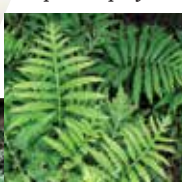


Swamp Rabbit plants growing in the Carolinas since before the time of Columbus

FERNS



Christmas Fern □
Polystichum acrostichoides. A widespread evergreen fern that holds its fronds upright for much of the year. Leaflets ("pinnae") are said to resemble Christmas stockings.



Ebony Spleenwort □ →
Asplenium platyneuron. Fronds vaguely similar to those of Christmas Fern, but smaller. Its fertile fronds stand rigidly upright; the sterile fronds lie prostrate. Evergreen.



Sensitive Fern □
Oncoclea sensibilis. Sensitive to cold, not to touch, this is sometimes confused with Netted Chain Fern. They both prefer wettest places.

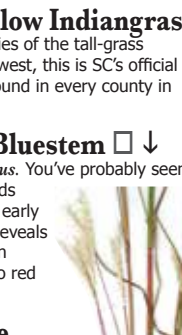


Netted Chain Fern □
Lorinseria areolata (*Woodwardia areolata*). Pinnae (the frond's divisions) of Sensitive Fern tend to be opposite, wavy-edged, and blunt, whereas those of Netted Chain Fern are more often alternate, pointy-tipped, and with straight margins.

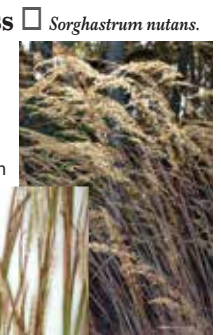
GRASSES



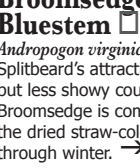
River Oats, Fish-on-a-line □
Chasmanthium latifolium. The name Fish-on-a-line comes from the resemblance of its flower head to a stringer of perch. A relative of the Sea Oats found on sea-side dunes.



Yellow Indiangrass □ *Sorghastrum nutans*. An important species of the tall-grass prairies of the Midwest, this is SC's official state grass. It is found in every county in the state. →



Splitbeard Bluestem □ ↓
Andropogon ternarius. You've probably seen its silvery seedheads along roadsides in early fall. A closer look reveals stems that range in color from green to red to blue.



Broomsedge Bluestem □
Andropogon virginicus. Splitbeard's attractive but less showy cousin, Broomsedge is commonly seen in old fields, the dried straw-colored plants standing erect through winter. →



Virginia Wild-rye □
Elymus virginicus. The flowering heads of this cool-season perennial resemble the grain from which we get rye bread (*Secale cereal*). Prefers moist shaded sites.



River Cane □
Arundinaria gigantea. Technically a grass, North America's native bamboo was used extensively by Native Americans to make household items. It once formed huge thickets ("canebrakes") in floodplains. Blooms only every 5 to 15 years.



Silver Plumegrass □ →
Erianthus alopecuroides (*Saccharum alopecuroides*). This Sugarcane relative is often seen at the edge of wooded roadsides, its 5-8' stems with footlong silvery plumes that are hard to miss in the fall.

Enjoy our native wildflowers on the Trail, but please leave them for others to enjoy!

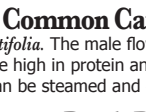
This brochure produced by the South Carolina Native Plant Society, working to protect & restore native plant communities in South Carolina. For more information, visit www.scnps.org

Photographs Keith Bradley, Ben G. Keys, Ron Lance, Janie Marlow, Steve Marlow, Patrick McMillan, Leslie J. Mehrhoff (UC, Bugwood.org.), James H. Miller (USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database), Joe Pollard, Sam Pratt, Barry Rice (sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org), Bill Sharpton, Marian St. Clair, Fran Villa (cover), Richard & Teresa Ware, Dan Whitten. Text Jan Haldeaman, Janie Marlow, Bill Stringer. Brochure concept and design Janie Marlow <webmaster@namethatplant.net>. Trail map Steve Marlow <stove@marlowcreativeservices.com>. Copyright © 2016, 2020, 2025 SCNPS. All rights reserved.

