

# The Invasive, Exotic “Dirty Dozens”

What follows are examples of the plants and animals that are invading, infesting, and damaging Houston’s bayous and creeks. Many of these species were deliberately introduced and others by accident from the nursery and landscape trade and the aquarium trade.

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# Trees

## Camphor Tree – *Cinnamomum camphora*

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 100 ft.
- Evergreen Aromatic Leaves
- Displacing Native Trees and Plants Throughout the Southern United States
- Increasing Level of Infestation
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Asia



## Chinaberry – *Melia azedarach*

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 40 ft. or More
- Displacing Native Plant Species All Over the United States
- Produces Much Fruit and Seeds
- Recently Reintroduced Into the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to China



## Chinese Elm – *Ulmus parvifolia*

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is 40-60 ft.
- Wind Blown Seeds
- Leaves are Glossy and Smooth
- Extensively Planted as a Street Tree
- Native to China



# Trees

## **Chinese Tallow** – *Sapium sebiferum*

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 40 ft.
- Very High Seed Germination
- Infesting Much of the Southern United States
- Capable of Heavy Displacement of Native Plant Species
- Native to China



## **Crape Myrtle** – *Lagerstroemia indica* and *Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei*

- Invasive, Exotic Deciduous Small Tree
- Height is to 20 ft. or More
- Pink, Red, or White Flowers
- Exfoliating Bark
- Displaces Native Trees and Shrubs
- It is Thought that Specimens Found in the Wild Could Be Non-Sterile Hybrids
- Native to China and Japan





# Trees

## **Golden Rain Tree – *Koelreuteria paniculata***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 45-60 ft.
- Yellow Flowers
- Displaces Native Plants With High Numbers of Seedlings
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Asia



## **Loquat – *Eriobotrya japonica***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 25 ft.
- Widely Cultivated as a Subtropical Ornamental and for the Edible Fruit
- Displaces Native Trees and Shrubs
- Native to China and Japan



## **Mimosa, Silk Tree – *Albizia julibrissin***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 40 ft.
- Fluffy Pink Flowers
- Readily Self Seeds
- Escapes Cultivation and Can Be Found in Wooded and Riparian Areas
- Native to Asia



# Trees

## **Paper Mulberry – *Broussonetia papyrifera***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 40 ft.
- Fluffy Pink Flowers
- Readily Self Seeds
- Escapes Cultivation and Can Be Found in Wooded and Riparian Areas
- Native to Asia



## **Tree of Heaven – *Ailanthus altissima***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 60 ft.
- Has Infested More Than 80% of the United States
- Suckers Profusely and Self Seeds
- Native to China



## **White Mulberry – *Morus alba***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree
- Height is to 80 ft.
- Leaves Ovate to 4 inches Long, Glossy Green Above
- Fruit is White, Pinkish, or Blackish Purple
- Native to China





# Shrubs

## Chinese Privet – *Ligustrum sinense*

- Invasive, Exotic Shrub
- Height is to 12 ft.
- Heavily Displaces Native Trees and Shrubs
- Epidemic Level of Infestation
- Often Mistaken For Yaupon - *Ilex vomitoria*)



Yaupon - *Ilex vomitoria*

- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade in a Variegated Form
- Native to China



## Eleagnus – *Elaeagnus x ebbingei* (*macrophylla x pungens*)

- Invasive, Exotic Shrub
- Height is to 9 ft.
- Evergreen in Mild Climates
- Leaves are Elliptic, Green Above, Silvery Below
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Both Parent Species are Native to China and Japan



*Elaeagnus x ebbingei*



*Macrophylla x pungens*

# Shrubs

## **False Jerusalem Cherry – *Solanum capsicastrum***

- Invasive, Exotic Shrub
- Height is to 2 ft.
- Berries Turn From Pale Orange to Red
- White Flowers
- Invades Wooded Areas
- Native to Brazil



## **Heavenly Bamboo, Nandina – *Nandina domestica***

- Invasive, Exotic Evergreen to Semi-Evergreen Shrub
- Height is to 6ft.
- Easily Noticeable Red Berries and Red Fall Color
- Displaces Native Plants in Woodland and Riparian Habitats
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native from India to S.E. Asia



