grass that can completely overtake ecosystems. Its dense, matted growing system smothers other vegetation. |
| Laburnum watereri | Golden Chain Tree All cultivars | This small tree is not reliably hardy in the extreme summer heat of much of this region. It is more adaptable to the cooler climates of the Pacific Northwest and some parts of the North East. All parts of the tree, including the seeds, are poisonous. |
| Lespedeza bicolor and Lespedeza cuneata | Bicolor or Shrubby Lespedeza and Sericea Lespedeza | This plant crowds out native plants and develops an extensive seed bank in the soil, ensuring its persistent survival at a site. |
| Ligustrum (all) | Privets All species and cultivars | These small trees/large shrubs are of poor quality, weak wooded, and have frequent wind damage. They are susceptible to disease and insect problems. Extremely shade tolerant, these trees prohibit other plants' growth beneath its canopy. |
| Lonicera (all exotics) | Honeysuckle All exotic species (*Native species are allowed and encouraged) | This woody vine/small shrub is a highly invasive exotic that is often twining. In this humid southeastern region, honeysuckle acts as a rampant weed and often takes over natural areas. |
| Lythrum salicaria | Purple Loosestrife | This highly invasive plant out-competes and replaces native grasses, sedges, and other flowering plants. |
| Maclura pomifera (female) | Osage Orange (females only) | The large fruit of this tree makes it unacceptable to meet code. It is also not hardy in the Appalachian Mountain region. |
| Mahonia bealei and Mahonia nervosa | Leatherleaf Mahonia and Cascade Barberry (Cascade Oregon Grape) | Native to China, these plants are becoming exotic invasive shrubs in South Carolina, spreading into woodlands and along vegetated edges near suburban areas. |
| Malus (selected) | Crabapples (as shown) - Almey', 'Corovaria', Dorothea', 'Eley', 'Hopa', Ioensis', 'Red Silver', Radiant', 'Sylvestris' | Many of the old varieties of crabapples are susceptible to disease and insects. There are many new clones which are highly resistant to the four major crabapple diseases |
| Malus pumila | Common Apple All cultivars | This tree is weedy and its fruit is too large to warrant the use of this tree to meet ordinance requirements. Some varieties are susceptible to disease. |
| Melia azedarach | Chinaberry Tree All cultivars | This tree vigorously spreads and has abundant poisonous seeds . |
| Miscanthus sinensis | Chinese Silver Grass | This exotic invasive grass forms large dense clumps, displacing native vegetation. It is extremely flammable and increases fire risks. |

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| Microstegium vimineum | Japanese Silt Grass, Nepalese Browntop | This highly invasive exotic grass threatens native plants and natural habitats in open to shady, and moist to dry locations. It thrives in shady areas and may affect other plants by changing soil chemistry. |
| Morus alba | Asian White Mulberry All cultivars | This tree is a highly invasive exotic, made even more unacceptable because of the messy fruit it drops. |
| Murdannia keisak | Marsh Dayflower | This annual plant invades wetlands and forms dense mats that out-compete native vegetation. |
| Nandina domestica | Nandina, Sacred Bamboo | This is an extremely drought-tolerant invasive exotic shrub. |
| Paspalum notatum | Bahia Grass | This invasive grass forms a tough, extensive sod that does not allow native species to survive. It is extremely difficult to eliminate, and will re-establish itself via its seed bank and remaining rhizomes, even after the sod is removed. |
| Paulownia tomentosa | Princess Tree or Empress Tree All cultivars | This tree has a long leaf drop period, messy seedpods, and huge leaves, which make it unsuitable to meet ordinance requirements. |
| Pennisetum setaceum | Fountain Grass | This grass is a highly aggressive, fire-adapted colonizer that readily out-competes native plants and rapidly reestablishes after burning. |
| Philadelphus coronarius | Sweet Mockorange All cultivars | The open habit of this shrub makes it unsuitable for regulated areas. |
| Photinia villosa | Oriental Photinia All cultivars | The bark of this small tree/shrub is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact. It also has problems with fireblight disease, which limits its use to meet landscaping requirements. |
| Photinia fraseri | Fraser Photiniam or Red Tip All cultivars | This shrub is subject to entomosporium leaf spot, a fungus, which will cause gradual thinning, defoliation, and death of the plant. |
| Phragmites australis | Common Reed | This invasive grass takes over marsh communities by blocking light and crowding out native plants, which changes marsh hydrology, alters wildlife habitat, and increases fire potential. |
| Phyllostachys aurea | Golden Bamboo | This reed-like invasive exotic plant forms dense, monocultural thickets that displace native species. Once it is established, it is very difficult to remove. |
| Populus | Poplars - 'White Poplars', 'Lombardy Poplar', 'Quaking Aspen', All species and cultivars; Eastern Cottonwood, All cultivars | All the listed poplars are unacceptable because they are disease prone, weak wooded and their roots will clog drain tiles, and storm and sanitary sewer lines. |
| Pueraria Montana | Kudzu | This highly invasive, exotic, deciduous, climbing vine grows over, smothers, and kills all other vegetation, including trees. |

