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Cooks Current

Newsletter

The View from Laughing Springs: Hans Reimann's ecological notes

Winter 2006

Invasive plant warning list and native plant sale list

Listed below are the plants sold in our free-market nursery trade that are listed on both state and federal publications recognizing the invasive nature of these species. These plants are dangerous to local native biodiversity since they crowd out our own backyard eco-niches. Please note that scientific names are in parentheses.

1. Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*). Sold as Royal Empress
2. Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
3. Ivy (*Hedera helix*). Sold as Sub Zero Ivy
4. Privet Hedge (*Ligustrum*)
5. Creeping Euonymus (*Euonymus fortune*). Sold as Purple Winter Creeper
6. Crown-vetch
7. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)
8. Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
9. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera taterica*). Sold as Pink Honeysuckle
10. Barberry (*Barberis thunbergi*). Sold as Red Leaf Barberry
11. Knotweed (*Polygonium*). Sold as Silver Lace Vine
12. Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)
13. Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

The following list shows examples of native plants that nursery companies sell. These plants represent good choices for consumers and our local environment. These are plants that adapt well to our local climates and require little care once established. The scientific names are in parentheses.

1. Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
2. Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*)
3. Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)
4. Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)
5. Monarda
6. Sugar Maple (*Acer sacchrum*)
7. Red Maple (*Acer rubrus*)
8. River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
9. Trumpet Vine (*Cansis radicans*)
10. Rhododendrons
11. Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*)

12. Butterfly Plant (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
13. Native Day Lilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*)
14. Gallardia
15. American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
16. Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
17. Butternut Tree (*Juglans cinerea*)
18. White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
19. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
20. Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
21. American Linden (*Tilia americana*)
22. American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)
23. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
24. Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
25. Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
26. Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
27. Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice (*Calicanthus floridus*)
28. Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
29. Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)
30. Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
31. Trillium
32. Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
33. Lady Fern (*Athyrium*)
34. Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)
35. Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum*)
36. Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
37. Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
38. Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)

I was pleasantly surprised to find that nursery companies, whether mail order or internet order, are actually increasing their varieties of native plants. This is due in large part to increasing consumer demand for these plants. You the consumer can help sustain this trend and promote a healthy biodiversity for us all. As I have stated in previous articles, only a limited number of “bad” plants are promoted by the nursery industry. So, when talking and dreaming about spring planting with family and friends, think native and ask questions as to plant origins. As an informed consumer you can be a powerful catalyst for positive change in the nursery trade marketplace. Thank you and think spring.