

Ozark-St. Francis National Forest

Invasive Species to Watch Out For



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*)

Appearance: A semi-evergreen shrub or small tree that grows to 20 ft. tall. Trunks usually occur as multiple stems with many long, leafy branches.

Foliage: Leaves are opposite on the stem, oblong, 1-2.4 in. long, and 0.2-0.6 in. wide. Foliage can be hairy along the underside of the midvein.

Flowering Head: White to cream flowers develop in clusters along the stems as well as at branch tips. Pollen can cause an allergic reaction in some people.

Fruit: Abundant, spherical and 0.3-0.5 in. long, ripens from green to black.

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Kudzu (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)

Appearance: A climbing, deciduous vine capable of reaching lengths of over 100 ft. in a single season.

Foliage: Leaves are alternate on the stem, compound (with three, usually lobed, leaflets), hairy underneath and up to 5.4 in. long.

Flowering Head: Flowers are 0.5 in. long, purple, that are fragrant and hang in clusters up to 8 in. long, emerging from where the leaves meet the stem.

Fruit/Seeds: Brown, hairy, flat, 3 in. long, 0.3 in. wide seed pods with flat round seeds inside.

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Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

Appearance: An upright semi-woody perennial forb reaching 3-6 ft. tall with one to many slender stems. Stems are often gray green with lines of hairs along the stem.

Foliage: Thin, alternate on the stem, abundant with three oval leaflets. Leaflets have wedge-shaped bases and are 0.5-1 in. long and hairy.

Flowering Head: Small, creamy-white pea-like flowers with purple throats that develop in clusters of two to four where the leaves meet the stems.

Fruit/Seeds: A flat ovate to round single-seeded pod 0.12-0.15 in. wide.



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Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)


Appearance: A rapidly growing, typically small tree up to 80 ft. tall. It has large, triangular leaf scars on the twigs.

Foliage: Leaves are compound, with 10-41 leaflets opposite each other on a main vein ending in one leaf at the tip, 1-4 ft. long. Underside of the leaflets have round glands at the notched base.



Flowering Head: Male and Female flowers occur on separate plants and flowering occurs in early summer when large clusters of yellow flowers develop above the foliage.






Fruit/Seeds: Fruit produced in clusters on female plants are tan to reddish, single winged and can be wind or water-dispersed. One seed is contained in each fruit.

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