## **Jerusalem Cherry – *Solanum pseudocapsicum***

- Invasive, Exotic Evergreen Shrub
- Height is to 1-2 ft.
- Small Star Shaped White Flowers
- Fruit Changes From Green to Orange to Red
- Native to Eastern South America





# Shrubs

## **Macartney Rose** – *Rosa bracteata*

- Invasive, Exotic Evergreen Shrub
- Height is 30 ft.
- White Flowers
- Heavy Thorns
- Was Used as a Living Fence Before the Advent of Barbed Wire Fences
- Native to Asia



## **Pittosporum** – *Pittosporum tobira*

- Invasive, Exotic Shrub
- Height is to 8 ft.
- Star Shaped Cream Colored Flowers in Spring and Summer
- Oval to Oblong Shiny Green or Variegated Leaves
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to China and Japan



## **Rose of Sharon** – *Hibiscus syriacus*

- Invasive, Exotic Shrub
- Height is 6-10 ft.
- Flowers are Bluish-Lavender or
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Eastern Asia





# Shrubs

## **Salt Cedar – *Tamarix spp.***

- Invasive, Exotic Shrubs to Small Trees
- Height is to 15 ft.
- Pink or White Flowers
- Drives Natives Out and Grows Heavily Along Riparian Corridors
- Native to Areas of the Old World



- **Shiny Xylosma – *Xylosma congestum***
- Invasive, Exotic Shrub to Small Tree
- Height is Up to 15 ft.
- Black, bb Sized Berries in Mid Fall
- Glossy, Evergreen Leaves, New Growth is Reddish
- Cultivated Specimens Don't Usually Have Spines, but Plants Produced from the Fruit Will Grow Spines
- Native to China



## Shrubs

### **Trifoliate Orange – *Poncirus trifoliata***

- Invasive, Exotic Shrub
- Height up to 30 feet
- White Flowers
- Forms Colonies in Woodland and Riparian Areas
- Used as an Impenetrable Hedge Plant Because of the Thorns
- Also Extensively Used for Orange Stocks
- Native to Asia



### **Wax Leaf Ligustrum, Tree Ligustrum – *Ligustrum japonicum, lucidum, quihoui***

- Invasive, Exotic Shrubs to Small Trees
- Height is 6-30 ft.
- Evergreen Leaves
- Cream Colored Flowers
- Bluish Purple Fruit
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Epidemic Level of Infestation
- Very Large Specimens are Often Tree Ligustrum – *Ligustrum lucidum*
- Native to Asia





# Shrubs

## **Wintercreeper Euonymus – *Euonymus fortunei***

- Evergreen Vine or Shrubby Groundcover
- Height is to 3 ft. or it Can Climb to 70 ft. and Smother Trees and Shrubs
- Glossy Evergreen leaves
- Greenish White Flowers
- Orange Fruits
- Introduced in the United States in 1907
- Native to Asia



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Alligator Weed** – *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Perennial Herb
- White Flowers
- Clogs Shorelines of Waterways
- Destroys Native Wetland and Riparian Vegetation
- Native to South America



## **Asiatic Dayflower** – *Commelina communis*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual Groundcover
- Leaves are Ovate to Lanceolate, 4 in. Long and 1 ¼ in. Wide
- Upper Two Petals are Blue and the Lower Petal is Pale and Smaller
- Native to Eastern Asia



## **Bishop's Weed** – *Ammi majus*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is 3-4 ft.
- White Flowers April to June
- Leaves to 8 inches
- Native to Europe and Asia





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Black Medic** – *Medicago lupulina*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Stems to 2 ft., Forming Creeping Mats
- Tiny Clusters of Yellow Flowers March – December
- Widespread Throughout North America
- Native to Europe



## **Brazilian Vervain** – *Verbena brasiliensis*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Height is 6-8 ft.
- Tall, Weedy Growth Habit
- Lilac to Purple Flowers
- Infests Prairies and Edges and Openings in Wooded Areas
- Native to South America