FORBS/HERBS



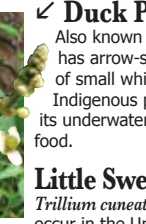
Bunched Arrowhead □ *Sagittaria fasciculata*. This is known to occur in only 3 counties worldwide, with northern Greenville County its epicenter. The seepage habitat that this rare, federally protected plant requires is very threatened. Travelers Rest is home to Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve.



Common Cattail □ ↗
Typha latifolia. The male flowers at tips of young stalks are high in protein and good in pancakes; female flowers below can be steamed and eaten like corn on the cob.



Duck Potato □ *Sagittaria latifolia*. Also known as Broadleaf Arrowhead, this has arrow-shaped leaves and stalks of small white 3-petaled flowers. Indigenous peoples used its underground tubers as food.



Little Sweet Betsy Trillium □
Trillium cuneatum. Several Trillium species occur in the Upstate, all with just 3 leaves, 3 sepals, and 3 petals. Plants are usually 5-7 years old before they flower and may live over 100 years.



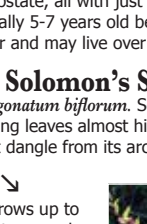
Solomon's Seal □
Polygonatum biflorum. Solomon Seal's spreading leaves almost hide the bell-like flowers that dangle from its arching stem.



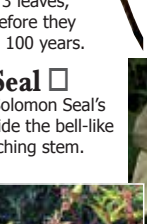
Pokeweed □ ↘
Phytolacca americana. Grows up to 10' tall, with fleshy red berries with deep red juice are relished by birds and spread widely. Toxic to humans.



Spatterdock, Yellow Pond Lily □
Nuphar advena. A water plant with small, ball-like, bright yellow flowers just above floating heart-shaped leaves, which Native Americans used for dye and to stop cuts from bleeding.



Bloodroot □ →
Sanguinaria canadensis. This spring-blooming native wildflower has a long tradition of use in herbal medicine. Its common name refers to the toxic red juice of its roots.



Yellow Fumitory, Yellow Harlequin □ ↗
Corydalis flavula. A plant with finely divided leaves and blooms that may begin in late winter and continue through spring. In the same order as Poppies and containing many toxic compounds.



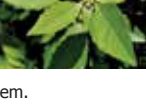
Wild Strawberry □
Fragaria virginiana. Domestic strawberries are hybrids of this wild native and a European species. Its leaves have 3 leaflets, which are toothed; the flowers are white; its fruit is red and quite sweet when ripe!



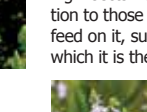
Tick-trefoils, Beggar's Lice □ →
Desmodium spp. Small pink pea-like flowers give rise to racemes of small fruits covered with dense hooked hairs which can stick to clothing, pets, etc., as a seed dispersal strategy. Common in forest edges.



Toothed Spurge □ →
Euphorbia dentata. A cousin to our Christmas Poinsettias. Flowers are small greenish cup-shaped structures called cyathia, and leaves surrounding them may be splashed with color, looking like flower petals. Mildly toxic milky sap oozes from a torn leaf or cut stem.



Orange Jewelweed □ *Impatiens capensis*. Also called "Touch-me-not", because ripe seeds explode out of its seed pods when touched. Flowers have a large nectar-laden spur in back and are pollinated by hummingbirds and bees. Closely related to garden Impatiens.



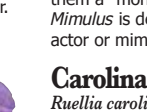
Swamp Rose-mallow □ *Hibiscus moscheutos*. Can grow very tall in sunny wet places. Large showy flowers with 5 white to pink petals and a red/purple center. Hummers and bees enjoy its nectar.



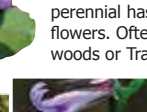
Dooryard Violet □ →
Viola sororia. Also called Common Blue Violet. Flower color varies from solid dark purple even to white, and the 2 side petals have delicate hairs at their base (beards). Heart-shaped leaves grow in rosettes from underground stems (hizomes).



Johnny-jump-up, Wild Pansy □ →
Viola bicolor. In spring, this native violet appears to "jump-up" overnight! Small flowers with 5 pale blue petals grow from tips of upright stalks that bend at the top. Leaves deeply divided; flowers an attractive, tasty garnish.



Tiny Bluet □ →
Houstonia pusilla. These small 4-petaled flowers can form conspicuous purple mats in fields and lawns in spring. Member of the Coffee family.



