

Roadside Plants to Avoid / Trees with Limitations on R/W

The following plants are not recommended for planting on SCDOT rights-of-way because they are recognized as either noxious, potentially invasive or have features not suitable for roadsides (e. g., weak wood, invasive roots, messy fruit, rapid decline or low limbs) or are not suited for South Carolina's climate. 10/31/2014

| Botanical Name | Common Name | Reference |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Acer rubrum | Red Maple | 8-there may be better trees available |
| Acer saccharinum | Silver Maple | 8-brittle wood, rapid decline; do not plant |
| Aegilops cylindrical | Jointed Goatgrass | 3,4 |
| Aeginetia adenophora | Croftonweed | 1 |
| Aeginetia species | | 1 |
| Agrostemma githago L. | Corn Cockle | 1 |
| Ailanthus altissima | Tree-of-Heaven | 2, 7 |
| Albizia julibrissin | Mimosa | 2, 7 |
| Alecta species | | 1 |
| Alhagi pseudalhagi | Camelthorn | 3 |
| Alliaria petiolata | Garlic Mustard | 2 |
| Alternanthera philoxeroides | Alligatorweed, Pigweed | 1, 6 |
| Alternanthera sessilis | Sessile Joyweed | 1 |
| Artemesia absinthius | Absinth Wormwood | 3 |
| Arundo donax | Giant Reed | 2, 3, 7 |
| Asphodelus fistulosus L. | Onionweed | 1,3 |
| Avena fatua | Wild Oats | 3 |
| Avena sterilis L. | Sterile Oats | 1 |
| Azolla pinnata R. | Pinnate Mosquito Fern | 1 |
| Borreria alata | Broadleaf Buttonweed | 1 |
| Brassica kaber | Wild Mustard | 3 |
| Brassica nigra | Black Mustard | 3 |
| Bromis inermis | Smooth Broome | 3 |
| Bromus tectorum | Cheat Grass | 3,4 |
| Calonyction muricatum | Purple Moonflower | 1 |
| Campanula rapunculoides | Creeping Bellflower | 1 |
| Cardiospermum halicacabum | Balloonvine | 1 |
| Carduus ascanthoides | Plumeless Thistle | 3 |
| Carduus nutans | Musk Thistle | 3, 7 |
| Carpobrotus edulis | Highway Iceplant | 3 |
| Carthamus oxycantha | Carthamus Cauox | 1 |
| Cayratia japonica | Bushkiller, Sorrel Vine | 9 |
| Celastrus orbiculatus | Oriental Bittersweet | 2 |
| Centaurea repens L. | Russian Knapweed | 1 |
| Centaurea cyanus | Cornflower/Bachelor's Button | 3 |
| Centaurea diffusa | Diffuse Knapweed | 3 |
| Centaurea maculosa | Spotted Knapweed | 3 |
| Centaurea pratensis | Meadow Knapweed | 3 |
| Centaurea repens | Russian Knapweed | 3 |
| Centaurea solstitialis | Yellow Starthistle | 3,4 |
| Centaurea virgata | Squarrose Knapweed | 3,4 |
| Chichorium intybus | Chichory | 3 |
| Chrysanthemum leucanthemum | Oxeye Daisy | 3 |
| Chrysopogon aciculatus | Pilipiliula | 1 |
| Cicuta maculata | Water Hemlock | 3 |
| Cirsium arvense | Canada Thistle | 3 |
| Cirsium vulgare | Bull Thistle | 3, 7 |
| Citrus reticulata var. unshu | Unshu Orange | 1 |
| Commelina benghalensis | Tropical Spiderwort | 1 |
| Cornus florida | Flowering Dogwood | 8-a wide form of tree; not a street tree |
| Coronilla varia | Crownvetch | 3 |
| Cortaderia jubata | Pampas Grass | 3 |
| Crotalaria spectabilis | Showy Crotalaria, Rattlepod | 8-noxious weed |
| Crupina vulgaris | Common Crupina | 3 |
| Crupina vulgaris Cass. | Common Crupina | 1 |
| Cuscuta species | Dodders | 1 |
| Cyperus rotundus | Purple Nutsedge | 4 |
| Cynara cardunculus | Cardoon | 3 |
| Cynoglossum officinale | Hound's Tongue | 3 |
| Cyperus esculentus | Yellow Nutsedge | 3 |
| Cytisus scoparius | Scotch Broom | 3 |
| Daucus carota | Queen Anne's Lace | 3 |
| Digitalis purpurea | Foxglove | 3 |
| Digitaria abyssinica | African Couchgrass, Fingergrass | 1 |
| Digitaria velutina | Velvet Fingergrass | 1 |
