



## Action Alert: Invasive Plants Legislation

By January 8, 2021!

**Ask your state senators and delegates to support this bill on invasive plants!**

Original source – [Audubon Society of Northern Virginia](#)

**Contact your legislators now and ask them to vote in favor of this bill, which will help guide Virginia in controlling the sale of invasive plants.** This bill will mandate a study that will explore options for phasing out the propagation and sale of invasive plants in Virginia's



horticultural industry, which may include potential legislative action to be brought the following year to the 2022 General Assembly. The study group, which will include representatives from the nursery and landscaping industry, state agencies and environmental groups, will produce a report of their recommendations and findings. This is a big step forward in the fight against invasive plants!

**Please call or email both of your legislators now and ask them to support the study**

**bill.** During this unusually short legislative session, things will move very fast, so **do not delay.** You should write the state senator and delegate from your own district, but **copy all the members** of the Senate and House Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committees (see below).

**When you contact your legislators please use your own words. Some points you might include:**

- Our local ecosystem is under serious threat from many quarters. We must stop making the situation worse.
- Virginia native plants are the basis of our ecosystem. Invasive introduced plants crowd them out, bringing down trees and ruining our natural areas.
- You yourself have seen commonly-sold introduced plants that have escaped into the wild (examples include English Ivy, Japanese Barberry, Japanese Pachysandra, Asian Wisteria, Burning Bush, Chinese Silvergrass, Privet, etc.)
- It costs taxpayers large amounts of money to control these invasive species in their parks. State and local budgets have been able to cover only a fraction of what is needed.
- It has cost you hours of labor and/or a lot of money to control these plants in your yard and/or a place you volunteer.



- There are plenty of non-invasive plants that are every bit as nice that could be substituted for these invasives.

You can find your senator and delegate by using [Who's My Legislator](#).

#### Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee members:

Chap [Petersen](#)

(Chair), Emmett [Hanger](#), Frank [Ruff](#), Mark [Obenshain](#), Richard [Stuart](#), David [Marsden](#), William [Stanley](#), Lynwood [Lewis](#), David [Suetterlein](#), Monty [Mason](#), Jennifer [McClellan](#), Barbara [Favola](#), Joseph [Morrissey](#), Todd [Pillion](#), Ghazala [Hashmi](#)

For their contact information, click on their last names.

#### Senate committee member email addresses:

[district34@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district34@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district24@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district24@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district15@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district15@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district26@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district26@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district28@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district28@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district37@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district37@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district20@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district20@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district06@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district06@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district19@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district19@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district01@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district01@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district09@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district09@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district31@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district31@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district16@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district16@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district40@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district40@senate.virginia.gov);  
[district10@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district10@senate.virginia.gov)

#### House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee members:

Ken Plum (Chair), Robert Bloxom, David Bulova, Joshua Cole, James Edmunds, Todd Gilbert, Wendy Gooditis, Nancy Guy, Dan Helmer, Sally Hudson, Mark Kean, Alfonso Lopez, Daniel Marshall, Charles Poindexter, Margaret Ransone, Shelly Simonds, Kathy Tran, Roslyn Tyler, Lee Ware, Michael Webert, Rodney Willett, Tony Wilt. Find their [contact information here](#).

#### House committee member email addresses:

[DelKPlum@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelKPlum@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelWGooditis@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelWGooditis@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelRTyler@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelRTyler@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelDBulova@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelDBulova@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelMKeam@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMKeam@house.virginia.gov);

[DelALopez@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelALopez@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelKTran@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelKTran@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelDHelmer@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelDHelmer@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelJCole@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelJCole@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelSHudson@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelSHudson@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelSSimonds@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelSSimonds@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelRWillet@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelRWillet@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelNGuy@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelNGuy@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelLWare@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelLWare@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelDMarshall@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelDMarshall@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelTGilbert@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelTGilbert@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelCPoindexter@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelCPoindexter@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelJEdmunds@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelJEdmunds@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelTWilt@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelTWilt@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelMWebert@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMWebert@house.virginia.gov);  
[DelMRansone@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMRansone@house.virginia.gov);  
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At the Legislative Information System (LIS) (<https://lis.virginia.gov/>) you can **track legislation** and review committee agendas prior to a meeting.

#### **The Bill's Language (draft):**

#### **Invasive Plant Species Study**

*That the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), jointly with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), shall convene a work group to examine the sale of invasive plant species by any entity, including the retail, landscape, greenhouse and nursery industries, and consider measures to reduce and eliminate their use and promote the use of native plants in the commonwealth. The work group shall include representatives of DCR, VDACS, the Department of Forestry, the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, Virginia Native Plant Society, Blue Ridge PRISM, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, the Virginia Agribusiness Council and the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. The work group shall examine measures to reduce, mitigate and/or eliminate the continued sale and use of identified invasive species, as identified in the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List by DCR. This would include, but not be limited to: (i) labeling of invasive plant species at point of sale; (ii) taxing the sale of invasive species and applying revenue to the removal of invasive species and potential restoration of sites for native habitat; (iii) expanding the noxious weed list to include invasive plant species currently being sold by the industry or other parties; (iv) support for education and outreach, including state partnership with nonprofit organizations either fully or partially dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's natural heritage, on the reduction of the use of invasive plant species and/or promoting the use of non-invasive or native plant species as substitutes and; (v) measures to increase the use of native plants on local and state government owned properties and projects. The work group shall make recommendations on (a) changes to guidance or regulations for agencies having the authority to regulate activities associated with the work group's work, and (b) statutory changes, including but not limited to changes related*

*to the placement of plant species on the Noxious Weed list (§ **XXX** et seq. of the Code of Virginia).  
The work group shall report its recommendations to the Director of DCR and the Commissioner  
of VDACS by December 1, 2021.*