Invasive Insects, Plants, and Pathogens of Concern in Arkansas

- **Emerald Ash Borer** (*Agrilus planipennis*), David Cappaert, Bugwood.org
- **Asian Longhorned Beetle** (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Michael Bohne, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
- **Gypsy Moth** (*Lymantria dispar*), John Ghent, Bugwood.org
- **Cogongrass** (*Imperata cylindrica*), Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org
This booklet serves as an efficient guide to the invasive species of concern in Arkansas.

If you have a suspected sighting of any of the pests listed, please contact any of the agencies listed below.

Ask for State Plant Board or Forestry Commission
Arkansas Agriculture Department (501) 225-1598

USDA-APHIS-PPQ - (501) 324-5258

This field guide was revised by Jake Bodart. Originally prepared by Soo-Hoon (Sam) Kim. Funds provided from CAPS CORE - Pest Detection Cooperative Agreement
Asian Longhorned Beetle

Asian longhorned beetle (Anoplophora glabripennis)

Joe Boggs, Ohio State University, Bugwood.org
**Asian Longhorned Beetle**

**Anoplophora glabripennis**

**Signs & Symptoms**
Bark cracks, branch dieback, tree mortality. Oval to round pits in bark for egg niche. During summer months sap may flow from egg niches. Round exit holes 3/8" in diameter. Accumulation of saw dust around base of tree.

**Identification**
Adult - 1 to 1.5" in length, with long, white and black banded antennae. Body jet black with mottled white spots and may have blue color on feet. Active June - October.

**Hosts**
Maples species (*Acer* spp.). Other hosts include birch, elm, golden raintree, sycamore, horsechestnut/buckeye, katsura, mimosa, mountain ash, poplar, and willow.

Information gathered from USDA Pest Alert 2015. FS NA-PR-01-99
Photos (Clockwise from top): Cottonwood borer vs. ALB - G. J. Lenhard, LSU, Bugwood.org.; ALB larvae - J. Boggs, Bugwood.org.; ALB exit hole - J. Boggs, Bugwood.org. Front: (Clockwise from top): ALB adult - J. Boggs, Bugwood.org; ALB oviposition site - D. Herms, OSU; Bugwood.org.
Emerald Ash Borer (Agrilus planipennis)
Emerald Ash Borer


**Agrilus planipennis**

**Signs & Symptoms**
Top 1/3 of tree begins to die off. Epicormic sprouts grow from roots and trunk. Leaves often larger than normal. Bark splitting with galleries under bark. Distinct serpentine (s-shaped) galleries with D-shaped exit hole. Increased woodpecker activity.

**Identification**
Adult - bright metallic green, 1/2 inch long, purple abdominal segments under wings.
Larvae - Flat in appearance, creamy white, legless, bell-shaped body segments.

**Hosts**
Ash species (*Fraxinus spp.*) and white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*).
**Sirex noctilio**

**Signs & Symptoms**
Wilting of foliage after initial attack. Foliage changes color from green > yellow > red. Resin beads or resin flow at egg laying site. Round exit holes 1/8 to 3/8 inch wide.

**Identification**
- Adult - 0.5 to 1.5 inch long. Body dark metallic blue or black; abdomen of males black with middle segments orange. Legs reddish-yellow; feet (tarsi) black; males with black hind legs.
- Larvae - Creamy white in color, legless, have a dark spine at end of abdomen.

**Hosts**
Primarily pine species (*Pinus* spp.), but can infest other conifers such as fir (*Abies*) and spruce (*Picea*).

Photos (Clockwise from top left): Female - S. Valley, ODA, Bugwood.org; Male - S. Valley, ODA, Bugwood.org; Emergence Hole - D. R. Lance, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Bugwood.org; Larva - W. M. Ciesia, FHMI, Bugwood.org; Front: V. Klasmer, INTA, Bugwood.org
Gypsy Moth

Evgeny Akulov, Russian Research Institute Of Plant Quarantine, Bugwood.org
Signs & Symptoms
Visible egg masses. Larval feeding defoliates trees within the forest. Excrement from larvae covers ground below canopy. During high infestation, larvae seen crawling everywhere.