Eastern Sensitive-briar □
Mimosa microphylla. A plant with leaves that fold up after being touched (thus, "sensitive"), prickly stems, and pink pompom-like flowers in summer.

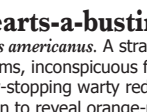
TREES & SHRUBS



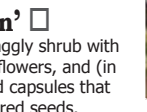
American Beautyberry □
Callicarpa americana. Its small pinkish flowers are nice, but it's the deep violet fruit that catches your eye — and is consumed by over 40 species of songbirds.



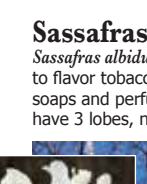
Hearts-a-bustin' □
Euonymus americanus. A straggly shrub with green stems, inconspicuous flowers, and (in fall) show-stopping warty red capsules that burst open to reveal orange-red seeds.



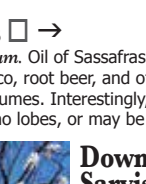
Eastern Blackberry □
Rubus pensilvanicus (*R. argutus*). Blackberries and dewberries are similar: both have armed stems and good-tasting fruit that ripens from red to black. Blackberries tend to be erect or high-arching; dewberries lie somewhat prostrate. This is the most common native blackberry in our area and on the Trail. Its flowers are white.



Virginia Sweetspire □
↗ **Virginia-willow** *Itea virginica*. Look for this fragrant, late-spring flowering shrub in moist forests and thickets, especially along the banks of small streams, where it provides invaluable erosion control. Bees love it! Turns a brilliant crimson to purplish red in autumn.



Sassafras □ →
Sassafras albidum. Oil of Sassafras has been used to flavor tobacco, root beer, and other beverages, soaps and perfumes. Interestingly, its leaves may have 3 lobes, no lobes, or may be shaped like a mitten.



Downy Serviceberry, Sarvisberry, Shadbush □
Amelanchier arborea. One of the first native trees to flower in the spring, blooming about the time that the ground thawed enough to bury the dead after a long cold winter — thus (some say) its name refers to funeral services.



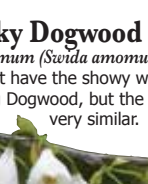
Black Cherry □ ↘
Prunus serotina. Black Cherry is a favored host plant of the impressive Tiger Swallowtail caterpillar and is reported to support over 400 species of butterflies and moths.



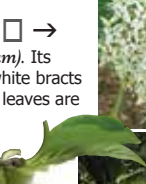
Judas Tree, Eastern Redbud □
Cercis canadensis. Those splashes of magenta-pink along woodland margins in early spring may be Redbud flowers, which put on quite a show before the tree's heart-shaped leaves emerge. The flowers are edible with a slightly sweet, "raw green-bean" taste.



Flowering Dogwood □ ↘
Cornus florida (*Benthamedia florida*). What looks like a single flower is actually a cluster of very tiny yellow blossoms surrounded by large white petal-like bracts (modified leaves). It often blooms at the same time as Redbud, and together they make a striking display.



Sumac □
Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*) and Smooth Sumac (*R. glabra*) are both found along the Trail. In the fall, leaves and fruit are a brilliant red. Fruits can be infused with water, strained and sweetened to make a beverage akin to lemonade.



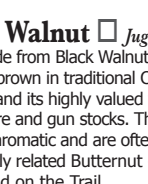
Silky Dogwood □ →
Cornus amomum (*Suida amomum*). Its flowers don't have the showy white bracts of Flowering Dogwood, but the leaves are very similar.



Common Silverbell □ ↑
Halesia tetraetra. Clusters of spectacular white bells dangle from the branches of this understory tree in spring. The bark of young trees is distinctively striped.



Pine □ →
Pines are cone-bearing (thus "conifers") and evergreen, with resinous wood and stiff, needle-like leaves arranged in bundles. Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*), and Virginia Pine (*P. virginiana*) are the predominant pines on the Trail.



Sourwood □
Oxydendrum arboreum. Look for a tree "decked out in pearls" in early summer, and you may hear bees. Here is the source of the renowned sourwood honey. The leaves' refreshingly sour taste give the tree its common name.