## **Bur Clover** – *Medicago polymorpha*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Stems to 20 inches, Sprawling, Mat Forming
- Tiny Yellow Clusters of 3 to 5 Flowers February to June
- Spiny Spiral Fruits
- Native to Europe and Asia



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Cast Iron Plant – *Aspidistra elatior***

- Invasive, Exotic Evergreen Perennial
- Height is to 2 ft.
- Leathery, Glossy, Lance-Shaped Leaves
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to China



## **Castor Bean – *Ricinus communis***

- Invasive, Exotic Tree-Like Annual
- Height is to 15 ft. or More
- Seeds are Poisonous
- Commercial Source of Castor Oil
- Native to Africa



## **Chamber Bitter – *Phyllanthus urinaria***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is to 1 ft.
- Leaves Mostly Oblong or Acute
- This Plant was Thought to be Only in Jefferson County in the 1960's
- Native to the Old World Tropics





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Chickweed – *Stellaria media***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual Groundcover
- White Flowers Bloom November to May
- Leaves are Small Opposite and Oval
- Invader of Lawns and Fields
- Native to Europe and Asia



## **Chocolate Weed – *Melochia corchorifolia***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is 3-5 ft.
- Small Pink Flowers in a Dense Terminal Head
- Native to Old World Tropics



## **Crimson Clover – *Trifolium incarnatum***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is to 3 ft.
- Red Flowers in Spring and Summer
- Introduced as Forage and Part of Crop Rotation
- Native to Europe



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Curly Dock – *Rumex crispus***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial Herb
- Height is 2-4 ft.
- Tiny Green Flowers March-May
- Established Throughout the United States
- Native to Europe



## **Dandelion – *Taraxacum officinale***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Low Growing
- Yellow Blooms Year Round in Texas
- Naturalized Across Much of North America
- Native to Eurasia



## **Dotted Bridal Veil – *Gibasis pellucida***

- Invasive, Exotic Herbaceous Groundcover
- White Flowers
- Displacing Many Native Plants Along Streams in the Southern United States
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Tropical America, Including Mexico





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Elephant Ear – *Colocasia esculenta***

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Plant
- Height is to 6 ft.
- Large Leaves are Shaped Similar to an Elephants Ears
- Infesting Wetland and Riparian Habitats in Over 1/3 of the United States
- A Gambusia Species of Fish Endemic to Texas Was Driven to Extinction Because of Elephant Ear
- Heavily Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Asia



## **False Asiatic Hawksbeard – *Youngia japonica***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is to 2 ft.
- Yellow Flowers
- Widely Advancing in the Southeastern U.S.
- Native to Asia



## **Giant Salvinia – *Salvinia molesta***

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Plant
- Doubles Size in 2-4 Days
- Destroys Aquatic Habitats in Slow Moving Fresh Water
- Salt is Lethal to This Plant
- Eradicated From South Carolina, but Still a Problem in Texas and Louisiana
- Native to Brazil



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Hairy Buttercup – *Ranunculus sardous***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Stems are Suberect, Not Rooting
- Yellow Flowers
- Naturalized Mostly in Sea Ports in North America
- Native to Old World



## **Henbit – *Lamium amplexicaule***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is 3-16 inches
- Pink to Purple Flowers Year-round
- Edible Plant
- Common Invader of Lawns
- Native to Europe



## **Hydrilla – *Hydrilla verticillata***

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Plant
- Displaces Native Wetland Vegetation
- Most Introductions Were Caused By Careless Aquarists
- Native to Old World





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## Indian Strawberry, Mock Strawberry – *Duchesnea indica*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial Groundcover
- Reaches 4 inches in Height
- Yellow Flowers
- Red Fruit
- Resembles Native Strawberry
- Native to India and China



## Japanese Mazus – *Mazus japonicus*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial Groundcover
- Mat Forming
- Blue Flowers to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch Long, and Lower Lip is Brown Spotted and Bearded
- Native to Eastern Asia



## Lantana – *Lantana camara*

- Invasive, Exotic Shrubby Perennial
- Height is to 6 ft.
- Widely Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Wild Form Has Pink and Yellow Flowers but Cultivars Come in Various Colors
- Native to the W. Indies



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## Mexican Hydrangea – *Clerodendrum bungei*

- Invasive, Exotic Shrubby Perennial
- Height is to 6 ft.
- Flower Color is Dark Pink
- Displaces Native Vegetation
- Naturalized in the Gulf States Since Before the 1970's.
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to China \* Not Mexico !



