

New Additions to the DCR Invasive Plant List



BLUE RIDGE
PRISM

FEBRUARY 2025

ROD WALKER



New Listings

- Chinese tallow tree
- Curled pondweed
- Floating primrose-willow
- Fountain grass
- Incised fumewort
- Italian arum
- Leatherleaf mahonia
- Nandina
- Orange-eye butterfly bush
- Ravenna grass
- Sweet autumn clematis
- Trifoliate orange
- Two-horned trapa

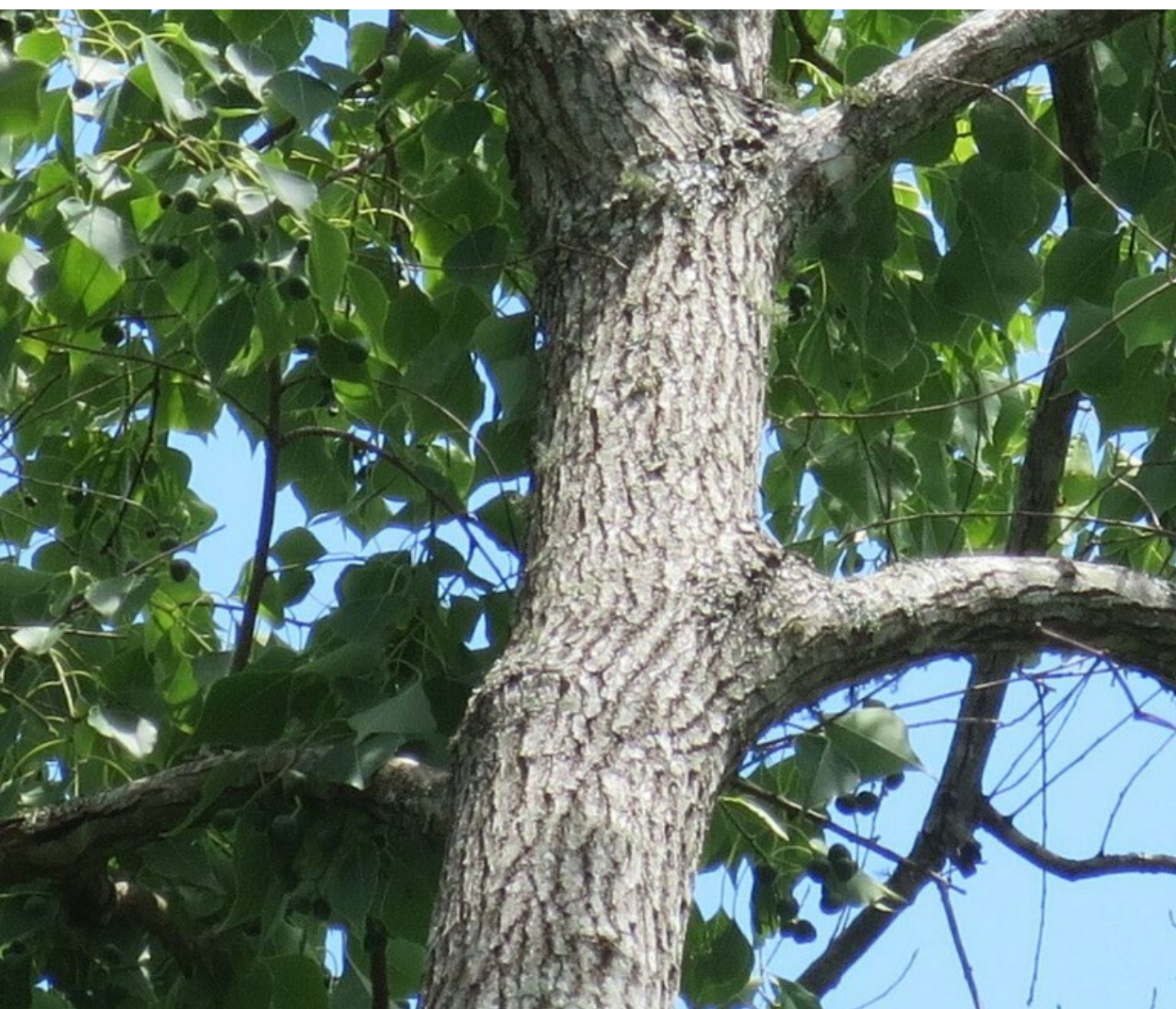
Species with High Invasiveness-Rank

Chinese tallow-tree

(Triadica sebifera)