Identification
Adult - Males are grayish brown with dark markings and feathery antennae. Females are white with black markings and thin black antennae. Females larger in size and cannot fly.
Larvae - Bodies are hairy. Five pairs of blue dots followed by six pairs of red dots on the back.

Hosts
A wide variety of preferred hosts, including: alder, aspen, birch, oak, beech, cedar, hemlock, pine, chestnut, and spruce.

Photos (Clockwise from top left): Male (left) Female (right) - USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Bugwood.org; Female laying eggs - SD. Herms, OSU, Bugwood.org; Defoliation - LM. Nageleisen, DSF, Bugwood.org; Front: Larva - E. Akulov, RRIPQ, Bugwood.org
Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

*Crape Myrtle Bark Scale* (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) on *crape myrtle* (*Lagerstroemia indica*).
Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae

Signs & Symptoms
Bark has a black appearance. This coloration occurs from sooty mold growing on the honey dew secreted from the Crape myrtle bark scale.

Identification
Adults - Approx. 2 mm in length with a white to gray felt cover. Pink eggs or crawler life stages may be present under adults.

Hosts
Crape myrtle.

Information gathered from Dr. James Robbins et. al. 2016. UA Ext. FSA7086. Photos from Dr. James Robbins (Clockwise from top left): Severe infestation of CMBS; Crape myrtle with CMBS and sooty black mold; Crape myrtle with black appearance from CMBS. Front: Adult CMBS; Adult CMBS; Adult CMBS; Adult CMBS with crawler life stage present.
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

**Halyomorpha halys**

**Signs & Symptoms**

Feeding damage causes small necrotic regions on the fruit and foliage of many plants. Damage to the fruit can include water-soaked lesions, cat-facing, or prematurely aborted fruit.

**Identification**

Adults - Shield shaped, Alternating dark and light bands of the antennae and the edges of the abdomen.

Nymph - Alternating dark and light bands on antennae and legs.

**Hosts**

This pest can damage a wide variety of hosts including: tree fruit, small fruit, legumes, and deciduous trees. Potential to feed on ornamentals and weeds.


Photos (Clockwise from top left): Damage - T. Leskey et al., OPM 23: 197-244; Nymphs - G. Bernon, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Bugwood.org; Nymphs - D.R. Lance, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Bugwood.org; Front: Nymph - S. Ellis, Bugwood.org; Adult — S. Valley, ODA, Bugwood.org
Sakhalin Pine Sawyer

Japanese pine sawyer (*Monochamus saltuarius*)

Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org
**Monochamus saltuarius**

**Signs & Symptoms**
Round emergence holes, oviposition scars, and feeding on the bark by adults. Larval galleries in xylem packed with frass and shredded wood. U-shaped pupal chambers.

**Identification**
Adults predominantly black with numerous yellowish and white spots. Legs and first antennal segment covered partly with grey spots.

**Hosts**

Information gathered from Exotic Wood Borer/Bark Beetle reference guide. CAPS.
Photos (Clockwise from top left): Adult — G. Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org; Damage — G. Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org; Adult — M. Jure, University of Ljubljana, Bugwood.org; Front: Adult - G. Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org;
**Agrilus biguttatus**

**Signs & Symptoms**
- D-shaped exit holes on bark. Zigzag frass-filled galleries in inner bark. 1st instar have staircase pattern. Dark cracks and discoloration of bark and cambial tissue over galleries.
- Twig and branch dieback, thinned crowns, and tree mortality. Increased woodpecker activity.

**Identification**
- Adults are slender and metallic green with several white spots. Two white spots on the interior margin of the wing cover (elytra) are a key characteristic.

**Hosts**
- Primary oak species, but can attack beech and chestnut species.


Photos (Clockwise from top left): Adult - S. Valley, OR Dept Ag. ugwood.org; Larvae - V. Meshkova, UR1FFM, Bugwood.org; 1st instar galleries - LM. Nageleisen, DSF, Bugwood.org; Front: Adult-N. Wright, FLDACS, Bugwood.org;
**Tremex fuscicornis**

**Signs & Symptoms**
Wilting of foliage after initial attack. Resin beads or resin flow at egg laying site. Round exit holes 1/8 to 3/8 inch wide. Branch/crown dieback and reduced growth.

