

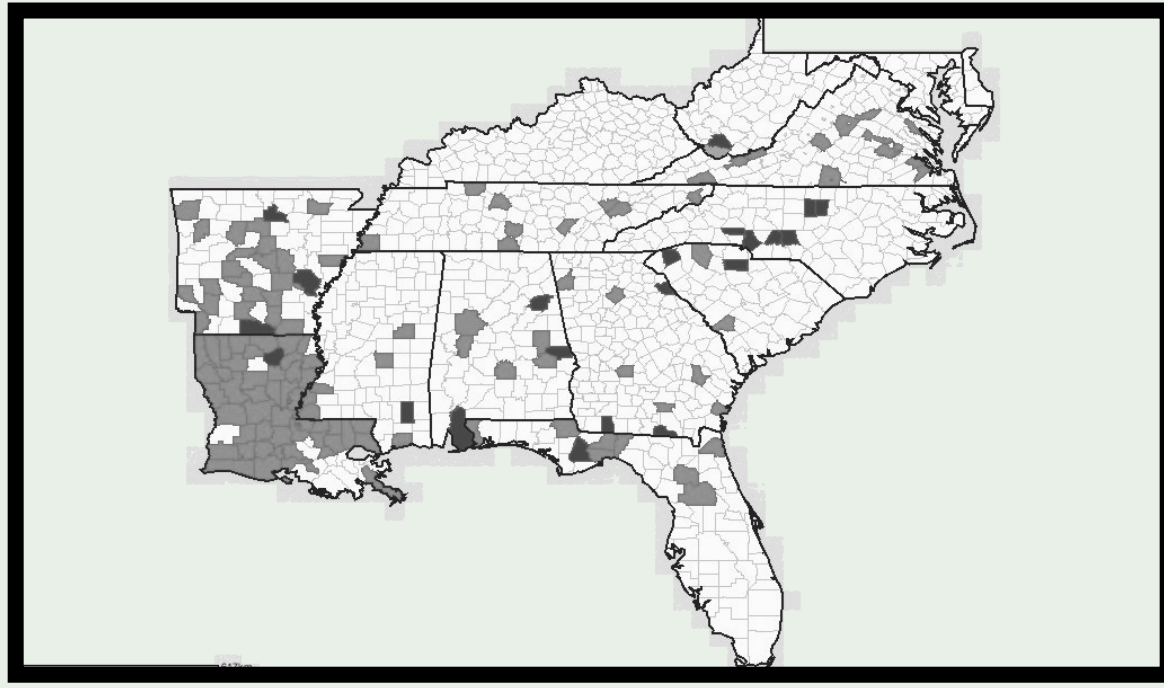
Hardy Orange

Poncirus trifoliata

Hardy Orange or Bitter Orange was brought to our country from Asia for use as an ornamental plant. Over the years it has proven to be invasive. This deciduous shrub can grow up to 20 feet tall. Despite the fact that it is known to be invasive, it is still bought and sold in the United States.



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WHAT IS INVASIVE

invasive (*in-vay-siv*) *n.* a non-native species that intrudes upon an environment. Often possessed of rapid growth and efficient reproduction, it crowds out native species, damaging wildlife habitat and threatening biodiversity.

Each plant in this exhibit that fits the above definition is accompanied by an image of Seedy—the Invasive Plant Icon. Be aware when planning your garden that these plants are harmful to the native landscape and wildlife. A map of the southeastern US is placed by each pictured invasive to indicate the geographical area affected by its spread. (Maps are from the UNC Herbarium **Atlas**. See <http://herbarium.unc.edu> for this and much more information on the southeastern US flora.)