## Mexican Petunia – *Ruellia brittoniana*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Height is 3 ft. , (Katie's is a Dwarf Form)
- Purple, Pink, or White Flowers
- Crowds Out Native Plants
- Heavily Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Mexico



## Moss Verbena – *Verbena tenuisecta*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Spreading Perennial to 1 ft. in Height
- Lilac Flowers
- Often Confused with **Dakota Vervain** – *Verbena bipinnatifida*
- Native to S. America



Dakota Vervain – *Verbena bipinnatifida*





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## Parrot's Feather – *Myriophyllum aquaticum*

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Plant
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Also Sold in the Water Garden and Aquarium Trades
- Native to Argentina, Brazil, and China



## Persian Clover – *Trifolium resupinatum*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Height is to 18 inches
- Flowers are Pink
- Spiny, Balloon-Like Calyx Encloses the Seed Pods
- Native from Greece to Iran



## Prickly Sow Thistle – *Sonchus asper*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is to 6 ft.
- Yellow Flowers
- All Parts With a Milky Latex
- Foliage Harshly Spinose-Margined
- Rapidly Advancing in North America
- Native to Europe



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## Purple Trailing Lantana – *Lantana montevidensis*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Trailing Growth Habit to 3 ft. Long
- Lilac Flowers
- Steadily Spreads into Areas
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to S. America



## Purslane – *Portulaca oleracea*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual Herb
- Flowers are Bright Yellow
- Common in Disturbed Areas
- May be Eaten as Greens or Added to Salads
- Native to India



## Scarlet Pimpernel – *Anagallis arvensis*

- Invasive, Exotic Spreading Annual
- Leaves Ovate to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch Long
- Dark Orange to Scarlet Flowers
- Widely Distributed Weed
- Native to Europe



Blue Pimpernel, *Anagallis monelli*



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## Sow Thistle – *Sonchus oleraceus*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is 6-36 inches
- Yellow Flowers
- All Parts With a Milky Latex
- Foliage Harshly Spinose-Margined
- Differs from *Sonchus asper*, by Having Leaf Auricles that are Rounded Above, but Acute at the Base
- Native to Europe



*Sonchus asper* leaf base



## Spinyfruit Buttercup – *Ranunculus muricatus*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual to Perennial
- Stems Reclining or Erect, Not Rooting
- Yellow Flowers
- Often Naturalized Along Shallow Bodies of Water
- Native to Areas of the Old World



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Spreading Sida – *Sida abutilifolia***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial Groundcover
- Yellow Flowers
- Leaves are Broadly Lanceolate
- Native to American Tropics



## **Threelobe False Mallow – *Malvastrum coromandelianum***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Height is 1-2 ft.
- Yellow to Orange Flowers
- Pan-Tropical Weed
- Native to Asia



## **Tropical Milkweed – *Asclepias curassavica***

- Invasive, Exotic Sub-Shrub Annual
- Height is to 3 ft.
- Orange and Red Flowers
- Sold as “Mexican Butterfly Weed” in the Nursery and Landscape Trade, but it is Really a Native of S. America





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Tuber Vervain – *Verbena rigida***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Spreading Plants that can be 10-20 in. tall
- Lilac to Purple Blue Flowers
- Native to South America



## **Venus Comb – *Scandix pecten-veneris***

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is 6-12 inches
- Tiny White Flowers March to April
- Leaves are Twice or Thrice Divided into Fine Leaflets
- Native to the Mediterranean



## **Water Hyacinth – *Eichhornia crassipes***

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Plant
- Lavender Flowers on Floating Plants
- Clogs Waterways and Displaces Native Wetland Plants
- Native to South America



# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## White Cat's Ear – *Hypochaeris microcephala* var. *albiflora*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Height is 1-2 ft.
- White Small Insignificant Flowers That Look Like They Never Fully Open
- This Plant is Often the Most Common Wildflower in Parts of Houston, TX
- Native to South America



