



Invasive Plant Species FAQ

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission's (ANHC) System of Natural Areas provides a landscape where biodiversity can flourish. However, invasive plant species are one of the major threats to our ability to maintain biodiversity on our natural areas.

Did you know? Quick Facts About Invasive Species:

- Invasive plants can be native or non-native to an ecosystem.
- Non-native invasive species are plants artificially introduced to an area.
- Native invasive species are native plants that grow in an area that is not their natural habitat, choking out plants that would normally grow there.
- Invasive plants flourish without the predators, parasites, diseases and competitors of their native range.
- Invasive species alter habitats and displace native species, driving some rare species toward extinction.
- Dependent on native plants for food and shelter, many native animals have trouble adjusting their specialized diets to the new plants, causing populations of some animals to decline.

Why Should You Care About Invasive Species? Because they:

- limit future use of public and private lands
- impact the health and regeneration of forests
- create an increased risk of flooding and soil erosion
- impede navigation in waterways and lower water quality
- decrease food availability and impact habitat quality for native wildlife

How Does the ANHC deal with invasive species on Natural Areas? Follow the links below to learn more.

Restoring Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands With Fire

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/blog/dah/2021/04/13/restoring-prairies-savannas-and-woodlands-with-fire>

Prescribed Fire: A Helpful Management Tool

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/blog/dah/2021/04/26/prescribed-fire-a-helpful-management-tool>

Foothills Arkansas Master Naturalists Build Bridges

<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/blog/dah/2021/04/13/foothills-arkansas-master-naturalists-build-bridges>

Ecology Students Tour Cove Creek Natural Area

(<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/blog/dah/2021/04/26/ecology-students-tour-cove-creek-natural-area>)

Neighbors at Middle Fork Barrens Pitch In to Remove Cedar

(<https://www.arkansasheritage.com/blog/dah/2016/08/31/neighbors-at-middle-fork-barrens-pitch-in-to-remove-cedar>)

You can find more information (including a free mobile app download) at these websites:

Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests:

Desktop -- <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/srs/>

Free mobile App: http://apps.bugwood.org/southern_forests.html

Stop the Spread: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/invasive/prevention.htm>

All About Invasive Species: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/invasive/about.htm>

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, Invasive.org: <https://www.invasive.org/>

National Invasive Species Council: <https://www.doi.gov/invasivespecies/>

National Invasive Species Information Center: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

National Invasive Species Awareness Week: <https://www.nisaw.org/>

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service: <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/environment-nature/ar-invasives/invasive-plants/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Invasive Species and Pests:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/invasive/>

See our [“Invasive Plant Species Found in Arkansas”](#) handout for a list of some of the invasive plants found in Arkansas.