

Special points of interest:

- Now that the weather is getting cooler does not mean you should put your control efforts away. There are a few weeds that respond well to fall treatments. Ask your county weed director for more information.
- Johnsongrass, one of our noxious weeds, is very toxic to livestock after a frost. Be sure to keep your animals away from it this time of year and contact your county Weed Director for help in conducting fall treatments to control it.

Alternative Landscape Species: Non-invasive Suggestions

What are the best plants for a garden? Those that are hardy, quick to establish, fast growing, produce lots of showy fruit to attract wildlife and fill in the empty spaces between plants quickly, right?

Unfortunately, these are also some of the main characteristics of invasive plants.

Many invasive weeds, such as purple loosestrife and Grecian foxglove were introduced as ornamental plants. They then escaped the confines of the gardens and yards they were plant-

ed in and began to spread. Now they are competing for resources against native plants and interfering with agricultural crops. Unfortunately, there are still many species being sold in nurseries and big box stores today are invasive.

It is important to learn which species are or can be invasive before you buy them. The nurseries try to exclude the most invasive species from sale but some species are not invasive in all areas so some are able to “slip through the cracks”.

Fortunately, there are native or non-invasive exotic alternatives available for most of these invasives. Flip to page two to see a couple of examples of which species to substitute for invasive species.

For more information on which ornamental species are invasive and the alternatives that are available, contact the Kansas Native Plant Society through their website at <http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/index.php>.

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Integrated Weed Management: Part 1 – Education

As in all battles, one of the best strategies for success is to get to know your enemy. In our case that involves learning how to identify weeds, identifying their weaknesses in the form of control methods and planning the timing of our attacks.

Why bother identifying the weeds when you just want to kill anything that you don't want in your yard or fields? Because not all control methods kill or control all weeds. If you dug up field bindweed manually, it would simply grow back, usually in the same season, but digging musk

thistle is a highly effective control method. The same goes for herbicides. 2,4-D will kill broadleaf weeds but has no effect on Johnsongrass.

There are many websites on the internet that will help you identify noxious and invasive weeds, one of which is the Department of Agriculture's website at http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/349. It has pictures and information on identifying the state's noxious weeds.

If you are looking for something a little more hands-on, the Southeast

Kansas Weed Management Area, a local group of volunteers dedicated to helping landowners with noxious and invasive weed education and control, has published a field guide to identifying all of our noxious weeds. To buy a copy call them at (620) 431-6180.

The Department of Agriculture's website at http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/349 displays the official control methods developed for each noxious weed. For further and information on applying these methods, contact your county Weed Director or your county Extension Agent.

Alternative Landscape Species: Non-invasive Suggestions (Continued)

Invasive



Tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima)
Grows in abandoned alleys, gutters or just about anywhere that is not in shade. It grows very quickly, and competes aggressively for sunlight in developing forests.

Invasive



Bush honeysuckles (Lonicera spp.)
Grows in forest edge, abandoned field, pasture, roadsides and other open, upland habitats. It can rapidly invade a site, crowding out native plant species.

Alternatives



Kentucky coffeetree (Gymnocladus dioicus)

- Very large compound leaves
- Thick, flat brown pods
- No significant disease or pest problems

Alternatives



Serviceberry (Amelanchier spp.)

- A small tree or tall shrub
- Grows in rich and dry soils
- Attracts wildlife
- Abundant flowers and rich fall color



Yellowwood (Cladrastis lutea)

- White, fragrant, pendulous flowers
- Yellow fall color
- Large compound leaves
- Likes well drained soils and full sun



American elderberry (Sambucus canadensis)

- Tall deciduous shrub
- Abundant edible berries
- Attracts wildlife
- Grows in a variety of conditions

Control Corner: "The Label is the Law"

You know when you are trying to figure out how much of a certain product to use or under which situation you should use it so you turn the package around and read the directions on the back? Have you ever wondered what would happen if you used a little bit more than the directions suggested?

When you are using pesticides, the answer is that you could get in a lot of trouble. The label on any kind of pesticide, such as the herbicides you apply to crops, your lawn or your vegetable garden does not

tell you what you should do, it tells you what you have to do. This is because if you apply a pesticide incorrectly you could not only kill the wrong plant, you could make yourself and others extremely sick, or worse.

The Environmental Protection Agency regulates the contents of the label so that it will provide all of the information a user will need to apply the pesticide as safely and effectively as possible.

Some of the information on the label includes; the

name and amount of each chemical in the pesticide, the toxicity level of the chemicals, which personal protective equipment an applicator has to use when applying the pesticide and how, when and where the pesticide can be applied and a lot more.

How do they get all of this information on a container of chemical? Unless you are buying a 55 gallon drum of the stuff, it will be folded up and stuck in a plastic envelope attached to the bottle or jug.





Plant Protection and Weed Control

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Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

Invasive Species Spotlight

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Garlic mustard is one of those invasive species that seems to fly under the radar as it encroaches on more and more land. It was introduced from Europe in the 1800's as a food and medicinal plant.

As a biennial it produces low-growing, nonflowering rosettes the first year of its life and then really takes off by producing 12 - 36" plants the second year. It is during this second year that it really does the most damage because that is when it flowers and produc-

es many slender pods that contain more than 5,750 seeds per square foot. What's worse is that each of those seeds will either sprout into another plant or lay dormant in the soil for up to 10 years, growing whenever conditions are just right.

This relative of broccoli and cauliflower is most commonly found in the eastern part of Kansas because it prefers the cool understory of forests. It will quickly form a dense understory by crowding out

other species and producing chemicals that restrict the growth of competitive plants.

Control is difficult but as a biennial, pulling the plants will successfully kill them. For larger, well establish infestations, applications of glyphosate in the early spring or late fall while the plant is dormant should work. Remember, because of the long life of the seeds you will have to continue to control the plants until the seed bank is exhausted.