## White Clover – *Trifolium repens*

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Stems Creeping to 1 ft. Long
- White Flowers
- Used as a Forage and for Crop Rotation
- Native to Europe



## White Sweet Clover – *Melilotus albus*

- Invasive, Exotic Annual
- Height is 2-8 ft.
- White Flowers April to October
- Leaves are Divided into Three Narrow Leaflets with Finely Toothed Margins
- Planted to Rejuvenate Soil
- Native to Europe and Asia





# Perennials Annuals Herbaceous

## **Yellow Flag Iris – *Iris pseudacorus***

- Invasive, Exotic Aquatic Perennial
- Height is 3-5 ft.
- Yellow Flowers in Summer
- Can Crowd out Native Herbaceous Wetland Vegetation
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Europe, Asia, and N. Africa



## **Yellow Sweet Clover – *Melilotus officinalis***

- Invasive, Exotic Biennial
- Height is 2-5 ft.
- Yellow Flowers May to October
- Leave Blade is Divided into Three Narrow Leaflets
- Vanilla Scent When Crushed
- Native to Europe



# Vines

## **Air Potato, Potato Vine – *Dioscorea bulbifera***

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Twining Counter Clockwise and Climbing
- Heart Shaped Leaves to 6 inches Wide
- Control is Difficult Because of the Tuberous Roots
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Eastern Asia



## **Arrowhead Vine – *Syngonium podophyllum***

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Twining and Creeping Growth Habit
- Usually Cultivated as a House Plant
- Displaces Native Vines and Groundcovers and Can Smother Trees and Shrubs
- Native to Mexico and Central America



## **Balloon Vine – *Cardiospermum halicacabum***

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Usual Height is 10-12 ft., but can reach 35 ft.
- Smothers Native Vegetation
- Each “Balloon” Produces a Seed
- Native to Central America





# Vines

## **Bush Killer, Java Creeper – *Cayratia japonica***

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- High Climbing Twining and Creeping Growth Characteristics
- Smothers Native Trees and Other Vegetation
- Often Confused With Native Virginia Creeper – *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
- Native to Asia



Virginia Creeper –  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*



## **Cat's Claw Vine – *Macfadyena unguis-cati***

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Grows up to 50 ft. in Length
- Yellow Trumpet Shaped Flowers
- Invades Wild Areas and Smothers Trees
- Three Pronged Claw-Like Appendages for Grasping
- Native from Mexico and the West Indies to Argentina



# Vines

## **Chinese Wisteria** – *Wisteria sinensis*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Climbing and Twining Habit
- Purple or White Flowers
- Sold in the Landscape Trade
- Has Spread Across Much of the Southern United States
- Native to China



## **Coralvine** – *Antigonon leptopus*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Can Cimb to 40 ft.
- Pink or White Flowers
- Leaves Arrow Shaped or Cordate-Ovate to 4 inches Long
- Native to Mexico



## **English Ivy** – *Hedera helix*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Climbing and Spreading, Branches Root Also
- Dark Green, 2-4 inch Leaves with Paler Veins, and 3-5 Lobes
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Europe, Asia, and N. Africa





# Vines

## Japanese Climbing Fern – *Lygodium japonicum*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Climbing Twining Growth Habit
- Displaces Native Vines in Wooded Areas
- Native to Asia and Australia



## Japanese Dodder – *Cuscuta japonica*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Parasitic Climber with Little Chlorophyll.
- Smothers Trees and Shrubs
- Grows up to 6 inches a Day
- Native to Asia



## Japanese Honeysuckle – *Lonicera japonica*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Twining and Creeping Growth Habit
- White Fragrant Flowers
- Chokes Out Native Vegetation and Misshapes Tree Trunks
- Epidemic Level of Infestation
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Japan





# Vines

## Kudzu – *Pueraria lobata*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Climbs to 60 ft.
- Large Leaves
- Fragrant Reddish Purple Flowers
- Kills Trees and Shrubs by Completely Covering Them
- Native to China and Japan