**Identification**
Adult - Males are all black with brown wings. Females are orange-yellow with black stripes on the abdomen.
Larvae - Creamy white in color, legless, have a dark spine at end of abdomen.

**Hosts**
Can attack a wide variety including the following species: poplar, elm, beech, willow, maple, oak, and other deciduous trees.

Information gathered from USUA-APHIS.2011.New Pest Response Guidelines: Tremex Wood Wasp (Tremex fuscicornis (F.)). Photos (Clockwise from top left): Adult female - Morand; Adult male - D. Roustide; Larvae - D. Roustide; Front: Adult female and male - D. Roustide; All pictures are from [http://www.galerie-insecte.org/galerie/tremex_fuscicornis.html](http://www.galerie-insecte.org/galerie/tremex_fuscicornis.html)
Thousand Cankers Disease

thousand cankers disease (Geosmithia morbida) on black walnut (Juglans nigra)


**Thousand Cankers Disease**

**Geosmithia morbida & Pityophthorous juglandis**

**Signs & Symptoms**

An early sign of disease is yellowing leaves progressing to brown wilting leaves and then branch mortality. Development of cankers along the phloem under the bark. Presence of cracking bark, dark colored stain on the bark, and numerous tiny exit holes by the walnut twig beetle.

**Spread**

This disease is locally spread by the walnut twig beetle, *Pityophthorous juglandis*.

**Hosts**

Primarily found on black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), but canker formation can be observed in other walnut species.

Information gathered from [http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/sp/tcd/tcd.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/sp/tcd/tcd.shtml)

Photos (Clockwise from top left): Canker development - C. Utiey, CSUE, Bugwood.org; Walnut twig beetle - W. Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.org; Walnut twig beetle - S. Valley, ODA, Bugwood.org; Cankers - N. Tisserat, CSU, Bugwood.org; Front: Damaged trees - N. Tisserat, CSU, Bugwood.org
Sudden Oak Death

sudden oak death (Phytophthora ramorum) on coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia)

Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
Phytophthora ramorum

Signs & Symptoms
- Bark - Development of cankers on the trunk of main stem with reddish to black discoloration and oozing of sap. Leads to crown dieback and ultimately tree death.
- Foliage - Development of grey to brown lesions on the leaf. Margins of lesions are indistinct. Leads to twig dieback.

Transmission
- Although not found on the east coast, can be transmitted to the east through infected ornamental trees and plants.

Hosts
- Wide variety of hosts including many oak species, grand fir, horsechestnut, Camellia spp., Viburnum spp., Rhododendron spp., huckleberry, big leaf maple, and Douglas fir.


Photos (Clockwise from top left): Canker development - J. O'Brien, USDA FS, Bugwood.org; Canker staining - J. O'Brien, USDA FS, Bugwood.org; Leaf symptoms - J.W. Lotz, FDACS, Bugwood.org; Front: Damaged trees - J. O'Brien, USDA FS, Bugwood.org
Beech Bark Disease

beech bark disease (Nectria coccinea) on American beech (Fagus grandifolia)

Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

beech bark disease (Nectria coccinea) on Sycamore maple (Acer pseudoplatanus)

Andrej Kunca, National Forest Centre - Slovakia, Bugwood.org
Cryptococcus fagisuga & Nectria coccinea var. faginata  
(also N. galligena)

Signs & Symptoms
White woolly appearance on bark (scale insect). Oozing, blackened spots are early symptoms of Nectria infection. Crater-like scars or cankers. Thinning crown.

Spread
Scale insect - waxy secretions around body. Yellow, elliptical, and 1 mm at maturity.
Fungus - reproductive fruiting bodies, or perithecia, are small clusters of red spheres; mature in fall. Reproductive fruiting bodies are white cushions of spores found in mid-summer.

Hosts
American beech (Fagus grandifolia).

Oak Wilt (Ceratocystis fagacearum) on northern red oak (Quercus rubra).
Ceratocystis fagacearum

Signs & Symptoms
Common in northern Arkansas. Leaves throughout the crown dull or bronze, progressing from outer sections to mid-vein of leaf. Bark splits revealing small patches of decay or fungal mats on the trunk and branches.

Transmission
Sap beetles feed in fungal mats and vector disease. Root grafts transmit disease to neighboring trees. Within tree, pathogen moves through xylem vessels.