- Verified in 1 county in Virginia
- Deciduous tree grows to 60 ft high
- Impacts a variety of habitats including: undisturbed longleaf pine forest, wetlands, oak/cypress forest
- Alters fire behavior, water chemistry and nutrient cycles
- Inhibits and replaces native plants







Floating primrose-willow

(Ludwigia peploides var. glabrescens)

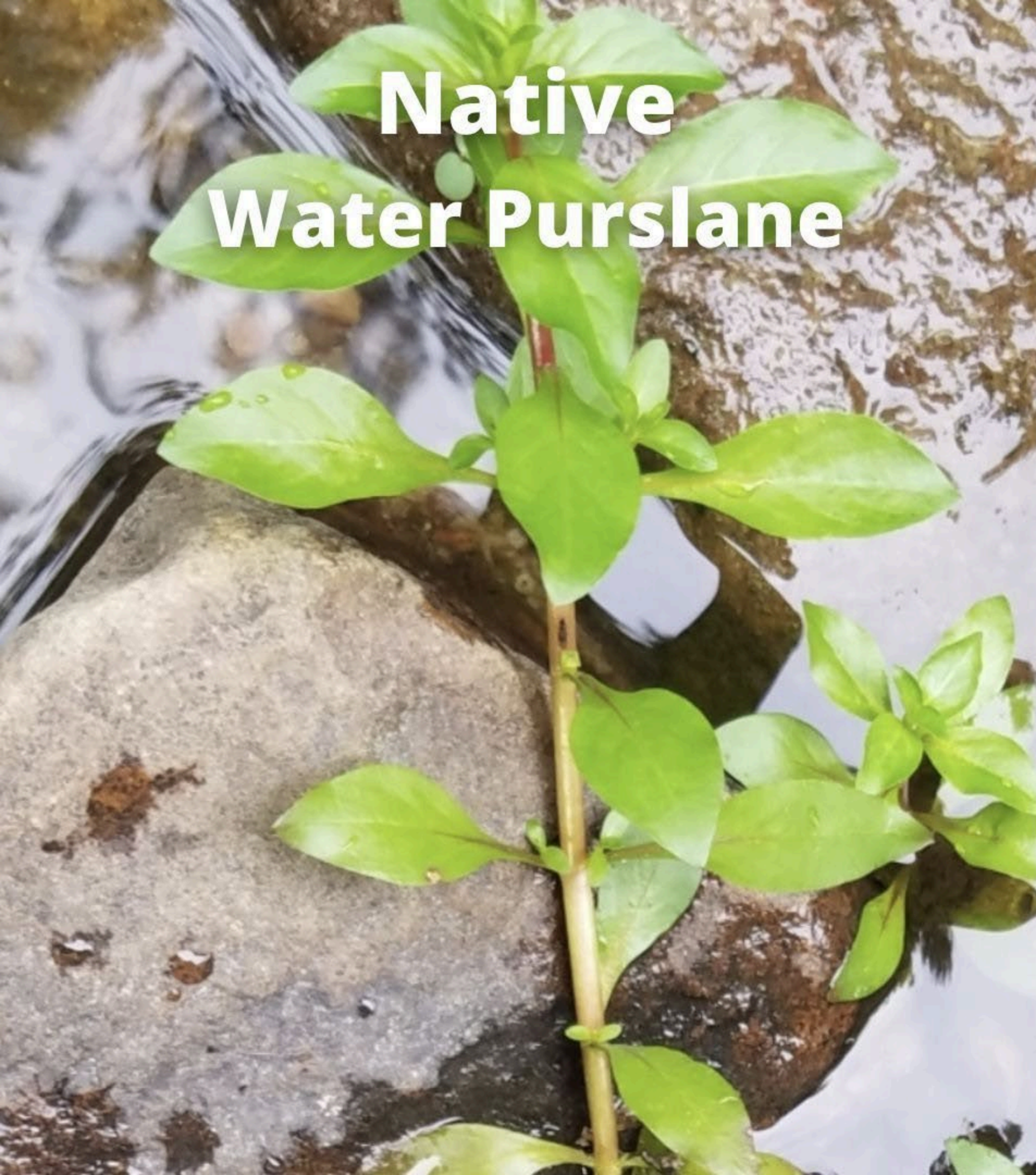
- Verified in 15 counties in Virginia
- Emergent & floating freshwater plant
- Creates dense mats on water surface
- Drought and flood tolerant
- Triggers "dystrophic crisis" (pH changes, decreases oxygen, alters water chemistry)
- Chemically suppresses other species



