CHAPTER 0080-06-24 PEST PLANT REGULATIONS

The following plants shall be considered pest plants, and shall not be propagated, sold, offered for sale, or released within the state, except as provided by Rule 0080-06-24-.03:

Tennessee Pest Plant List

Ligustrum sinense, Chinese Privet (including variegated cultivars and "Sunshine" Privet)-

Appearance: Semi-deciduous shrub or small tree to 4 m (12 ft) tall or more; twigs densely pubescent.

Leaves: Opposite, simple (on long twigs, at first glance, may appear compound); all green (in cultivation usually variegated, creamwhite and green); leaf blades to 4 cm (1.5 in) long and 2 cm (0.75 in) wide, elliptic to ellipticoblong, with tips blunt, margins entire, and pubescence persistent on midvein below; petioles short, pubescent.

Flowers: Many small white blooms on slender pubescent stalks in narrow, conical tufts, located at the terminal end of branchlets; somewhat unpleasantly fragrant.

Fruit: Dark blue or bluish-black drupes, ellipsoid to subglobose, mostly 4–5 mm (0.2 in) long.

Ecological threat: Occurs in open disturbed areas, but also invades less disturbed upland hammocks, pinelands, river and stream floodplains, lake shores, and edges of swamps and marshes.



Ligustrum vulgare, Common Privet, European Privet (including variegated cultivars)

Appearance: semi-evergreen shrub or small tree that grows to 20 ft. (6.1 m) in height. Trunks usually occur as multiple stems with many long, leafy branches.

Foliage: Leaves are opposite, lanceolate, 1-2.4 in. (2.5-6 cm) long and 0.2-0.6 in. (0.5-1.5 cm) wide.

Flowers: Flowering occurs from April to June, when panicles of white to cream flowers develop in terminal and upper axillary clusters. Pollen can cause an allergic reaction in some people.

Fruit: The abundant fruits are spherical, 0.3-0.05 in. (1-1.3 cm) long. Fruit begins green and ripens to a dark purple to black color and persists into winter. Birds and wildlife eat the fruit and disperse the seeds. Seed soil viability is about one year. It also colonizes by root sprouts.

Ecological Threat: Ligustrums can tolerate a wide range of conditions. They form dense thickets invading fields, fencerows, roadsides, forest understories, and riparian sites. They can shade out and exclude native understory species, perhaps even reduce tree recruitment. Native to Europe and Asia, they are commonly used as ornamental shrubs and for hedgerows.



Lonicera maackii, Shrub Honeysuckle, Amur honeysuckle

Appearance: Description: An erect multi-stemmed erect deciduous shrub with arching branches that grows up to 30 feet tall. **Foliage:** are opposite, simple, ovate, 2 to 3 inches long, green above, paler and slightly fuzzy below. Fragrant flowers are tubular with very thin petals and appear in late spring. They are white changing to yellow and 3/4 to 1 inch in length.

Fruit: Abundant red berries, 1/4 inch in diameter, appear in late summer and often persist throughout winter. It reproduces both vegetatively and by seeds.

Ecological Impacts: In forests the plant can adversely affect populations of native members of the community. It can spread rapidly due to the seeds being dispersed by birds and mammals. It can form a dense understory thicket which can restrict native plant growth and tree seedling establishment.





Lonicera morrowii, Morrows Bush honeysuckle, Morrow's Honeysuckle

Appearance: multistemmed, upright, deciduous shrub that grows up to 8 ft. (2.5 m) tall. The bark is light brown and often pubescent on young stems. Stems are hollow.

Leaves: grayish-green are opposite, round, 2-3 in. (5.1-7.6 cm) long and hairy underneath. Often it is one of the first shrubs to leaf out in the spring.

Flowers: fragrant paired flowers are tubular, white to cream-colored, 0.75 in. (1.9 cm) in diameter and develop from May to June. **Fruit:** abundant berries are 0.25 in. (0.6 cm) in diameter, ripen to orange or red in color, often persist throughout winter and occur on 0.5 in. (1.3 cm) pedicels.