Hosts
All species of oak (Quercus spp.), red oaks more susceptible.

Laurel Wilt Disease

Laurel wilt (Raffaelea lauricola) on sassafras (Sassafras albidum)

Chip Bates, Georgia Forestry Commission, Bugwood.org
Laurel Wilt Disease

Raffaelea lanicola & Xyleborus glabratus

Signs & Symptoms
Wilting crowns with discolored and stunted foliage. Wilted leaves stay on tree after dying. Toothpick shape protrusion from beetle entry hole. Black stain in sapwood originating from the beetle gallery.

Transmission
Redbay ambrosia beetle (brown, 1/16" and cylindrical) transports fungal spores between trees. Flight is June - October, with multiple generations per year.

Hosts
Preferred host, redbay (Persea borbonia), not common in Arkansas. Alternative hosts: Sassafras (Sassafras albidum), spicebush, and pondberry.

Information gathered from https://www.fs.fed.us/research/invasive-species/insects/red-bay-ambrosia-beetle.php Photos (Clockwise from top left): Redbay ambrosia beetle - M. C. Thomas, FDACS, Bugwood.org; Wilted leaves - A. Mayfield, USDA FS, Bugwood.org; Frass tubes - J. Johnson, GFC, Bugwood.org; Sapwood streaking - A. Mayfield, USDA FS, Bugwood.org; Front: Damaged trees - C. Bates, GFC, Bugwood.org
Pine Witches’ Broom Phytoplasma
**Pine Witches' Broom Phytoplasma**

**Candidatus Phytoplasma pini**

**Signs & Symptoms**
- Pine - yellowing, dwarfin/stunting, twisted needles (forms dense ball-like structure), and prolific branching (forms witches' broom).
- Spruce - shoot/needle malformation and stunted growth.
- Fir and Hemlock - Witches' broom and needle discoloration.

**Transmission**
- Insect vectors or by grafting. Can also be spread from infected propagative plant material.

**Hosts**
- Wide variety of hosts: pine spp., spruce, fir, hemlock, and cypress.

Information gathered from [http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/webfm_send/2169](http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/webfm_send/2169)

Photos (Clockwise from top left): All pictures taken by Juan Bibiloni Pou and used with permission from [http://mundani-garden.blogspot.com/2011/07/candidatus-phytoplasma-pini-it-makes.html](http://mundani-garden.blogspot.com/2011/07/candidatus-phytoplasma-pini-it-makes.html)
Cronartium faccidum

Signs & Symptoms
This disease causes yellowish, necrotic spots on the needles. Chlorosis and necrosis of the infection site, yellowing and premature defoliation, branch death, bark discoloration, cankers and deformed lesions (acecia). Excessive resin exudation seen in the lesions.

Transmission
Insect vectors and by wind.

Hosts
Wide variety of host including many pine spp.

Cogongrass (Imperata cylindrica)

Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org
Cogongrass

Identification
Cylindrical in shape. Reaches up to 6 feet in height. Leaves are 1/2-1 inch wide and up to 6 feet long. Leaves are yellowish-green in color with the white midrib off center. Production of fluffy, white, plume-like seed heads in the spring.

Dispersal
Dispersal by rhizomes of existing plants and seeds.

Damage
Can be an agriculture pest. Allelopathic, stunts growth of neighboring plants by producing chemicals in the soil. Addition of fuel for forest fires.

Notes
Cogongrass includes ornamental Japanese Bloodgrass and Red Baron. These are all prohibited in Arkansas.

Information gathered from http://www.cogongrass.org, and Jennings et. al. UA ex FSA2126. Photos (Clockwise from top left): Congongrass - C. Evans, IWAP, Bugwood.org; Congongrass seedhead - M. Atwater, WCU Inc., Bugwood.org; Congongrass roots - C. Bargeron, UGA, Bugwood.org; Front: Congongrass - C. Evans, IWAP, Bugwood.org.
Chinese Privet
**Ligustrum sinense**

**Identification**
Thicket forming evergreen shrub to 30 feet. Leaves are ovate to elliptic, thin and opposite. Flowers are white to cream forming a panicle. Fruit are dense drupes, green in summer, dark purple when ripe.