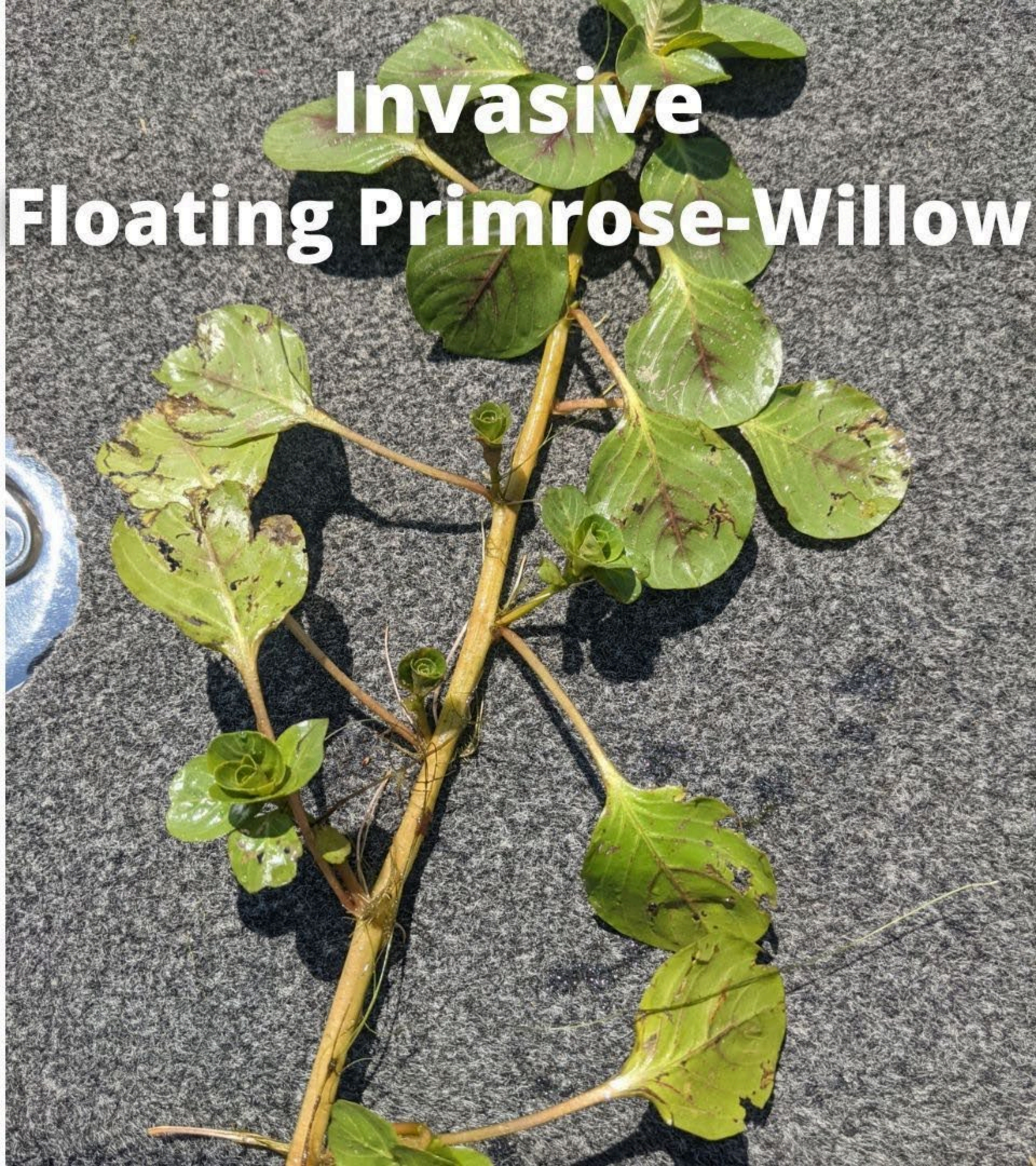




**Native
Water Purslane**



**Invasive
Floating Primrose-Willow**



Italian arum

(*Arum italicum*)

