



Virginia Legislation 2024

Act now! [Contact your state legislators](#) Act now!

Information from Plant NOVA Natives

Do you want to see Virginia take meaningful action to curb invasive plants? We need everyone to urge their state Delegates and Senators to support upcoming legislation.

Things move really fast in this short session! Step one is to see that the bills get out of subcommittee. **Please contact your representatives immediately if they are on either of the Agriculture committees.** Click on the names below for their contact information. Here are some useful Talking Points. If you are able to actually speak with any of them, please let us know! Here is how you [find your legislator](#). *House Agriculture Committee*

[Lopez \(Chair\)](#), [Clark \(Vice Chair\)](#), [Bulova](#), [Tran](#), [Helmer](#), [Simonds](#), [Willett](#), [Herring](#), [Krizek](#), [Glass](#), [Hernandez](#), [Laufer](#), [Ware](#), [Wright](#), [Orrock](#), [Marshall](#), [Wilt](#), [Webert](#), [Bloxom](#), [Fowler](#), [Runion](#), [Kent](#)

- *Senate Agriculture Committee Meets to consider SB 306 (labeling invasive plants) this coming **Tuesday, 1/16!***

[Marsden \(Chair\)](#), [Obenshain](#), [Stuart](#), [Stanley](#), [Suetterlein](#), [Favola](#), [Hashmi](#), [Hackworth](#), [Roem](#), [Williams Graves](#), [Perry](#), [Pekarsky](#), [French](#), [Salim](#)

Your message can be as short as a simple urge to support the bills (include the bill numbers, or copy/paste the summaries below), but please personalize it by explaining what makes you know that invasive plants are a problem.

The budget recommendations are not bills. They go to the money committees - **so please contact them as well.**

- House Appropriations (First meeting is on 1/15)

[Torian \(Chair\)](#), [Sickles](#), [Bulova](#), [Carr](#), [McQuinn](#), [Krizek](#), [Hayes](#), [Reid](#), [Rasoul](#), [Willett](#), [Sewell](#), [Askew](#), [Knight](#), [Austin](#), [Morefield](#), [Bloxom](#), [Marshall](#), [Hodges](#), [Coyner](#), [Wyatt](#), [Wiley](#), [Campbell](#)

- Senate Finance and Appropriations

[Lucas \(Chair\)](#), [Deeds](#), [Locke](#), [Marsden](#), [Ebbin](#), [McDougle](#), [Obenshain](#), [Stuart](#), [Reeves](#), [Favola](#), [Surovell](#), [McPike](#), [Boysko](#), [Pillion](#), [Hashmi](#)

We will need your help at several steps along the way and will update this [Google Doc](#), which you could bookmark now. Or you could send us your email address so we can keep you apprised.

Summaries of proposed legislation

Sale of invasive plants

[HB47](#) and [SB306](#)

Require retailers to post a sign warning customers if a plant being sold for outdoor use is an invasive plant. Customers currently are unlikely to know if they are buying a plant that can cause environmental and economic harm.

House and Senate committees on Agriculture

[Click here for talking points.](#)

Sale of English Ivy

[HB1167](#)

Allow local jurisdictions to ban the sale of English Ivy, if they so choose. English Ivy is a major killer of trees as well as of native plants at the ground level, and yet it is still for sale. It has no respect for property lines. Removal is difficult and costs public and private landowners significant amounts of time and money. Non-invasive groundcovers are available as alternatives. [Agriculture Chesapeake and Natural Resources](#)

[Committee](#)

Click here for [talking points.](#)

Invasive plants in VDOT rights of way

Budget amendment for \$500,000 for the Virginia Department of Transportation to create a demonstration project removing invasive vines to save trees in their rights of way in Fairfax/Arlington/Alexandria. VDOT currently has no budget for invasive plant removal unrelated to traffic safety. This bill will provide them an opportunity to work out the logistics while starting to address what is a serious situation across the state and which is most dire in urban/suburban areas.

House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance and Appropriations

Click here for [talking points.](#)

Funding the Virginia Invasives Species Management Plan

Recommendation from the Virginia Invasive Species Working Group that \$2.45 million budgeted to fund the [Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan](#), which was adopted in 2018 but not funded. The money would pay for seven additional state positions in four different agencies to help eradicate and slow the spread of invasive plant and animal species. The recommendation also includes annual money (\$365,000) for rapid response, land owner assistance, and start-up assistance for new Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs).