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| Prunus cerasifera (Straight Species) | Cherry Plum (Straight Species) | This tree has numerous disease problems and is pollution sensitive. |
| Prunus glandulosa | Dwarf Flowering Almond All cultivars | The open habit of this plant does not meet code. It is also disease prone and pollution sensitive |
| Prunus persica | Peach All cultivars | This tree is disease prone and pollution sensitive. Its large fruit makes it unsuitable for urban use. |
| Pyracantha coccinea | Scarlet Firethorn All cultivars | This species' fruit is very susceptible to scab (disease). Superior clones of Pyracantha are available and should be used instead of this species. |
| Pyrus calleryana | Callery Pear, Bradford Pear | This tree exhibits severe structural problems with main trunks splitting apart and has some serious disease problems. It is also an invasive species. |
| Pyrus communis | Common Pear All cultivars | This tree is extremely susceptible to fireblight and its large fruit make it unsuitable for urban use. |
| Rhamnus cathartica | Common Buckthorn All cultivars | This shrub/small tree is a highly invasive exotic. It forms dense thickets, crowding and shading out native shrubs and herbs. Dense buckthorn seedlings prevent native tree and shrub regeneration. |
| Rhamnus frangula | Glossy Buckthorn All cultivars | This shrub experiences serious disease problems and can be a highly invasive exotic. It also has problems surviving in areas with heavy traffic, due to pollution sensitivity. |
| Rosa multiflora | Japanese Rose All cultivars | This thorny shrub is a highly invasive exotic. Its fruits are sought after by birds, which are the primary dispersers of its seed. Germination of multiflora rose seeds is enhanced by passing through the digestive tract of birds. |
| Salix babylonica | Weeping Willow All cultivars | This tree is messy (always dropping small branches), weak wooded, susceptible to canker (disease), and its roots tap sewer and water lines. |
| Solanus viarum | Tropical Soda Apple | This invasive plant forms dense, thick stands. It primarily invades pastures, fields, and parks, but also has the potential to invade open forest and other natural areas. |
| Sorbus | Mountain Ash All species and cultivars | This tree is susceptible to many diseases and pests. It is not recommended as a street tree because it is not urban tolerant and it has 1/2" fleshy seedpods. It is best planted in open lawn areas for private use. |
| Sorghum helepense | Johnson Grass | This perennial grass is adapted to a wide variety of habitats including open forests, old fields, ditches and wetlands. It spreads aggressively, forming dense colonies. It displaces native vegetation and restricts tree seedling growth. |
| Triadica sebifera | Chinese tallow tree All cultivars | This tree is of poor quality, weak wooded, and has frequent wind damage. It is disease and insect prone. It is an invasive exotic, with abundant seeds vigorously spreading this plant to dry areas and wetlands. |
| Ulmus carpiniflora | Smoothleaf Elm All cultivars | This tree is of poor quality, easily wind damaged, weak wooded, and disease and insect prone. It is invasive to stream banks, ditches, and wet areas via abundant seeds. |

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| Ulmus fulva | Red Elm All cultivars | This tree is of poor quality, easily wind damaged, weak wooded, and disease and insect prone. It is invasive to stream banks, ditches, and wet areas via abundant seeds. |
| Ulmus pumila | Siberian Elm All cultivars | This tree is of poor quality, easily wind damaged, weak wooded, and disease and insect prone. It is invasive to stream banks, ditches, and wet areas via abundant seeds. |
| Vinca major and Vinca minor | Bigleaf Periwinkle and Common Periwinkle | These evergreen/semi-evergreen vines invade open to shady forests and vegetated areas. They form dense mats along forest floors that exclude native vegetation. |
| Vitex rotundifolia | Beach Vitex | This plant does not grow well in the Upstate and should not be planted here. This invasive plant thrives in beach environments, where it produces a high amount of seed. It displaces native beach grasses and wildflowers, and endangers and kills wildlife by entangling animals (such as sea turtle hatchlings) in its thick vegetation so they cannot reach the ocean. |
| Wisteria sinensis and Wisteria floribunda | Chinese Wisteria and Japanese Wisteria (*Native species are allowed and encouraged) | This viney shrub has rapid, dense growth, with water-dispersed seeds. Its rapid growth can overwhelm trees and other plants species, killing them. |

SOURCES:

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