

# DEALING WITH INVASIVE PLANTS IN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPES

JOHN CLEMENT  
WATERSHED PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

# WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?



## WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?



## WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?



## WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?



# WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?



# WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?



**Depleted native seed bank**



**Plentiful invasive seed bank**

## WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?





# WHY ARE INVASIVES A PROBLEM?

- **Invasive plants:**

- Outcompete natives
- Form monocultures
- Reduce habitat for wildlife
- Can increase fire risk
- Can impact stream stability and flooding



# COMMON LANDSCAPE INVASIVES

- **Trees and Large Shrubs**

- Glossy privet
  - (Japanese is ok)
- Small-leafed privets
  - (variegated is ok)
- Photinia
  - (“red tip” is ok)
- Chinese tallow
- Chinese pistache
- Chinaberry

- **Large Grasses (and Nandina)**

- Bamboo
  - (clumping is ok)
- Giant Cane
- Nandina
  - (dwarf is ok)

# CONTROLLING WOODY PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

- **Non-chemical approaches**
  - Digging, grubbing, grinding
- **Chemical approaches**
  - Cut-stump method – paint with triclopyr
    - Any exceptions?
  - Imazapyr – effective but not recommended
    - Persistent in soil
    - Potential for root-transfer to non-target plants

# CONTROLLING LARGE GRASSES IN THE LANDSCAPE

- **Non-chemical approaches**

- Digging, grubbing
  - Large machinery not recommended
    - You're not going to get it all
    - Tracking material off-site
    - Soil compaction
- Mowing?

- **Chemical approaches**

- Cut to ground
- Allow re-growth to 3' (**1'-2' for nandina**)
- Foliar application of glyphosate (wicking vs spray?)
- Repeat \_\_ times

## INVASIVES FOR SALE

### **Vitex agnus-castus**

- woody aromatic shrub to small tree



## INVASIVES FOR SALE

### **Ruellia brittoniana (Mexican petunia)**



# INVASIVES FOR SALE

## **Ruellia brittoniana (Mexican petunia)**



# INVASIVES FOR SALE

**Colocasia esculenta (elephant ear)**





# RESOURCES



growgreen.org



austintexas.gov/invasive

grow green earth-wise guide to **Poison Ivy**

*Toxicodendron radicans*

**Least Toxic Solutions...**  
 Physically Remove the Plant  
 • It is best to pull small plants when soil is moist - grab plants through a plastic bag and turn inside out over the plant.

**Leaflets of Three Let it Be!**  
 If you must use an herbicide...

**Central Texas Invasive Plants**

**AUSTIN INVASIVE MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER FIELD GUIDE**

www.austintexas.gov/invasive

**City of Austin Invasive Species Management Plan**

**Field Resources**

# COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

- **OTHER MANAGEMENT APPROACHES?**
- **OTHER “NEW” INVASIVES?**