**Thorny olive or silverthorn**
*Elaeagnus pungens*

Tolerant of a wide variety of habitats, thorny olive is spread by animal-dispersed seeds and stem sprouts. New growth aggressively climbs into and over shrubs and trees. It is difficult to control once established.

**Nandina or Heavenly bamboo**
*Nandina domestica*

Promoted as a tough evergreen shrub with red berries, nandina has naturalized and invaded natural habitats, displacing native species and disrupting plant communities. Sterile, noninvasive cultivars are available. When eaten in large quantities, the berries can be toxic to some species of birds.

**Chinese or lacebark elm**
*Ulmus parvifolia*

Adaptable to a wide variety of habitats and not susceptible to Dutch elm disease, Chinese elm has been widely planted as a street tree. However, prolific windblown seeds develop into aggressive seedlings that are difficult to control.

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**Beware!**
These non-natives are showing signs of becoming invasive or are already established invaders.

- Non-native yams *Dioscorea* spp.
- Five-leaf akebia *Akebia quinata*
- English ivy *Hedera helix*
- Japanese climbing fern *Lygodium japonicum*
- Japanese honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*
- Periwinkle *Vinca major and V. minor*
- Winter creeper *Euonymus fortunei*
- Autumn olive *Elaeagnus umbellata*
- Bush honeysuckle *Lonicera* spp.
- Multiflora rose *Rosa multiflora*
- Trifoliate orange *Citrus trifoliata*
- Chinese parasoltree *Firmiana simplex*
- Paper mulberry *Broussonetia papyrifera*
- Princess tree *Paulownia tomentosa*
- Tungoil tree *Vernicia fordii*
- Tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*
- Bamboos *Phyllostachys* spp. and *Bambusa* spp.
- Chinese silvergrass *Miscanthus sinensis*

For more information, visit the following websites:

- **Invasive Plants**
  - Alabama Cooperative Extension System Invading Plants
  - Alabama Invasive Plant Council
  - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
  - A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests

- **Native Plants**
  - Alabama Plant Atlas
  - Alabama Smart Yards
  - Bringing Nature Home
  - Brooklyn Botanic Garden
  - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

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Some non-native plants introduced into our landscapes as ornamentals have escaped to become invasive weeds with negative impacts to our native plants and animals.

How do non-native invasive plants harm the environment?
- Crowd out and displace native plants
- Reduce natural regeneration of forests and other natural areas
- Do not support insects at the bottom of the food chain, harming the birds and animals that depend on the insects
- Change fire, nutrient, and water cycles

What characteristics suggest that a non-native plant may become invasive?
- Grows quickly and aggressively
- Produces a lot of seeds
- Self-sows easily
- Has seeds spread by birds, animals, wind, or water
- Sprouts readily and prolifically when cut
- Responds favorably to disturbance
- Tolerates harsh environments

Why is it important to include native plants in landscapes?
- Native plants support the insect species that provide food for birds (especially baby birds), other insects, and small animals.
- Native plants provide the foundation for a more balanced and diverse habitat.

The Challenge
Remove invaders from your landscape and replace them with native species or safe non-natives.

Know what you grow!