Ecological Threat: readily invades open woodlands, old fields, and other disturbed sites. It can spread rapidly due to birds and mammals dispersing the seeds and can form a dense understory thicket which can restrict native plant growth and tree seedling establishment. Lonicera morrowii is a native of eastern Asia and was first introduced into North America in the late 1800s. It has been planted widely as an ornamental and for wildlife food and cover.



Lonicera x bella, Bell's Honeysuckle

Appearance: hybrid between *Lonicera morrowii* and *Lonicera tatarica*. Identification of this plant is difficult because of its many intermediate characteristics. *Lonicera x bella* tends to be a taller plant than either of its parents, and can reach 20 ft. (6 m) in height. The young stems of this plant are hollow and are sparsely pubescent.

Foliage: oval, opposite, entire, and from 1-3 in. (2.5-7.6 cm) in length. The underside of the leaves are slightly pubescent. **Flowers:** occurs from May through June. Paired flowers appear in the axils of the leaves. Flowers are usually pink and often turn yellow with age.

Fruit: spherical fruits are red and in pairs. The berries are eaten and the seeds distributed by birds and other wildlife. **Ecological Threat:** adaptable to a wide variety of habitats ranging from open forests to fields and roadsides. Tolerant of wide range of moisture and light conditions. This plant occurs along forest edges, roadsides, old fields, disturbed sites, utility right-of-ways, and vacant or abandoned lots. It is native to Asia.



Rosa multiflora, Multiflora Rose

Appearance: Stems. Long, arching stems (canes) are flexible and green or reddish in color. The stiff, sharp, backward curved thorns have a wide base and usually occur in pairs.

Foliage: are alternate and compound (with a central stem and pairs of leaflets). Each leaf as 5 to 11 oneinch-long oval leaflets with toothed margins. The undersides of the leaflets have tiny hairs and are paler than the upper surface.

Flowers: abundant, showy clusters of flowers which typically are white, though sometimes slightly pink. They are relatively small (1/2 to 1 inch wide) with 5 petals. It blossoms in May and June.

Fruits/Seeds: small, hard, round fruits (called rose hips) that are ¼-inch in size. The red fruits become leathery and remain on the plant all winter. The seeds are yellowish in color and can remain viable in the soil up to 20 years. Multiflora rose has a fibrous root system.

Ecological threat: It is found along stream banks, pastures, roadsides, savannas, forest edges and open woodlands. This plant thrives in sunny areas with well-drained soil but can tolerate a wide range of soil and environmental conditions. It is not found in extremely dry habitats or in standing water.



Elaeagnus umbellate, Autumn Olive

Appearance: deciduous shrub from 3-20 ft. (0.9-6.1 m) in height with thorny branches. It is easily recognized by the silvery, dotted underside of the leaves.

Leaves: alternate, 2-3 in. (5-8 cm) long and 1 in. (2.5 cm) wide. The margins are entire and undulate. Leaves are bright green to gray green above and silver scaly beneath with short petioles.

Flowers:Small, yellowish tubular flowers are abundant and occur in clusters of 5 to 10 near the stems from February to June. **Fruit:** round, red, juicy drupes which are finely dotted with silvery to silvery-brown scales. Each drupe contains one seed. Fruits ripen from August to November.

Ecological Threat :invades old fields, woodland edges, and other disturbed areas. It can form a dense shrub layer which displaces native species and closes open areas. *Elaeagnus umbellata* is native to China and Japan and was introduced into North America in 1830. Since then, it has been widely planted for wildlife habitat, mine reclamation, and shelterbelts. It is a non-leguminous nitrogen fixer.



Elaeagnus pungens, Thorny Olive, Silverthorn

Appearance: Thorny, evergreen shrub with long shoots to about 6 m (18 ft) tall; branches sometimes appearing vine-like. **Leaves:** Alternate, simple, elliptic to oval; 3–10 cm (1.2–4 in) long, 2–5 cm (1–2 in) wide; lower surface covered with silvery to ash-white scales.

Flowers: Tiny, brown, about 1 cm long; borne in clusters in the leaf axils, appearing in fall and early winter.

