

Invasive Plants

Weeds are generally defined as any plants growing where they were not planted. However, some weeds are so persistent, destructive, and difficult to eradicate that they have received the designation of being noxious. Maryland has a noxious weed law that requires landowners to control Canada Thistle, Johnsongrass, Shattercane, and Bull Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Musk Thistle on private property. Both the seed and the root system of these weeds must be managed for effective control by mowing, cultivating, or treating with approved herbicide. For information on the identification or control of these plants, contact University of Maryland Cooperative Extension, Maryland Department of Agriculture, or Cecil County Weed Control.

Other plants that are widely recognized to out-compete native plants and quickly take over natural areas, but have not been designated as noxious weeds are considered invasive plants. Non-native plants come from other countries or habitats and are introduced into new landscapes, where they quickly replace native species. Invasive plants are often spread by windborne seeds or by birds and other animals. These plants can overrun nearby wetlands, meadows, or forests, crowding out native plants that provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Many common invasive plants are used in landscaping. Before you purchase a plant, be sure it is not a listed invasive plant. Some of these plants include Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife, Miscanthus, Winged Euonymus, Bradford or Callery Pear, English Ivy, Vinca, Periwinkle, and Japanese Stilt Grass. Assistance is available for the removal of many invasive species. For more information call Cecil County Weed Control, 410-287-4638.

Invasive Plants



Noxious Weeds



Image Credit: Global Invasive Species Database
<http://www.issg.org/database/welcome>

Where To Get Help for weed and invasive plant control information

- Maryland Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center Phone Hotline; 1-800-342-2507; <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic>
- Cecil County Weed Control; 410-287-4638; <http://www.ccgov.org/government/public-works/public-works-divisions/roads-division>
- National Invasive Species Information Center; <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/databases.shtml>
- Maryland Noxious Weed Identification; http://www.mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/noxious_weeds_in_md.aspx
- Maryland Invasive Species Council; <http://www.mdinvasivesp.org/index.html>
- Center for Invasive Plant Management; <http://www.weedcenter.org>