



Daniel Boone National Forest

Invasive Species to Watch Out For

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Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)

Appearance: A delicate, sprawling, annual grass that is 0.5-3.5 ft. tall with stems that can root weakly at the nodes.

Foliage: Leaves are pale-green, alternate, lance-shaped, 1-3 in. long, with a shiny, off-center midline vein. Upper and lower leaf surface is slightly hairy.

Flowering Head: One to three delicate flower stalks develop from where the leaves meet the stem or at the top of the stems.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruit is small and may be attached to an awn (a twisted, threadlike bristle).

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Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Appearance: A tall densely-bunched grass growing up to 12 ft. tall.

Foliage: Leaves are up to 18 in. long, slender, and upright-to-arching with sharp tips and rough margins. The midline veins are silvery.

Flowering Head: The terminal flowering head is fan-shaped, 2 ft. long, and silvery to pink.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruit has an awn that is 0.3-0.4 in. long, threadlike and spirally twisted at its base. It can also spread through rhizomes (creeping rootstalks).

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Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Appearance: An upright deciduous shrub from 3-20 ft. tall with thorny branches.

Foliage: Leaves are alternate on the stem, 2-3 in. long and 1 in. wide. The margins are entire and wavy. Leaves are bright green to gray green above and silver scaly beneath with short leaf stalks.

Flowers: Small, yellowish tubular flowers are abundant and occur in clusters of 5 to 10 near the stems.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruits are found in fall, round, 0.25-0.3 in. in diameter, red, and juicy that occur in clusters at the stem and are finely dotted with silvery to silvery-brown scales.

Princesstree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)

Appearance: a tree that grows up to 50-100 ft. tall. Bark is thin, gray-brown, and rough, often developing lighter-colored shallow vertical fissures.

Foliage: leaves are large, broadly oval to heart-shaped (6-12 in. long, 5-9 in. wide) and arranged opposite on the stem, hairy on both surfaces.

Flowering Head: large flowers (2" long) are fragrant and light violet-pink, appearing in showy upright clusters (8-12 in. long) in early spring before leaves emerge. They are trumpet-shaped, ending in 5 unequal lobes. Flower buds are hairy and long, becoming round.

Fruit/Seeds: fruits are 1-2 in. long and 1-1.5 in. wide egg-shaped capsules, divided into 4 inner compartments that contain the seeds.

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