| Dioscorea bulbifera | Air Yam | 2 |
| Dipsacus fullonum | Common Teasel | 3 |
| Drymaria arenarioides | Alfombrilla | 1 |
| Egeria densa Planch. | Brazilian Elodea | 1, 6 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Eichornia azurea</i> | Anchored/Rooted Waterhyacinth | 1 |
| <i>Eichornia crassipes</i> | Waterhyacinth | 1 |
| <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> | Russian Olive | 2, 7 |
| <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> | Silverthorn, Thorny Olive | 2, 7 |
| <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> | Autumn Olive | 2, 7 |
| <i>Emex australis</i> | Three-cornered Jack | 1 |
| <i>Emex spinosa</i> | Sphinx Emex | 1 |
| <i>Erodium cicutarium</i> | Restem Filaree | 3 |
| <i>Euonymus alata</i> | Winged Burning Bush | 2 |
| <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> | Winter Creeper | 2 |
| <i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> | Cypress Spurge | 3 |
| <i>Euphorbia esula</i> | Leafy Spurge | 3 |
| <i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i> | Myrtle Spurge | 3 |
| <i>Euphorbia prunifolia</i> | Painted Euphorbia | 1 |
| <i>Galega officinalis</i> L. | Goatsrue | 1 |
| <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> | Ginkgo, Maidenhair Tree | 8-b; use in large planting areas, male cultivar only |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i> | Thornless Honeylocust | 8-short-lived in SC |
| <i>Gypsophila paniculata</i> | Babysbreath | 3 |
| <i>Halogeton glomeratus</i> | Halogeton | 3 |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | English Ivy | 2, 4, 7 |
| <i>Heilanthus ciliaris</i> D.C. | Texas Blueweed | 1 |
| <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> | Giant Hogweed | 1,3,4 |
| <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> | Dame's Rocket | 3 |
| <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> | Orange Hawkweed | 3 |
| <i>Hordeum jubatum</i> | Foxtail Barley | 3 |
| <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> | Hydrilla | 1, 4, 6 |
| <i>Hygrophila polysperma</i> | Indian Hygrophillia, Miramar | 1, 6 |
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | St. John's Wort | 3 |
| <i>Ilex opaca</i> | Tree-type Hollies | 8.b |
| <i>Imperata brasiliensis</i> | Brazilian Satintail | 1 |
| <i>Imperata cylindrical</i> | Cogongrass | 1,2,3 SC #1 invasive |
| <i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> | Water Spinach, Swamp Morningglory | 1 |
| <i>Ipomoea triloba</i> | Threeloke Morningglory | 1 |
| <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> | Dyer's Woad | 3 |
| <i>Ischaemum rugosum</i> | Soramollagrass | 1 |
| <i>Kochia scoparia</i> | Kochia | 3 |
| <i>Lachnellula willkommii</i> | European Larch Canker | 1 |
| <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> | Oxygen Weed | 1 |
| <i>Lantana species</i> | Lantana (including varieties) | 3 |
| <i>Leptochloa chinensis</i> | Chinese Sprangletop | 1 |
| <i>Lespedeza bicolor</i> | Shrubby/Bicolor Lespedeza | 3, 7 |
| <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> | Sericea Lespedeza | 2,3 |
| <i>Ligustrum japonica</i> | Japanese Privet | 2, 7 |
| <i>Ligustrum sinensis</i> | Chinese/European Privet | 2, 7 |
| <i>Lilium europaeus</i> | Gorse | 3 |
| <i>Limnophila sessiliflora</i> | Limnophila, Ambulia | 1, 6 |
| <i>Linaria genistifolia</i> | Dalmation Toadflax | 3,4 |
| <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | Yellow Toadflax | 3 |