Fruit: Oblong, drupelike, to about 1.5 cm (0.6 in) long; borne on a short stalk, 5–8 mm (0.2–0.3 in) long, changing from green to pinkish brown and covered with fine dots.

Ecological Threat :invades old fields, woodland edges, and other disturbed areas. It can form a dense shrub layer which displaces native species and closes open areas. *Elaeagnus umbellata* is native to China and Japan and was introduced into North America in 1830. Since then, it has been widely planted for wildlife habitat, mine reclamation, and shelterbelts. It is a non-leguminous nitrogen fixer.



Federal Noxious Weeds:

Salvinia molesta, Giant Salvinia

Appearance: Free floating fern; stems rootless, hairy, about 10 cm long.

Leaves: Borne in threes; appear 2-ranked, but with 3rd leaf finely dissected and dangling, resembling roots; rounded to somewhat broadly elliptical, to 2 cm long, with cordate base, upper surface with 4-pronged hairs joined at the tips (resembling an egg beater), lower surface hairy.

Spores: In a nutlike sporocarp (a multicellular structure), trailing beneath.

Ecological threat: Spreads rapidly and prolifically into a monoculture which can shade out underwater natives, leaving large bare bottom areas.



Commelina benghalensis, Tropical Spiderwort

Description: The stem is ascending, can extend more than 1 m, and is capable of rooting from nodes.

Leaves: The oval leaf blades are 3–7 cm long by 1–4 cm wide. Leaves often have reddish hairs toward the tip.

Flowers: This plant produces both aerial and underground flowers. Aboveground flowers are lilac to blue and very small (3–5 mm per petal) and appear 8–10 weeks after emergence. Flowers are about half the size of similar species (e.g., the Asiatic dayflower and the spreading dayflower) that are also found in the South. Belowground flowers are white and very small. They appear 6 weeks after emergence.

Seeds: Four types of seeds are produced—large and small aerial seeds in addition to large and small underground seeds. **Ecological threat:** A Roundup[®] -resistent weed, it is a menace to more than 20 crops— including economically important ones like cotton and soybeans. This federally regulated weed poses a serious agricultural threat.



Imperata cylindrica, Cogongrass

Appearancee: Perennial grass growing in loose or compact tufts; grows from stout, extensively creeping, scaly rhizomes with sharp-pointed tips.

Leaves: Sheaths relatively short, glabrous or pubescent; ligule a membrane, 0.5–1 mm (0.2–0.4 in) long. Blades erect, narrow and pubescent at base; flat and glabrous above, to 1.2 m (4 ft) tall and to 2 cm (< 1 in) wide, with whitish midvein noticeably off-center; blade margins scabrous, blade tips sharp pointed. Flowers: In a plume-like, silky panicle, to 21 cm (8 in) long and 3.5 cm (1.4 in) wide; several per branch, base circled by long hairs.

Fruit: 3.5-4.3 mm (0.14-0.17 in)

Ecological threat: Considered one of the top ten worst weeds in the world. Has invaded dry to moist natural areas, including habitats of federally listed endangered and threatened native plant species.



Lythrum salicaria, Lythrum virgatum and related, Purple Loosestrife

Appearance: Plants are erect, immersed, much-branched perennials, glabrous to often pubescent, growing to 1 m tall. The stems are 4-angled.

Leaves: are opposite or whorled, sessile, mostly longer than the internode above, 2-10 cm long, 0.5-1.5 cm wide, the base obtuse to cordate.

Flowers: are whorled in showy terminal bracteate spike-like inflorescences. The 6 petals are rose-purple, to 10 mm long. There are usually 12 stamens.

Ecological threat: Plants grow in marshes, lakes, along river margins, wet meadows, prairies, and ditches. It is estimated that one plant may produce 2.5 million seeds.Often populations have spread so aggressively that native vegetation is excluded. Several garden races, some with larger rose-red petals, have been produced from this species and are cultivated. It is estimated that 200,000 ha of wetlands in the U.S. are lost annually through invasions of this species.