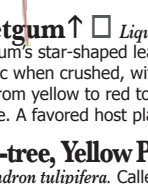
Black Walnut □ *Juglans nigra*. →
Dyes made from Black Walnut produce the dark brown in traditional Cherokee baskets, and its highly valued wood is used in furniture and gun stocks. The leaves are strongly aromatic and are often missing the terminal leaflet. The closely related Butternut or White Walnut (*J. cinerea*) is also found on the Trail.



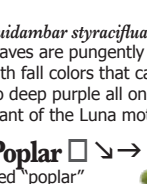
Sycamore □
Platanus occidentalis. One of the largest trees in the East, it can be recognized even at a distance by its peeling multi-colored bark.



American Holly □
Ilex opaca. This is one of the most familiar trees in eastern North America. Its spiny evergreen leaves and bright red berries are often used as Christmas decorations.



Red Maple □ ↑
Acer rubrum. Red Maple blooms as early as January, the tiny red flowers giving a hint of color to the gray treeline and providing an early source of pollen and nectar for the bees. Its red and yellow leaves are some of the showiest in our fall woodlands.



Southern Magnolia □ →
Magnolia grandiflora. A tree that has come to personify the South, with large fragrant flowers and evergreen leaves. Now widely planted, naturalizing beyond its natural range.



Devil's Walkingstick, Hercules-club □ ↘ →
Aralia spinosa. A tall shrub or small tree with stout prickles (not a good choice for a walkingstick) and complex compound leaves up to 4' long. Small white flowers are borne in large terminal clusters, in summer, and in fall they turn into a colorful haze of purplish-black berries on reddish stems. Berries are eaten by birds and small mammals.



American Beech □
Fagus grandifolia. Beech is easy to spot in winter, because it often holds on to its leaves until they are bleached almost silver. Its bark is smooth and gray, and the oily beechnuts are an important wildlife food.

* Together, over thousands of years, native flora and fauna have developed complex inter-dependencies that we are only beginning to understand. Not all wild plants are native plants! In general, plants are considered native to this area if they occurred here before Europeans arrived.

VINES



Carolina Jessamine, Yellow Jessamine □
Gelsemium sempervirens. The bright yellow trumpet-shaped flowers of South Carolina's state flower bloom on this evergreen twining vine in early spring. The entire plant is toxic, containing strychnine-related chemicals.



Carolina Moonseed □ →
Cocculus carolinus. A perennial woody vine with attractive bunches of dark to translucent red berries. Good late-season bird food.



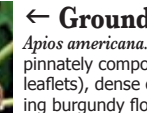
Groundnut □
Apios americana. Perennial leguminous vine with pinnately compound leaves (5-7 leaflets), dense clusters of interesting burgundy flowers, and edible bean pods and underground tubers.



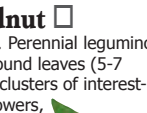
Butterfly-pea(s) □ □ →
Centrosema virginianum (A) & *Clitoria mariana* (B). Two very similar viny perennial legumes. Both have large (to 1.5") light purple to blue pea flowers, but *Centrosema* forms long (to 5") flattened beaklike pods and long climbing vines. *Clitoria*'s pods are shorter, and it tends to trail not climb.



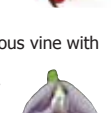
Greenbrier □
Smilax spp. There are several Smilax species on the SRT that are very spiny; others have only a few spines. They can climb high into trees and form impenetrable barriers.



Muscadine □
Muscadinia rotundifolia (*Vitis rotundifolia*). The source of much good wine and jelly, as well as an important wildlife food, this native grape is usually dark purple when ripe, sweet but with tough skin. Fruit of the Scuppernon variety (the state fruit of NC) is greenish or bronze when ripe. Other native grapes (*Vitis* spp.) also occur on the Trail.



Passionflower, Maypop □ →
Passiflora incarnata. A perennial vine best known for its elaborately ornate flowers (up to 3" across) and its melon-like fruit. The leaves are lobed.



Virginia Creeper □
Parthenocissus quinquefolia. Often mistaken for Poison Ivy, though its leaves have 5 leaflets, not Poison Ivy's 3. Also called Five-fingered Ivy, it will grow as a ground cover as well as a climbing vine.



