

Invasive Pests

Invading their way through Arkansas



Bradford pear has escaped from cultivation and invaded our forests. Bradford pear escapes by animals spreading seeds. In the wild it forms dense thickets that eliminate our native plants that are so important to wildlife.

Photo courtesy of David J. Moorhead, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org.



Cogongrass (aka bloodgrass) was once sold in Arkansas as an ornamental plant. It still exists in some yards though it is illegal to cultivate or trade cogongrass in Arkansas.

Photo courtesy of David Teem, Auburn University, Bugwood.org.



Thousand-cankers disease has been killing black walnut trees in the eastern U.S. TCD is a fungal disease thought to have come from the western U.S. with black walnut nursery stock.

Photo courtesy of Curtis Utley, CSUE, Bugwood.org.



Privet is a common ornamental plant that escapes into forests and dominates the understory. Privet eliminates native plants used by wildlife and makes forestry more expensive for landowners.

Photo courtesy of John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org.

Some escaped ornamental plants and diseases have become serious pests in Arkansas. They reduce the diversity of native plants in our forests and eliminate the native foods of the wildlife we enjoy watching in our back yards.

Invasive pests – Taking the natural out of the Natural State