- Verified in 5 counties
- Herbaceous plant with striking leaf venation
- Competes with spring ephemerals due to early emergence
- Extremely difficult to remove
- Toxic to mammals if ingested, causes skin irritation
- Understory in moist forests, riparian edges







**Native
Jack-In-The-Pulpit**



**Invasive
Italian Arum**



Ravenna grass

(Tripsidium ravennae)

- Verified in 6 counties in Virginia
- Tall grass grows 6 to 13 ft in height
- Tolerant of variety of soil and habitat types, but likes moist places
- Spreading at Mutton Hunk Fen NAP
- High biomass production alters fire severity
- Invades undisturbed habitat
- Dense roots inhibit native plant growth





**Native
Yellow Indian grass**

A close-up photograph of Yellow Indian grass. The image shows several tall, slender green stems with long, narrow leaves. At the top of the stems are dense, elongated panicles of small, yellowish-brown seed heads. The background is a soft-focus field of similar grass.

**Invasive
Ravenna grass**

A photograph of Ravenna grass in a field. The grass is tall and thin, with a golden-brown color, indicating it is mature or dry. In the background, there is a concrete bridge with multiple arches and a clear blue sky. Some bare, dark branches are visible in the foreground, partially obscuring the view of the grass.

Trifoliolate orange

(Citrus trifoliata)

- Verified in 26 counties
- Small tree grows 8-30 ft in height
- Forms dense, thorny, impenetrable thickets of deep shade
- Invades woodlands and forest edges