| <i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i> | Sweet-gum | 8-b; use in large areas only |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Tulip Poplar | 8-use in large areas only |
| <i>Lolium temulentum</i> | Darnel | 1 |
| <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> | Sweet Breath-of-Spring | 2 |
| <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | Japanese Honeysuckle | 2, 7 |
| <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | Birdsfoot Trefoil | 3 |
| <i>Ludwigia uruguayensis</i> | Uruguay Primrose, Water Primrose | 1, 6 |
| <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | African Boxthorn | 1 |
| <i>Lygodesmia juncea</i> | Rush Skeletonweed | 3 |
| <i>Lygodium japonicum</i> | Japanese Climbing Fern | 2, 7 |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Purple Loosestrife | 3, 4, 6 |
| <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> | Southern Magnolia | 8.c-need large planting areas; small varieties are available |
| <i>Mahonia bealei</i> | Leatherleaf Mahonia | 7 |
| <i>Mahonia nervosa</i> | Cascade Oregon Grape | 7 |
| <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> | Paperbark Tree | 1,4 |
| <i>Melastoma malabathricum</i> L. | Banks Melastoma | 1 |
| <i>Melia azedarach</i> | Chinaberry Tree | 2, 7 |
| <i>Miconia calvescens</i> | Miconia | 4 |
| <i>Microstegium vimineum</i> | Japanese Siltgrass, Nepales Browntop | 2, 3, 7 |
| <i>Mikania cordata</i> | African Mile-a-Minute | 1 |
| <i>Mikania micrantha</i> | Mile-a-minute | 1 |
| <i>Milium vernale</i> | Milium | 3 |
| <i>Mimosa invisa</i> | Giant Sensitiveplant | 1 |
| <i>Mimosa pigra</i> | Catclaw Mimosa | 1 |
| <i>Miscanthus species</i> | Miscanthus Grass (including varieties) | 2,3, 7 |
| <i>Monochoria hastate</i> | Arrowleaved Monochoria | 1 |
| <i>Monochoria vaginalis</i> | Monochoria | 1 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Murdannia keisak | Wart Removing Herb | 7 |
| Myriophyllum spicatum | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 4, 6 |
| Najas minor | Brittleleaf Naid | 1, 6 |
| Nandina domestica | Nandina (including varieties) | 2, 7 |
| Nardus stricta | Matgrass | 3 |
| Nasella trichotoma | Serrated Tussock | 3 |
| Onicus benedictus L. | Blessed Thistle | 1 |
| Onopordum acanthium | Scotch Thistle | 3 |
| Opuntia aurantiaca | Jointed Prickly Pear | 1 |
| Orobancha species | Broomrapes | 1 |
| Oryza rufipogon/punctata/rufipogon | Wild Red Rice | 1,3 |
| Ottelia alismoides | Duck-lettuce | 1 |
| Panicum milaceum | Wild Proso Millet | 3 |
| Paspalum scrobiculatum L. | Kodomillet | 1 |
| Paulownia tomentosa | Paulownia | 2, 7 |
| Pennisetum ciliare | Buffelgrass | 3 |
| Pennisetum clandestinum | Kikuyu Grass | 1,3 |
| Pennisetum macrourum | African Feathergrass | 1,3 |
| Pennisetum pedicellatum | Kyasumagrass | 1 |
| Pennisetum polystachion | Missiongrass | 1 |
| Pennisetum setaceum | Fountain Grass | 3 |
| Phalaris arundinacea | Reed Canary Grass | 3 |
| Phragmites australis | Giant Phragmites | 3, 6, 7 |
| Phragmites australia | Common Reed | 1 |
| Phyllostachys aurea | Golden Bamboo | 2, 7 |
| Pinus species | Pine | 8,d |
| Pistacia chinensis | Chinese Pistache | 8-b,c |
| Pistia stratiotes | Water Lettuce | 6 |
| Platanus occidentalis | Sycamore | 8-b;use in large planting areas only |
| Polygonum perforiatum | Mile-a-minute | 4 |
| Portulacaria species | Purslane, Elephant plant/foot | FHWA suggeston |
| Prosopis alapataco | Alapntaco | 1 |
| Prosopis species | Algarobilla | 1 |
| Pueraria montana lobata | Kudzu | 2, 4, 7 |
| Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford' | Flowering Bradford Pear | 8-poor branch structure |
| Quercus palustris | Pin Oak | 8-c,e-low limbs |
| Quercus virginiana | Live Oak | 8-c,e-low limbs, roots can lift sidewalks |
| Reynoutria japonica | Japanese Knotweed | 7 |
| Rosa multiflora | Multiflora Rose | 2, 7 |
| Rottboellia | Itchgrass, Corngrass | 1 |
| Rubus fruticosus | Wild Raspberry | 1 |
| Rubus mollucanus | Molluco Raspberry | 1 |
| Sabal palmetto | Cabbage Palm, Palmetto | 8-for coastal & midlands area only |
| Saccharum spontaneum | Wild Sugarcane | 1 |
| Sagittaria sagittifolia | Arrohead | 1 |
| Salsola iberica | Russian Thistle | 3 |
| Salsola vermiculata | Wormleaf Salsola | 1 |
| Salvinia species | Giant Salvinia | 1, 6 |
| Senecio jacobaea | Tansy Ragwort | 3 |
| Setaria pallide-fusca | Cattailgrass | 1 |
| Solanum elaeagnifolium | Silver Nightshade | 3 |
| Solanum rostratum | Buffalobur | 3 |
| Solanum torvum | Turkeyberry | 1 |
| Solanum viarum | Tropical Soda Apple | 1,2,4,7 |
| Sonchus arvensis | Perennial Sowthistle | 3 |
| Sorghum halapense | Johnsongrass | 3,4 |
| Sparganium erectum | Branched Burreed | 1 |
| Striga species | Witchweed | 1 |
| Syrian beancapter | Zygophyllum Fabago | 3 |
| Taeniatherum caput-medua | Medusahead | 3 |
| Tamarix chinensis | Saltcedar | 4 |
| Tanacetum vulgare | Common Tansy | 3 |
| Taraxacum officinale | Dandelion | 3 |
| Trapa natans | Water Chestnut | 1 |
| Triadica sebifera | Popcorn Tree, Tallowtree | 2, 7 |
| Tribulua terrestris | Puncturevine | 3 |
| Tridax procumbens | Tridax Daisy | 1 |
| Ulmus americana 'Princeton' | American Elm variety 'Princeton' | 8-b; use in large areas only;huge tree (60'-100' wide), weak wood and roots can lift sidewalks |
| Verbascum thapsus | Common Mullein | 3 |
| Vinca major | Vinca, Periwinkle | 2 |
| Vinca minor | Vinca, Periwinkle | 2,3 |
| Vitex roundifolia | Beach Vitex (found on coast only) | 5, 7 |
| Wisteria floribunda | Asian Wisteria | 2, 7 |
| Wisteria sinensis | Chinese Wisteria | 2, 7 |

References

- 1-SC Noxious Pest Legislation, Regulation Document 1889, State Crop Pest Commission.
- 2-Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests A Field Guide for Identification and Control.
James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Asheville, NC, May 2003.
- 3-Common Roadside Invasives, A Roadside Field Guide to Showy Herbaceous Weeds.
US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Pub. No. FHWA-EP-02-003.
- 4-Invasive Plants-Changing the Landscape of America FACTBOOK, Federal Interagency
Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds. 1998, Washington, DC.
- 5- South Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force.
- 6-Illegal Aquatic Plants of South Carolina. Aquatic Nuisance Species Program.
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.
- 7-Invasive Plant Pest Species of South Carolina
Clemson Extension
8. Trees with Limitations on Right-of-Way. All tree comments provided by SCDOT.
May be suitable at sites not along streets, such as at interchanges.
8.a---not heat tolerant; do not use where surrounded by pavement
8.b---do not use in medians or as street trees; use where berries can be tolerated
8.c---use in large planting areas where low limbs can be kept
8.d---limited use on R/W; unsuitable for min. offset distances, increase offsets.
8.e---use where large rooting area exists; tree has low limbs that can interfere with vehicles
- 9-Class B Noxious Weed List for North Carolina