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Invasive Privets

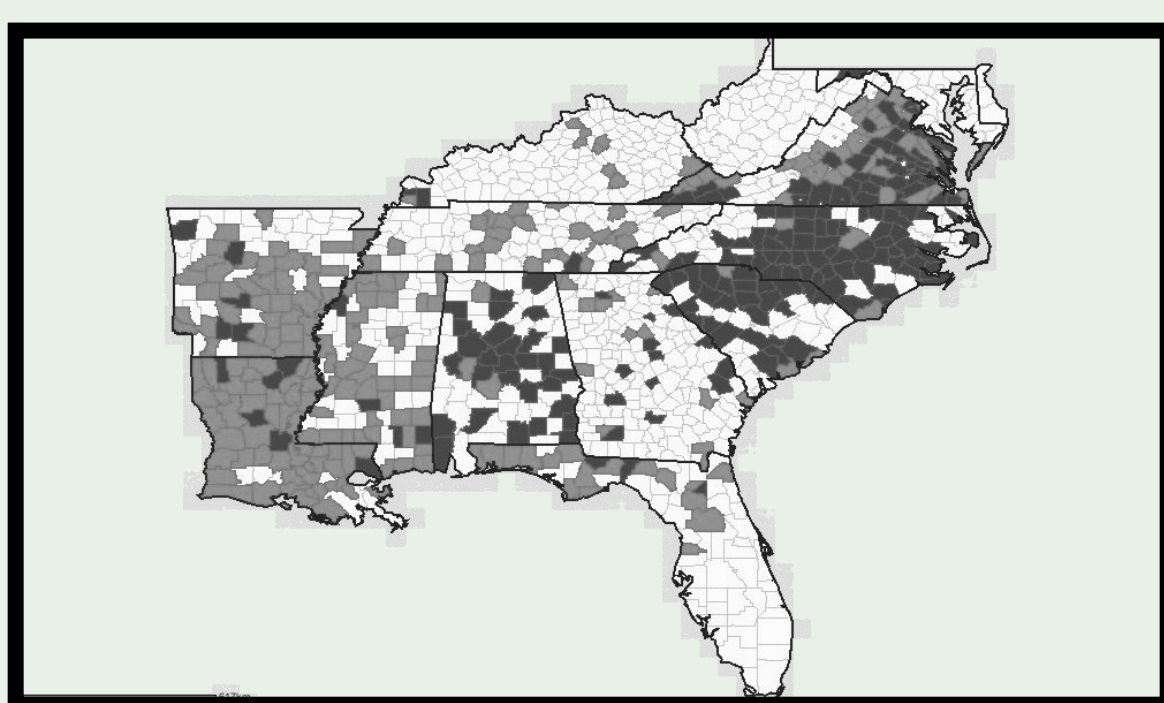
Ligustrum sinense, *L. japonicum*, and *L. vulgare*

Ligustrum hedges are a common sight in our area. These species were introduced into the US in the 1800s. All *Ligustrums*—Chinese, Japanese, and European privets—have become a major threat to our native plant habitats. If you are getting ready to create a privacy hedge on your property, resist the urge to purchase *Ligustrum*. Locate instead one of the alternative non-invasive shrubs, such as evergreen hollies.

Although some invasive plants were accidentally introduced in ships' ballast or on heels and hems of immigrants and tourists, most were, and continue to be, purposefully introduced through ornamental horticulture.

Early settlers brought plants with them as nostalgic reminders of former homes and to ease their struggles for survival. Some were thought to answer agricultural needs, such as Kudzu for erosion protection and Multiflora Rose for cattle barriers. These invasives are now recognized as the source of far-reaching problems described in this exhibit under PROTECT THE NATIVES.

Lacking the natural biological enemies that existed in their native habitats, invasives flourish. Like in the play — **The Man Who Came to Dinner** — they can cause much damage and are difficult to evict. You can help by telling family and friends of the harm invasive species cause, by requesting that garden centers provide only non-invasive choices, and by planting ecologically friendly plants.



Nandina

Nandina domestica

This multi-stemmed shrub, also known as Heavenly Bamboo and Sacred Bamboo, introduced from Asia in 1805, is a beloved southern pass-along plant. It is evergreen; easily grown in drought, moisture, sun, and shade; has lacy, neat foliage and panicles of white flowers in summer, red berries fall through spring; and persists for decades without care. But it is invasive and poisonous. Forests to our south are infested and it is beginning its take-over in NC. Flocks of Waxwings have died from eating the cyanide-laced berries, and the foliage can kill cattle and puppies.



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