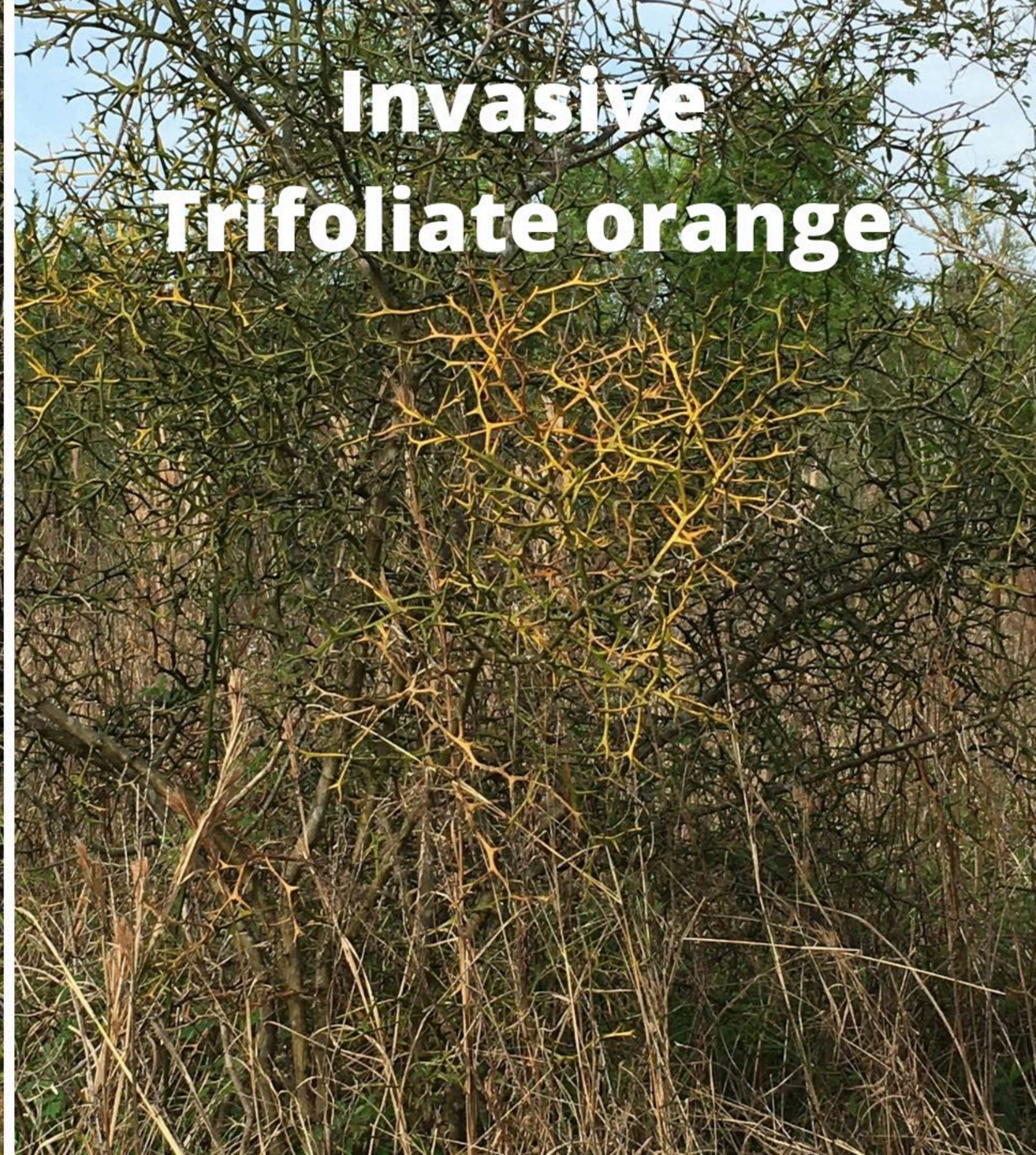




**Native
Greenbrier**



**Invasive
Trifoliate orange**



Two-horned trapa

(*Trapa bispinosa*)

- Verified in 8 counties
- Floating, rooted aquatic plant
- Found in freshwater ponds, lakes, slow moving streams
- Dense growth covers water
- Barbed seed pods readily moved by waterfowl
- Shades out native submerged aquatic vegetation
- Rapidly spreading since discovered in 2014







Species with Medium Invasiveness-Rank

Curled pondweed

(Potamogeton crispus)

- Verified in 37 counties
- Submerged aquatic
- Dense growth dies back in summer, leading to nutrification
- Long distance dispersal via fragments, turions, and seeds
- Competitive in early growing season with native submerged vegetation including Chesapeake Bay grasses







Incised fumewort

(*Corydalis incisa*)

- Verified in 9 counties
- Herbaceous plant grows from 4 to 24 inches in height
- Invades areas along streams or rivers and in well-drained floodplain forest
- Emerges in very early spring and forms dense patches, displacing native spring ephemerals in shady understory
- Seeds spread vigorously, ejecting from plants and carried by ants