## Ocean Blue Morning Glory – *Ipomoea indica var. acuminata*

- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Low to High Climbing
- Blue Flowers
- Naturalized Globally
- Occasionally in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Tropical America (Could Be Native to Florida, Unsure Because of Conflicting Sources)



- **Stinkvine – *Paederia foetida***
- Invasive, Exotic Vine
- Can Grow to 30 ft. Long
- Red and White Trumpet Flowers
- Opposite Lance Shaped Leaves
- Crushed Stems and Leaves Give an Unpleasant Odor
- Trailing Infestations Can Completely Cover and Kill Low Growing Plants and Shrubs
- Native to Asia





# Grasses and Grass-Like

## Angleton Bluestem – *Dichanthium aristatum*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is to 3ft.
- Culms Ascending From a Decumbent Base
- Freely Rooting at the Lower Nodes
- Native to Old World Tropics



## Bahia – *Paspalum notatum*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is to Just Under 2 ft.
- Blades Flat or Folded
- Used as a Forage Grass
- The variety Saurae Parodi is Used as a Lawn Grass
- Native from S. America to Mexico



# Grasses and Grass-Like

## **Bermuda Grass – *Cynodon dactylon***

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Creeping by Scaly Rhizomes or by Stolons
- Heavily Used as a Pasture and Lawn Grass
- Does Not Feed Wildlife
- Native to Africa



## **Dallis Grass – *Paspalum dilatatum***

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is to 5 ft.
- Naturalized from New Jersey to Texas
- Used as a Forage Grass
- Native to South America



## **Deep Rooted Sedge – *Cyperus entrieanus***

- Invasive, Exotic Grass-Like Plant
- Height is to 40 inches
- Displacing Native Wetland and Prairie Plants at an Alarming Rate
- Native to South America





# Grasses and Grass-Like

## **Giant Reed** – *Arundo donax*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is to 18 ft.
- Used for Bold Effects in Garden and for Erosion Control
- Becomes a Pest Along Waterways
- Native to the Mediterranean



## **Golden Bamboo** – *Phyllostachys aurea*

- Invasive, Exotic Bamboo Species
- Height is 6-30 ft.
- Can Grow into Ever-Spreading Clumps that Crowd Out Native Species
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Asia



## **Johnson Grass** – *Sorghum halepense*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is 5-6 ft.
- Cultivated for Forage
- Out Competes Short Grass Prairie Plants
- Has Naturalized in Many Parts of the U.S.
- Native to the Mediterranean



# Grasses and Grass-Like

## **Kleberg Bluestem – *Dichanthium annulatum***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial Grass
- Introduced as an Experimental Forage Grass
- Native to India and China



## **Liriope spp. (*muscaria*, *spicata*)**

- Invasive, Exotic Grass-Like Perennial
- Forms Large Clumps and Some Spread by Underground Stems
- Violet, Lilac, or White Flowers
- Sold in the Landscape Trade
- Native to Vietnam, China, and Japan





# Grasses and Grass-Like

## **Mondo Grass** – *Ophiopogon spp.*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass-Like Perennial
- Height is 1 ft.
- Rigid Leaves to 15 inches
- Fruit is Blue
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Asia



## **Pampas Grass** – *Cortaderia selloana*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Quick Growing From Gallon Size to 8 ft. in One Season
- Wind Blown Seeds Can Spread the Plant Into Wild Areas
- Sold in the Landscape Trade
- Native to Argentina



## **Perennial Ryegrass** – *Lolium perenne*

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is to 2 ft.
- Introduced for Lawns and Pastures and is Widely Naturalized in North America
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Europe



## Grasses and Grass-Like

### **Umbrella Plant – *Cyperus alternifolius***

- Invasive, Exotic Wetland Plant
- Height is 1 ½ -3 ft.
- Cultivar “Gracilis” is a Dwarf
- Leaves Resemble the Frame of an Umbrella
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade, and the Water Garden Trade
- Native to Western Asia and Africa



### **Vasey Grass – *Paspalum urvillei***

- Invasive, Exotic Grass
- Height is to 6 ft.
- Seeds are Readily Wind Dispersed
- Invades Coastal Prairies and Wetland Areas
- Native to S. America



