

Invasive Plant Resources

Invasive species provide limited food and habitat for wildlife species. Invasive species frequently create monocultures by outcompeting valuable native plant species. Invasive species can dramatically reduce biodiversity in a manner similar to constructing a parking lot. There are numerous invasive species important to Virginia grasslands. The following PDFs cover invasive species important to Virginia and strategies for managing them.

[Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)

"This advisory list is published to inform land managers of potential risks associated with certain plant species known to exhibit invasive behavior in some situations. Factors used to rank each species include: cumulative impacts on natural areas; impacts on other species; potential to disperse and invade natural landscapes; distribution and abundance; and difficulty to manage."

Source [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#)

[Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants \(VDGIF\)](#)

"For each invasive species listed, several natives are suggested as alternatives, along with their natural range in continental North America. Ideally the alternative matches most or all of the invasive plant's desirable characteristics, such as flowers, fruit, fall color, and ease of care."

Source [Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries](#)

[USDA Invasive Plants Field and Reference Guide](#)

"The purpose of this particular field guide is to give a scientific synthesis of what is known about the behavior of such species in managed, disturbed, and pristine forested systems in addition to key information for accurate identification."

Source [United States Forest Service](#)