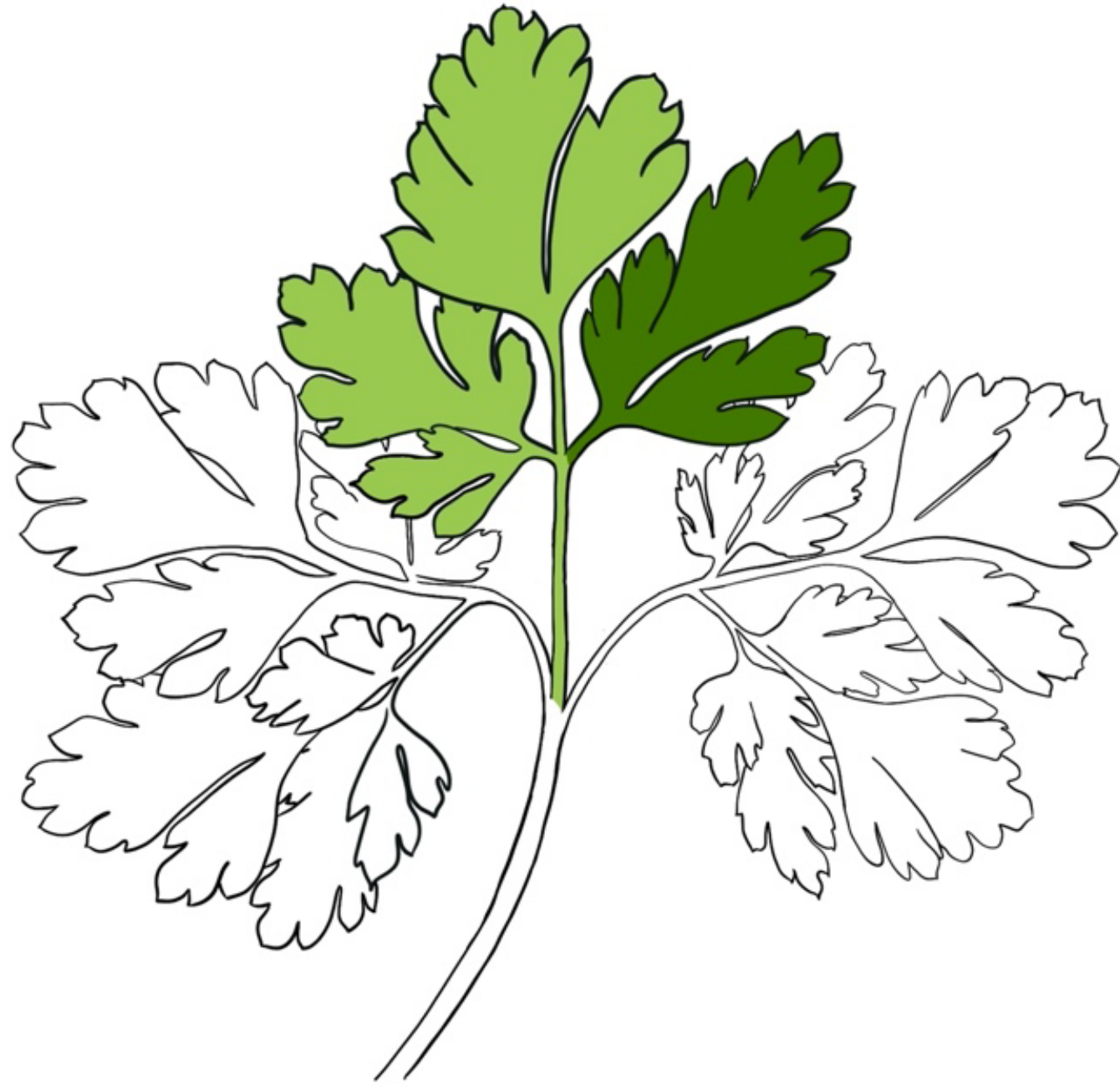


**Native
Yellow Fumewort**

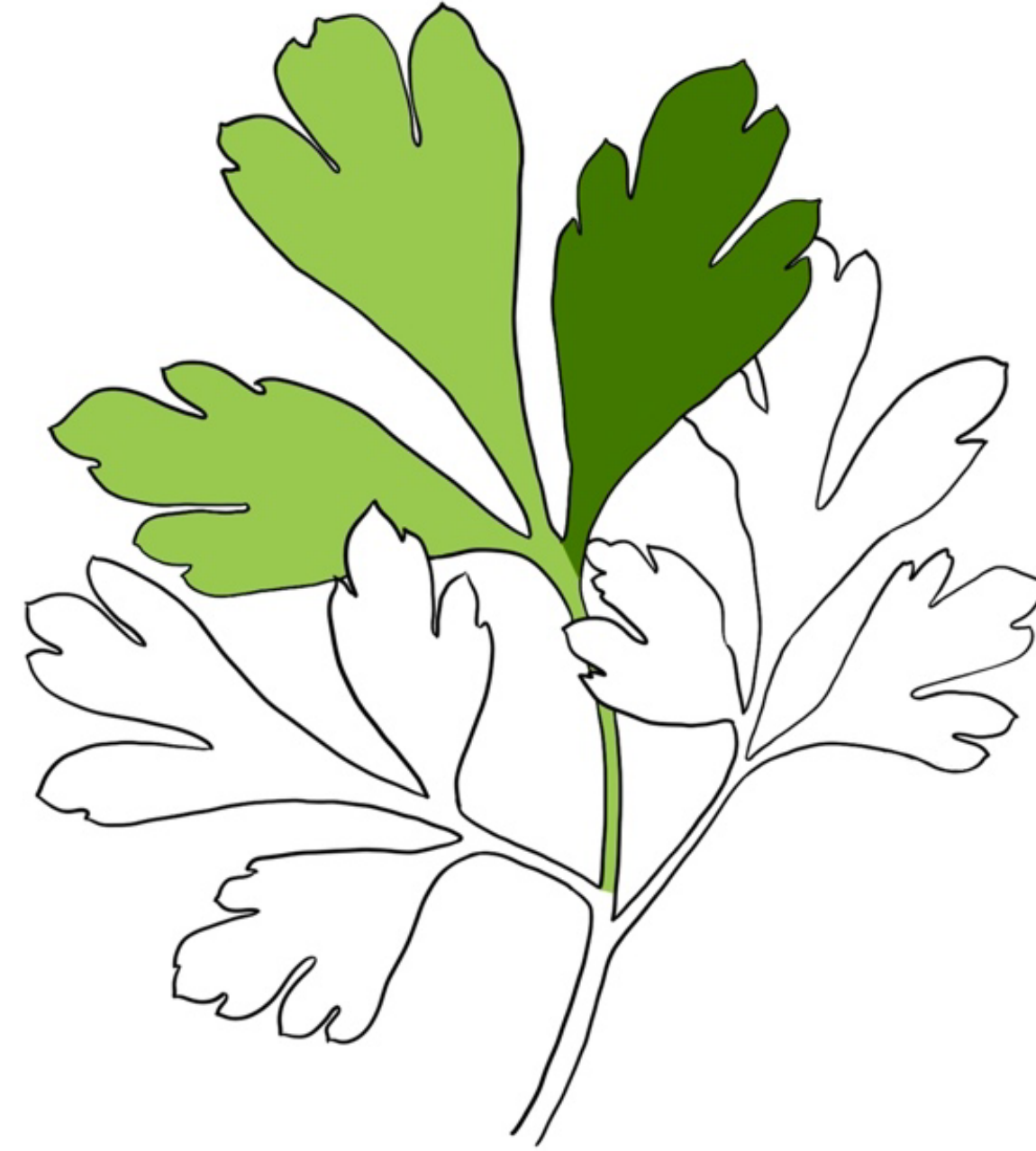


**Invasive
Incised Fumewort**





Alien – *C. incisa*



Native – *C. flavula*

Leatherleaf mahonia

(Mahonia bealei)

- Verified occurrences in 12 counties, but under-documented
- Shrub grows to 6 ft in height
- Forms dense stands in forest understory, reducing light to groundlayer species and tree seedlings
- Can establish in healthy forests
- Seeds are spread by wildlife