Pesticide control exemptions; herbicide applications by unpaid volunteers

[HB320](#)

Exempts from the provisions of state pesticide laws and regulations any unpaid volunteer who uses or supervises the use of any nonrestricted herbicide with the express authorization of a local political subdivision for the sole purpose of controlling invasive plants or noxious weeds on properties owned by such local political subdivision. The bill provides that such unpaid volunteer shall use such herbicide under the direct supervision of a certified applicator and the local political subdivision shall

provide instruction to the unpaid volunteer prior to application on (i) the risks associated with the herbicide utilized, (ii) the proper use of equipment used to apply the herbicide, (iii) other information to prevent an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment, and (iv) any other information relevant to the specific herbicide utilized.

- HB320 was reported out of House Ag subcommittee and goes to the full committee next, presumably on Wednesday, 1/24.
- Click here for [talking points](#).

Put your [public comment here](#).

Related bills

High polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon pavement sealants

[HB 985](#)

Prohibits the sale or distribution of any pavement sealant that contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon concentrations greater than one percent

Click here for Chesapeake Bay Foundation [Contact Form](#)

HOA restrictions on conservation landscaping

[HB528](#)

Provides that no association shall prohibit an owner from installing managed conservation landscaping, defined in the bill, upon such owner's property unless such prohibition was recorded in the declaration for the association. The bill allows associations to establish reasonable restrictions concerning the management, design, and aesthetic guidelines for managed conservation landscaping features.

Supporting groups include: Blue Ridge PRISM, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Virginia Native Plant Society, & Friends of Dyke Marsh

House [General Laws](#) committee.

Click here for [talking points](#).

- [Bulova \(Chair\)](#), [Carr](#), [Torian](#), [Price](#), [Krizek](#), [Simon](#), [Delaney](#), [Bennett-Parker](#), [Seibold](#), [Cole](#), [McClure](#), [Thomas](#), [Knight](#), [Leftwich](#), [Morefield](#), [Fowler](#), [Coyner](#), [Austin](#), [Bloxom](#), [Wiley](#), [Campbell](#), [Arnold](#)

Local control of gas leaf blowers

[HB 644](#) and [SB 305](#)

Grant all localities in Virginia the freedom to prohibit or regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in their communities as they see fit

House [Counties Cities and Towns Committee](#), Senate [Local Government Committee](#)

Click here for [Talking Points](#).

Support [SB 455](#) Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund (2024)

Collisions with wildlife on Virginia roads have serious consequences for both human and wildlife safety. [SB 455](#) establishes the Wildlife Corridor Grant Fund which will provide grants for projects that conserve or enhance wildlife corridors [More](#)

[HB 245](#)

PFAS; facilities that have engaged in manufacture, etc., to produce report on use of chemicals

[HB 496](#),

Waste tire disposal by tire producers and haulers; fee, requirements

[HB 557](#)

Prohibits the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority from approving any project that requires the use of any publicly owned natural spaces unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative and the project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the natural area. Look no further than the [Cinder Bed Road Bikeway](#) and [George Snyder Trail](#) for examples of why HB 557 is needed.

Recommendations of Nature Forward:

- **OUTDOOR CATS:** Support [HB221](#) to develop a management plan for free-roaming cats ([see talking points](#))
- **TREES:** Support [HB170](#) which would allow the "conservation during land development process" code to apply *state-wide*, not just in NOVA ([see talking points](#)).
- **TREES:** Support [HB459](#) which would further strength the current "conservation during land development process" code ([see talking points](#)).
- **DATA CENTERS:** Support [HB337](#) to disallow data centers being built near parks ([see talking points](#)).
- **EVs:** Support [HB567](#) to require EV charging stations in large developments ([see talking points](#)).
- **INVASIVE PLANTS:** Support [SB306](#) (companion to HB47 above) to label invasive plant species for retail sale ([see talking points](#))
- **TREES:** Support [SB461](#) (companion to [HB309](#)) to have Dept of Forestry to create a statewide tree canopy assessment.
- **TREES:** Support [SB121](#) (companion to HB459 above) which would further strength the current "conservation during land development process" code ([see talking points](#))
- **DATA CENTERS:** Support [SB285](#) to require various assessments such as require disclosure of water and power usage ([see talking points](#)).

[Join us \(and VCN\) for Lobby Day in Richmond: Jan 30-31!](#)

Our partners at the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) make it easy for you to meet with your legislators in Richmond. VCN sets up meetings between you and your delegate and senator in advance. We gather in the morning for an orientation and you get talking points on the various [bills we are advocating for](#). You can join on Tuesday, Jan. 30 and/or Wednesday, Jan. 31!



Litter Free Virginia

[Litter Free Virginia Legislation Tracker](#)

Friends of Accotink Creek

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