Eastern Poison Ivy □ ↓
Toxicodendron radicans. Young plants grow as small shrubs, beginning to vine only when they encounter a standing object. Leaves are quite variable, but always trifoliate and alternate on the stem. Sap contains an oily substance called urushiol which is a serious allergen to many people, causing an itchy skin rash. Remember "leaves of three, let it be!"



Plants from around the world that have naturalized along the Trail

These are only some of the plants on the Trail; to explore others, visit www.namethatplant.net/query_swamprabbit.shtml and www.inaturalist.org/projects/plants-along-the-swamp-rabbit-trail

To learn more about these plants, participate in a South Carolina Native Plant Society field trip, plant rescue, workday or meeting, and come to our native plant sale! Visit www.scnps.org to see what's going on!

What is an introduced plant?

A plant that has been brought into an area outside its native range (either purposefully or accidentally) is referred to as "nonnative" or "introduced" in that area.

What is a naturalized plant?

An introduced plant that has escaped cultivation and is reproducing without help from humankind is said to have "naturalized". No longer confined to a garden, naturalized plants are growing wild.

What is an invasive plant?

An introduced plant that not only has naturalized, but also is expanding its range into natural areas and disrupting naturally occurring native plant communities, is considered to be "invasive".

FERNS

↑ Japanese Climbing Fern □

Lygodium japonicum. (Asia) This unfurl-like fern acts more like a vine, with fronds that can reach 100' in length and climb high into trees. (INVASIVE)

Mariana Maiden Fern □ →

Macrothelypteris torresiana. (Asian & African tropics) With highly dissected ("lacy" or bipinnate-pinnatifid), broadly triangular fronds up to 4' long, this is larger than any of the ferns native to this area. (INVASIVE)

Japanese Red Shield Fern, Autumn Fern □

Dryopteris erythrosora. (Japan, China, Korea) Resembling native woodferns, but with many "blister" scales and fruitlets that may turn brick-red. (INVASIVE)

GRASSES

Sweet Vernal Grass □

Anthoxanthum odoratum. (Europe) A sweet-smelling perennial grass and one of the first to flower in spring, its pollen is a major cause of spring hay fever. A common component of English pastures and brought here for the same purpose.

Japanese Stiltgrass □

Microstegium vimineum. (tropical southeast Asia) This annual grass arrived in North America as packing material. Virtually unknown in the 50s; today extensive dense patches can be found in almost every county from Mississippi to Connecticut. (INVASIVE)

Johnsongrass □ →

Sorghum halepense. (Eurasia) Sometimes mistaken for young corn, this coarse, tall, fast-growing grass (to 8') was originally imported for forage. Unfortunately for grazing animals, injured or frost-damaged plants can contain deadly levels of cyanide. A very difficult weed in many row-crops and on many states' noxious weed list. (INVASIVE)

Golden Bamboo □ →

Phyllostachys aurea. (China, Japan) Technically a grass, Golden Bamboo grows in dense evergreen thickets up to 30' high, its hollow stems often used for cane fishing poles. Of the various bamboos imported into the country, this is the one most often encountered. (INVASIVE)

TREES & SHRUBS

← Amur Bush-honeysuckle □

Lonicera maackii. (east Asia) Imported as an ornamental into New York in 1898, and escaped into eastern woodlands, forests and neglected urban areas. (INVASIVE)

European Blackberry, Himalaya-Berry □ →

Rubus bifrons. (Europe) Differentiated from the native by its pink flowers and long, coarse, sprawling, heavily-armed stems.

Multiflora Rose □ →

Rosa multiflora. (Asia) The long arching canes of this aggressive shrub can climb into trees or form impenetrable thorny thickets. Its flowers are white; those of the more well-behaved native Swamp Rose, as well as the coarse European Blackberry (both also found on the Trail) are pink. (INVASIVE)

Heavenly Bamboo, Nandina □ →

Nandina domestica. (China) This popular evergreen shrub can apparently grow anywhere, and it is increasingly escaping and naturalizing in suburban woodlands. (INVASIVE)

← Leatherleaf Mahonia □

Mahonia bealei. (China) This widely planted evergreen shrub is naturalizing throughout the Southeast, often in suburban woodlands. Look for yellow flowers in winter or early spring, and leaflets that resemble Holly leaves. (INVASIVE)

FORBS/HERBS

Woolly Mullein □ →

Verbascum thapsus. (Europe) Mullein's soft fuzzy leaves and 3-6' tall flower stalks make it easy to recognize. Its seeds can remain viable for over a century.

