

## How This List Was Developed

The December 2009 revision is the second revision of the **Invasive Exotic Pest Plants in Tennessee** list, first published in 1995. That list was initiated from the 'introduced taxa' portion of the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Tennessee* (pub. 1993 by B. E. Wofford and R. Kral), and was developed by the research committee of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council. The development of the list included reviews by professional and amateur botanists, ecologists, and resource managers. All comments were considered, and a consensus approach was accepted.

The review process for the 2009 revision of this list was similar to those in 1995 and 2001 with the additional step of ranking species using standardized ranking criteria. A TN-EPPC Review Committee was formed. This committee distributed the 2001 list to 20 professional and amateur botanists, ecologists, and resource managers representing the three Grand Divisions of Tennessee (West, Middle, and East) and asked them to recommend changes, including additions, deletions, or changes to current species ranking. The TN-EPPC Review Committee compiled comments from the reviewers and established initial ranks for each species based upon reviewer input. The second step included the development of ranking criteria based upon criteria from other states including Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, and Virginia as well as NatureServe. Each plant was evaluated and its rank established using the ranking criteria. These are objective measures, based upon the invasive plants' effect on Tennessee's native plant communities and their status in the landscape as documented in the Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System or EDDMapS (<http://www.eddmaps.org/>). TN-EPPC recognizes that EDDMapS is in the relatively early stages of development and is not fully populated with species that occur in the state of Tennessee. However, this mapping system combines information from other sources such as the USDA Plants Database and the occurrences are verified by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

The TN-EPPC Review Committee included Terri Hogan, Ecologist, Stones River National Battlefield; LinnAnn Welch, Bells Bend Nature Center Director, Metro Parks and Recreation; Kevin Fitch, Instructor of Biology, Motlow State Community College; Kris Johnson, Supervisory Forester, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Nancy Fraley, Exotic Plant Management Team Liaison, National Park Service. Terry Killifer, NatureServe, provided additional support to the Review Committee.

A new category, "Alert," was added to the TN-EPPC list in 2009. These are species for which more information is needed to determine their invasiveness in the state. Some may not yet occur in Tennessee but are found in nearby states. These species have invasive characteristics such as rapid growth and high fruit/seed production and are known to be invasive in similar habitats to those found in Tennessee or are listed as a severe threat in adjacent states or pose substantial management difficulties where they occur. This category was added to provide a list of species to help prevent invasive plant introductions and assist in early detection and rapid response to new introductions.

Nomenclature and authorship are taken from the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, ITIS, (<http://www.itis.gov/>) and checked against *A Fifth Checklist of Tennessee Vascular Plants* (pub. 2009 by Chester, E.W., B.E. Wofford, D. Estes, and C. Bailey).