### **Yellow Nut Sedge – *Cyperus esculentus***

- Invasive, Exotic Perennial
- Height is 2-3 ft.
- Grass-Like Leaves
- Spikelets are Golden Brown
- Widespread in the New World
- Native to Western Asia and Africa





## Ferns

### **Holly Fern – *Cyrtomium falcatum***

- Invasive, Exotic Fern
- Large, Dark Green, Glossy, Leathery Leaves to 2 ft. Long
- Displaces Native Plants Along Riparian Areas
- Sold in the Nursery and Landscape Trade
- Native to Asia



## Birds

### **African Collared Dove – *Streptopelia roseogrisea***

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 11 ½ inches
- Head, Neck, and Breast are Pinkish Shading to White
- Black Half Collar Edged in White
- Wing Edge is Blue
- Flight Feathers are Nearly Black
- Native to Africa



# Birds

## **Eurasian Collared Dove – *Streptopelia decaocto***

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 11 ½ inches
- Body and Head Pale Buffy Gray
- Wings Light Gray with Primaries Dark Gray Above
- Black Half Collar Edged in White
- Black Bill, Reddish Legs
- Native to Eurasia



## **European Starling – *Sturnus vulgaris***

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 8 ½ inches
- Iridescent Green and Purple Sheen on Back in Summer
- Heavily Spotted White and Buff in Winter
- Bill is Yellow
- Detrimental to Native Birds
- Native to Europe



## **Cattle Egret – *Bubulcus ibis***

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 19-21 inches
- White Feathers
- Yellow Bill
- Black Legs
- In Breeding Season Bill is Orange, Legs are Pink, and a Warm Wash of Buff Appears on the Head, Back, and Breast
- Native to Old World





# Birds

## **House Sparrow** – *Passer domesticus*

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 6 inches
- Male Has Gray Crown, White Cheeks, and Black Bib
- Upperparts Streaked Black and Chestnut, Underparts Gray Cream
- Female Dully Colored
- Kills Nestlings and Removes Eggs
- Native to Europe



## **Monk Parakeet** – *Myiopsitta monachus*

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 12 inches
- Mostly Green Parrot
- Has a Gray Off White Face, Cheeks, and Throat
- Introduced from the Pet Trade
- Native to South America



## **Rock Pigeon** – *Columba livia*

- Invasive, Exotic Bird
- Length is 13 inches
- Head is Dark Gray with a Coppery Sheen on Neck
- Body and Tail Pale Gray
- Red Legs
- Native to Europe, N. Africa, W. Asia



# Fishes

## **Blackfin Pacu – *Colossoma macropomum***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 42 inches or More
- Silver Fish with Black or Grey Spots
- Black Fins
- Red Underbelly (More Pronounced on Males)
- Cousin of the Piranha
- Native to S. America



## **Blue Tilapia – *Oreochromis aureus***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 18 inches
- Adults Dark Grey, Blue on Back, White on Belly
- Dorsal Fin Border Red-Orange
- Caudal Fin Border Red
- Introduced from Aquaculture and Bait Bucket Releases
- Native to N. Africa and Middle East



## **Common Carp – *Cyprinus carpio***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 30 inches
- Can Weigh Up to 60 lbs
- Back is Dark Olive, Sides Lighter, and Yellowish Below
- Introduced in the Late 1800's and Onward
- Detrimental to Native Fish Populations
- Native to Asia





# Fishes

## **Grass Carp – *Ctenopharyngodon idella***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 3 ft. 3 inches
- Weight is to 60 lbs
- Back is Olive Brown, Sides Silvery, Belly White
- Destroys Native Fish and Waterfowl Habitats by Eating Large Amounts of Aquatic Vegetation
- Native to Eastern Asia



## **Nile Tilapia – *Oreochromis niloticus***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 24 inches
- Bronze to Black Body
- Vertical Stripes on Caudal Fin
- Introduced from Aquaculture Trade and Bait Bucket Releases
- Native to Africa, Israel, and Syria