White Dutch Clover □

Trifolium repens. (Eurasia) Clovers are legumes, one of the few groups of plants with the ability to pull nitrogen out of the air and make it available to other plants through the soil. Before the introduction of broad-leaf herbicides, White Dutch Clover was commonly included in lawn seed mixes.

← Rabbitfoot Clover □

Trifolium arvense. (Mediterranean region) The flower heads of this Clover are grayish and furry, like a rabbit's foot....

Red Clover □ →

Trifolium pratense. (Europe) Even though the name says "red", its flowers are pink.

Japanese Knotweed □ ↘

Reynoutria japonica. (east Asia) Mortgage lenders in the United Kingdom won't grant a loan on properties infested with Japanese Knotweed, because its extensive rhizomes can cause structural damage and it is very difficult to eradicate. (INVASIVE)

← Chamber Bitter □

Phyllanthus urinaria. (tropical southeast Asia) Used in Asia to treat kidney stones and gallstones, better known here as a profusely seed-ing, tenacious-rooted, warm-season annual weed. *Be warned*: Don't let it go to seed!

European Field Pansy □ ↓

Viola arvensis. (Europe) Similar to the native Johnny-jump-up (see other side), but its flowers are cream and yellow marked with purple.

← Beefsteak-plant, Perilla □

Perilla frutescens. (India) Superficially resembling Basil or Coleus or possibly confused with other Mint family members, *Perilla* has toxic characteristics and it is fed on by very few herbivores. (INVASIVE)

Chinese Privet □ →

Ligustrum sinense. (China) Considered to be one of the most noxious of all our weeds, this semi-evergreen shrub forms dense stands that choke out native vegetation and have almost engulfed bottomlands throughout the South. (INVASIVE)

← Winged Burning Bush □

Euonymus alatus. (east Asia) Called "burning bush" because of its brilliant fall color and "winged" because of the corky wings which often line its squarish twigs. This widely planted landscape plant is causing serious problems northward and is now showing up here in our suburban woodlands. (INVASIVE)

Paper Mulberry □ →

Broussonetia papyrifera. (east Asia) Paper Mulberry's leaf shape is quite variable and can look as if cut out by a bizarre jigsaw. Leaf undersides are velvety-hairy. (INVASIVE)

← White Mulberry □

Morus alba. (east Asia) Introduced in the 1700s in a failed attempt to establish a silk industry. White Mulberry's variable leaf shape can be confused with Paper Mulberry or the native Red Mulberry, but its leaves are mostly hairless. Its berries are edible, but not as flavorful as the native. (INVASIVE)



← Henbit □

Lamium amplexicaule. (Eurasia, northern Africa) The name "henbit" comes from the notion (maybe fact) that free-range chickens like to eat the whole plant and its seeds. Rich in carotene, it gives a nice dark yellow color to the yolks of a hen's eggs.

← Purple Deadnettle □

Lamium purpureum. (Eurasia) Deadnettle is closely related and often grows with Henbit (as shown at left). The young fresh leaves of both can be used as pot herbs or in salads.

Fig Buttercup, Lesser Celandine □ →

Ficaria verna (*Ranunculus ficaria*). (Europe) This garden escape is an aggressive invasive that threatens bottomlands throughout eastern North America. In SC, it is illegal to buy, sell, trade, or possess. In 2013, a birder noticed this plant in the Reedy River floodplain at Conestee Nature Preserve, its first documented naturalized occurrence in the state. *Learn more at* <https://scnps.org> (INVASIVE)

Queen Anne's Lace, Wild Carrot □

Daucus carota. (Europe) An ancestor of the cultivated carrot, this conspicuous introduced wildflower is established in 48 states, more common now than the very similar American Wild Carrot.

Dandelion □

Taraxacum officinale. (Eurasia) Whenever you see "officinale" in a plant's name, know that it was kept handy in the storeroom of medicines and other necessities. Considered a weed by gardeners today, but so highly valued that European colonists deliberately included seeds in their luggage.

← Ox-eye Daisy □

Leucanthemum vulgare. (Eurasia) Its flat flower heads with white rays and yellow centers make this common plant easy to recognize.