**Native
American holly**



**Invasive
Leatherleaf mahonia**

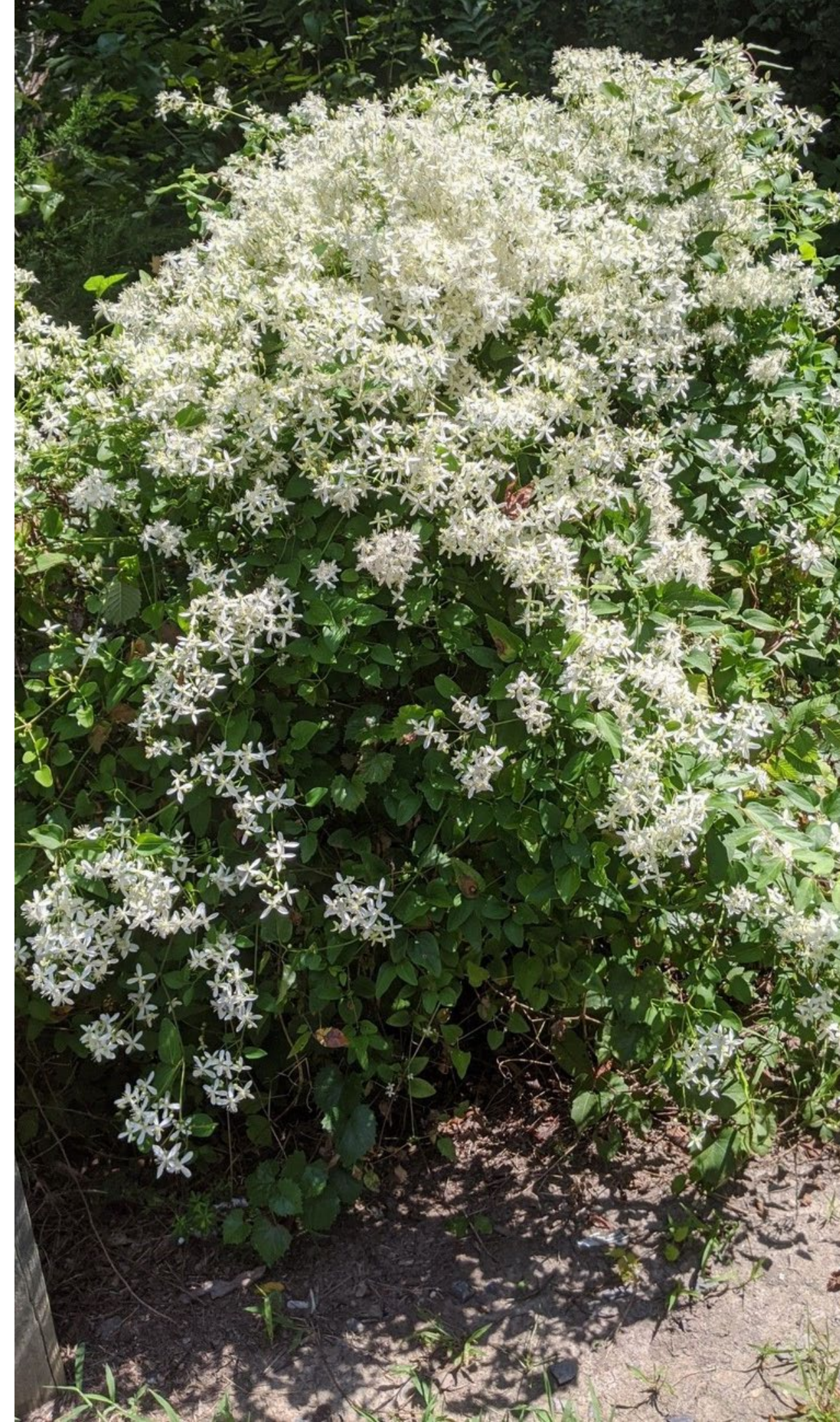


Sweet autumn clematis

(Clematis terniflora)

- Found throughout Virginia
- Fast-climbing vine
- Overtops native vegetation, the groundlayer to shrubs and young trees
- Can invade healthy forests
- Seeds dispersed by birds and are toxic to mammals





**Native
Virgin's Bower**



**Invasive
Sweet Autumn Clematis**



Fountain grass

(*Cenchrus purpurascens*)

- Verified in 11 counties
- Grows to 1 to 3 ft in height
- Readily escapes plantings
- Forms dense bunches that displace native plants
- Invading riparian gravel bars in Northern Virginia
- Infests parks, natural areas and pasture, fields, roadsides
- Prolific spread by seed and rhizome







Species with Low Invasiveness-Rank

Nandina

(Nandina domestica)

- Verified in 20 counties
- Shrub grows to 5 ft in height
- Frequently escapes from plantings
- Fruit is a rare but significant threat to birds such as Cedar Waxwing due to cyanide poisoning
- Naturalized range expanding
- Invades forest understory
- Root suckers can create dense stands







Orange-eye butterfly-bush

(Buddleja davidii)

- Verified in 13 counties
- Shrub grows to 3-15 feet in height
- Can escape plantings
- Grows along stream banks and disturbed areas, fields, parks
- Provides nectar to pollinators but does not host native larvae
- Prolific seed production
- Competitive against native early successional species







Control Methods

	Pull or rake	Dig	Cut stump	Foliar spray	Basal bark
Chinese tallow tree			X	X	X
Curled pondweed	X			X	
Floating primrose-willow	X			X	
Fountain grass	X	X		X	
Incised fumewort	X	X		X	

Control Methods

	Pull or rake	Dig	Cut stump	Foliar spray	Basal bark
Italian arum		X		X	
Leatherleaf mahonia	X	X	X	X	
Nandina	X	X	X	X	
Orange-eye butterfly bush	X	X	X		
Ravenna grass		X		X	

Control Methods

	Pull or rake	Dig	Cut stump	Foliar spray	Basal bark
Sweet autumn clematis	X	X	X	X	X
Trifoliate orange	X	X	X		X
Two-horned trapa	X				



Fact Sheets

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**BLUE RIDGE
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THANK YOU

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