**Dispersal**
Colonize by root sprouts and seed dispersal by wild life.

**Damage**
Aggressive, shade tolerant, forms dense thickets, and overtakes habitat for native flora and fauna.

Information gathered from James Miller et. al., A field guide for the identification of invasive plants in southern forests, USDA-FS SRS_119. Photos (Clockwise from top left: Privet- James H. Miller & Ted Bodner, IWAP, Bugwood.org; Privet fruit - Paul Shell, Ark. State Plant Board; Privet ornamental - Paul Shell, Ark. State Plant Board; Front: Privet - Paul Shell, Ark. State Plant Board.)
Identification
Floating water weed with waxy, dark green, rounded leaves with swollen, spongy, bulbous leaf stalks. Roots are fibrous and dark purple to black in color. Flowers have 6 lavender-blue petals with one bright yellow, blue-bordered central oval spot.

Dispersal
Fast growing and reproduces vegetatively with new rosettes growing from the stolons of the mother plant. Also by seed dispersal.

Damage
Rapid growth overtakes habitat for native flora and fauna of wetlands.

Information gathered from http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/141
Photos (Clockwise from lop left): Water Hyacinth - Paul Shell, Ark. State Plant Board; Water Hyacinth - LJ. Mehrhoff, UCONN, Bugwood.org; Flower - LJ. Mehrhoff, UCONN. Bugwood.org; Front: Water Hyacinth - Paul Shell, Ark. State Plant Board
Purple Loosestrife
**Lythrum salicaria**

**Identification**

Erect. Stems square shaped, Leaves narrow with rounded base and are angled oppositely along stern. Purple flowers with 5-6 petals and a yellow center. Can be found along waterways or other wetland habitats.

**Dispersal**

Seed dispersal, but also vegetatively spread by root stock.

**Damage**

Rapid growth overtakes habitat for native flora and fauna.

Salvinia molesta

Identification
Aquatic floating fern with green to brown oblong shaped leaves. Mature plants grow into each other forming large mats. Surface of the leaf has cylindrical "hairs" that look like egg beaters.

Dispersal
Humans (boats, other water crafts, commercial purchase, etc.) and naturally through moving bodies of water.

Damage
Rapid growth overtakes habitat for native flora and fauna. Can clog irrigation and drinking water lines as well as damage hydroelectric plants.

Information gathered from USDA-APHIS Pest Alert. APHIS 81-35-006. Photos (Clockwise from top left): Cylindrical hairs - R. Videki, DK, Bugwood-org; Plant - L.J. Mehrhoff, UCONN, Bugwood.org; Plant mat - T. Evans, GSMNP, Bugwood.org; Front: Infestation - T.D. Center, USDA-ARS, Bugwood.org
Tropical Soda Apple

Tropical Soda Apple (Solanum viarum)

J. Jeffrey Mullahey, University of Florida, Bugwood.org
**Solanum viarum**

**Identification**
Upright, thorny shrub armed with long straight barbs along main portion. Leaves resemble oak leaves with tiny white recurved petals. Fruit resemble small watermelon - round, mottled green then ripens to yellow in color. Can grow 6 feet tall and wide.

**Dispersal**
Seed dispersal by animals and seed contaminated hay, sod, potting media, manure, etc.

**Damage**
Can prevent movement through area and restrict wildlife grazing. Displaces native plants, disrupts ecosystem, and can serve as host for viruses infecting crops.

Callery Pear / Bradford Pear
Identification
Deciduous tree up to 60 feet tall. Leaves glossy and ovate with long petiole. Flowers are 5-petaled, white, and in large clusters. Produces small pear fruits.

Dispersal
Can colonize by root sprouts, hybridizes with other callery pear varieties, and seed dispersal by wild life.

Damage
Forms dense thickets, partial shade tolerance, and overtakes habitat for native flora and fauna. Tree often splits during wind and ice storms due to branches forking from trunk at narrow angles.

Chinaberry (Melia azedarach)

Cheryl McCormick, University of Florida, Bugwood.org
Melia azedarach

Identification
Deciduous tree up to 50ft tall. Reddish, purplish bark. Leaves alternate, long-petioled, 2-3 times compound, up to 1.5ft long, pungent odor when crushed, dark green above and lighter below, margins serrate. Flowers small, fragrant with 5 lilac petals, stalks of stamens united into dark purple tube. Yellow-yellowish green fruit with thin fleshy globes.