Bachelor's Buttons □

Cyanus segetum (*Centaurea cyanus*). (Mediterranean Europe) The flowers of this common introduction are typically a startling electric blue.

Spotted Knapweed □

Centaurea stoebe. (Europe) Flowers similar to those of Bachelor's Buttons, but pinkish. Its taproot allows it to tolerate drought, and its allelochemicals poison would-be competitors. Designated a noxious weed in most western states. (INVASIVE)

Bradford Pear, Callery Pear □

Pyrus calleryana. (China) Hailed as a promising new ornamental in the 1950s, but by the 80s concerns about overplanting were being voiced. Today, it is illegal to sell or trade Bradford Pear in South Carolina, and homeowners are encouraged to remove existing plants. (INVASIVE)

← Chinaberry □

Melia azadirach. (southeast Asia) Easy to spot in winter by the large clusters of orange berrylike fruit, which is poisonous to humans and livestock, and in summer by its twice-pinnately compound leaves. A member of the Mahogany family. (INVASIVE)

← Mimosa □

Albizia julibrissis. (tropical Asia) Introduced to Charleston in the 1700s, this tree is now found in virtually every county from eastern Texas to Delaware. The doubly-compound leaves look almost fernlike, and its pink flowers resemble pompons. (INVASIVE)

← Tree-of-heaven □

Ailanthus altissima. (east Asia) A fast-growing tree that can reach 80' in height, it is an aggressive and noxious weed, colonizing even undisturbed forests and outcompeting native vegetation. Its leaves are pinnately compound and up to 4' long. It can be distinguished from native shrubs and trees with similar leaves (such as Sumacs, Black Walnut, or Pecan), by the unpleasant burnt-peanut-butter odor of its crushed foliage/cut twigs and by leaflet margins with one or two teeth. (INVASIVE)

VINES

Kudzu □ ↘

Pueraria montana. (east Asia) Kudzu, "the vine that ate the South", is the poster child of invasive plants, but experts say it is actually one of the lesser threats — reasons include its intolerance of shade and the fact that it drops its foliage after the first frost. The flowers smell like grape kool-aid. (INVASIVE)

Cinnamon Vine, Chinese Yam □ ↓

Dioscorea polystachya. (China) Sold as a fast-growing ornamental in the early 1900s, it wasn't until the 1980s that it was noticed in the wild, where vines can quickly overgrow shrubs and small trees. It reproduces both by seed and by small potato-like aerial tubers. (INVASIVE)

English Ivy □

Hedera helix. (Europe) This ground cover often seen in old established neighborhoods has escaped to smother neighboring woodlands. Once it starts to climb, the shape of its leaves changes and it enters a flowering/fruiting phase. (INVASIVE)

Sweet Autumn Clematis □ ↘

Clematis terniflora. (east Asia) Introduced in 1864 as a fragrant ornamental. Almost 100 years went by before botanists began finding it in the wild, but now it can be found throughout the East. It resembles the native Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*), but the leaves of *C. terniflora* are leathery and untoothed. (INVASIVE)

Japanese Honeysuckle □ ↘ →

Lonicera japonica. (east Asia) A vine so common throughout the South that many people assume that it is native (despite its name!), Japanese Honeysuckle overgrows small trees and smothers herbaceous plants. Flowers very fragrant. (INVASIVE)

← Japanese Hops □

Humulus japonicus. (Japan, Taiwan, China) Related to the Hops used to make beer, but with different chemistry. Leaves usually have 5 lobes and the stems have downward-pointing prickles. (INVASIVE)

Invasives and other naturalized nonnative plants degrade an ecosystem's ability to support wildlife. In contrast, studies show that even a modest increase in native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increases the number and species of breeding birds!



CAUTION

From earliest times, plants have been used for food, shelter, tools and medicine.

In an attempt to "personalize" the various plants, a few of those uses are mentioned here — but by all means seek more information before you start nibbling anything!

You need to be certain of a plant's identity (there are some dangerous look-alikes), and you also need to research the details (for example, ripe fruit may be tasty but flowers or unripe fruit poisonous).

--- LEGEND ---

- 28 Mile marker
- Sponsor
- Green Line
- Blue Line
- Orange line

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2006
on the
wild plants



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