## **South American Armored Catfish – *Pterygoplichthys anisitsi***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 20 inches
- Greenish Brown with Leopard-Like Spots Which Extend Into the Fins
- Huge Danger to Native Fish Populations
- Probably Established by Careless Releases Into Waterways
- Native to S. America



## Fishes

### **Texas Cichlid – *Cichlasoma cyanoguttatum***

- Invasive, Exotic Fish
- Length is to 12 inches
- Olive Above, Sides Greenish Gray, Numerous Blue-Green or White Spots
- Escapee from the Aquarium Trade, but Also has Spread Naturally from Cross-Watershed Flooding
- Native to Mexico and S. Texas



## Insects

### **Asian Cockroach – *Blattella asahinai***

- Invasive, Exotic Insect
- Length is 5/8 inch
- Tan to Brown
- Almost Identical to the German Cockroach with a Few Minor Differences
- Infesting Alabama, Florida, Georgia, S. Carolina, Texas
- Found in 1981 in Okinawa, Japan





# Insects

## **Asian Tiger Mosquito – *Aedes albopictus***

- Invasive, Exotic Insect
- Length is 2-10 mm
- Black and White Striped Legs
- Black and White Body
- Found in Houston at the Houston Ship Channel in a Shipment of Used Tires in 1985
- Native to S.E. Asia



## **Fire Ant (Imported) – *Solenopsis invicta***

- Invasive, Exotic Insect
- Length is ¼ inch
- Head and Thorax is Dull Red and the Abdomen is Dark
- Introduced into the United States From Ships in the Mid -Twentieth Century
- Will Eat Anything, Including Small and Newborn Mammals
- Native to S. America



## **German Cockroach – *Blattella germanica***

- Invasive, Exotic Insect
- Length is 5/8 inch
- Body Brown
- 2 Blackish Stripes on Pale Yellow-Brown Shield Behind Head
- Pest in All American Cities
- Native to Eurasia



## Insects

### Japanese Beetle – *Popillia japonica*

- Invasive, Exotic Insect
- Length is 13 mm
- Metallic Green Head
- Reddish Brown Wing Covers
- Discovered in New Jersey in 1916
- Native to Japan



### Scarlet Skimmer – *Crocothemis servilia*

- Invasive, Exotic Insect
- Length is 1 5/8 inches
- Male Entirely Bright Red, Females and Immature are Mostly Yellowish
- Wings are Transparent
- Native to Asia



## Mammals

### Feral Hog – *Sus scrofa*

- Invasive, Exotic Mammal
- Height is 30 inches
- Length is 5 ft.
- Tail is 9 inches
- Brown or Black Coarse, Bristly Coat
- Damages the Environment by Rooting up Earth
- Native to Europe





# Mammals

## Norway Rat – *Rattus norvegicus*

- Invasive, Exotic Mammal (Rodent)
- Length is 15 inches
- Tail is 7 inches
- Grayish Brown Above
- Belly Gray
- Introduced Worldwide
- Native to Asia



## Nutria – *Myocastor coypus*

- Invasive, Exotic Mammal (Rodent)
- Length is 4 ft.
- Tail is 15 inches
- Dark Brown Above and Paler Brown Below
- Feet are Blackish and the Hind Feet are Webbed
- Damages Embankments
- Native to Argentina



## Roof Rat – *Rattus rattus*

- Invasive, Exotic Mammal (Rodent)
- Length is 9 inches
- Tail is 7 ½ inches
- Dark Gray
- Responsible for Spreading Human Diseases
- Native to Asia



# Reptiles

## **Mediterranean Gecko – *Hemidactylus turcicus***

- Invasive, Exotic Reptile (Lizard)
- Length is 4-5 inches
- Skin is Translucent Pinkish to White
- Males Squeak While Fighting
- Introduced into Florida, Louisiana, and Texas
- Native to Mediterranean, Middle East, and India



# Mollusks

## **Channeled Apple Snail – *Pomacea canaliculata***

- Invasive, Exotic Mollusk (Snail)
- Reaches the Size of an Apple
- Has Gills and an Operculum
- Forages in and Out of Water on Almost Any Vegetation
- Detrimental to Water Quality

