

CONGRATULATIONS!



You have recognized *Campsis radicans* (trumpet-creeper) as a **native** plant. Even though trumpet-creeper's rampant growth, when not diligently contained, can overwhelm and displace desirable vegetation in a cultivated landscape, weedy native plants support native wildlife and do not pose a threat to the natural ecosystem like non-natives can. By definition, only non-native species are listed as invasive.

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[*Alliaria petiolata*](#) (garlic mustard), pictured below left, was introduced from Europe in the 1800s and has invaded fields and forests across the northern United States, in some places becoming the dominant ground cover. Its growth habits and allelopathic chemicals threaten the balance of native ecosystems as it impedes the growth of trees and soil fungi and displaces native plants, disrupting the wildlife that depend on them.

[*Rosa multiflora*](#) (multiflora rose), pictured below center, was introduced from Japan in the 1800s for use as rose rootstock. Later used as livestock barriers and highway buffers, it escaped cultivation, spreading rapidly by seed and the rooting of decumbent canes. Its long, thorny, climbing stems shade and choke out native species, creating impenetrable barriers in meadows and bogs and along verges and woodland edges in the eastern United States.

[*Ailanthus altissima*](#) (tree of heaven), pictured below right, was introduced from China in 1784 and has become arguably the top invasive species in Virginia. It is fast-growing and prolific, crowding out native species or inhibiting their growth with allelopathic chemicals. It also is host to the invasive and destructive [spotted lanternfly](#) now spreading across the Mid-Atlantic.



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