Dispersal
Root sprouts and seed dispersal.

Damage
Shade out other species by prolific reproduction, leaf litter from tree causes increase in soil alkalinity, and reduces plant diversity in the area.

Information gathered from A. Richard and V. Ramey. UF-IFAS Pub# SP 431. 2007. Photos (Clockwise from top left): Flowers - C. Evans, IWAP, Bugwood.org; Leaf - J. H. Miller, USFS, Bugwood.org; Fruit - R. F. Billings, TFS, Bugwood.org; Front: Mature tree - C. McCormick, UF, Bugwood.org
Paulownia / Princess tree

princess tree
(Paulownia tomentosa)

T. Davis Sydnor, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org
Identification
Medium sized tree (30-60 ft). Can be mistaken for calalpa tree. Leaves: large broad oval to heart-shaped, arranged opposite on stem, hairy on both sides. Twigs: stout, brown, and speckled with white dots. Flowers: large, fragrant, and light violet-pink. Forms in clusters, tubular corollas ending in 5 unequal lobes. Fruit: egg-shaped capsules, green in the summer to dark brown by winter.

Dispersal
Root sprouts and seed dispersal.

Damage
Reduces plant diversity in the area and shades out other species.

Tree of Heaven

*tree-of-heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
*Ailanthus altissima*

**Identification**

Up to 80 feet tall. Leaves can be up to 3 feet long, pinnately compound leaves with circular glands under leaflet base. Flowers are yellow-green and form a large terminal cluster up to 20 in. Female trees produce wing shaped fruit with twisted tips.

**Dispersal**

Root sprouts and seed dispersal.

**Damage**

Vigorous growth, shade intolerant, and allelopathic.

Information gathered from Miller et. al., USDA-FS-SRS-119, Invasive plants in southern forests. Photos (Clockwise from top left): Flower - J. Samanek, SPA, Bugwood.org; Seed - C. Bargeron, UGA, Bugwood.org; Foliage - J. H. Miller, USFS, Bugwood.org; Front: Mature tree - L. J. Mehrhoff, UC, OSU, Bugwood.org
Kudzu (Pueraria montana var. lobata)

Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
Identification

Climbing or trailing vine, herbaceous to semiwoody, and fast growing (can extend 30-100ft, up to 30 vines can grow from one plant). Leaves - alternate and compound leaves with three leaflets (maybe lobed). Flowers - around 1/2 inch long, purple, upright in clusters. Seeds - around 10 seeds in a brown, hairy, flattened seed pod.

Dispersal

Seed dispersal, rhizomes, sending out runners, and vines can root at nodes forming new plants.

Damage

Prolific reproduction, shade out other species. Can girdle trees and weight of plant can break trees.

Information gathered from NPS-USFWS. 2010, Plant invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas; and Miller et. al., USDA-FS-SRS-119, Invasive plants in southern forests. Photos (Clockwise from top left): Leaves - L. J. Mehrhoff, UC, Bugwood.org; Flower - L. J. Mehrhoff, UC, Bugwood.org; Seed - L. J. Mehrhoff, UC, Bugwood.org; Front: Mature tree - L. J. Mehrhoff, UC, Bugwood.org
Lespedeza sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata)

John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy, Bugwood.org
Lespedeza cuneata

Identification
Perennial plant 2 - 5.5ft in height, stems are woody and fibrous. Leaves - divided into three smaller leaflets, oblong and pointed, covered with densely flattened hairs. Flowers - creamy white to pale yellow with purple spot, can be in clusters at the upper end of leaves. Seeds - tiny, yellow - light brown, bean shaped.

Dispersal
Seed dispersal by wildlife.

Damage
Creates extensive seed bank. Out-competes and displaces native plants.

Information gathered from NPS-USFWS. 2010, Plant invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas. Photos (Clockwise from top left): Flower - L. J. Mehrhoff, UC, Bugwood.org; Foliage - B. Ackley, OSU, Bugwood.org; Seed - B. Ackley, OSU, Bugwood.org; Front: Mature tree - J. M. Randall, TNC, Bugwood.org