

# Stop the Invasion!

## 12 Invasive Species Virginians Should Know About ...and What You Can Do About Them.

They are costly to control, damage our natural resources, and impact our economy and quality of life.

Join the battle to protect our resources! Get to know the enemy! Help stop the Invaders!

*Our resources depend on us!*

### ALREADY IN VIRGINIA



#### Tree-of-Heaven or Stink Tree

- Can grow 80 feet tall; leaves resemble sumac or walnut.
- Gives off an offensive odor; out-competes native species.
- Damages pipes and causes high control costs.



#### Northern Snakehead Fish

- Grows up to 4 feet long; can breathe air as well as use gills.
- Out-competes native fish, including sport fish.
- Kill the fish where found; illegal to move live snakefish.



#### Phragmites

- Grows up to 15 feet in wetlands, blocking views of water.
- Overwhelms native species; provides poor wildlife habitat.
- Clogs ditches, increases mosquitoes, invades wet fields and forests.



#### Rapa Whelk

- Large predatory snail that feeds on oysters, clams and mussels.
- Stresses shellfish populations.



#### Imported Fire Ant

- Known for painful sting and aggressive behavior.
- Will attack domestic animals, pets, wildlife and people.
- They destroy crops. Established in Tidewater.



#### Japanese Stilt-Grass

- Grows vigorously. Invades a wide variety of moist, shaded habitats.
- Out-competes native flora, inhibits forest regeneration.

### THREATS TO VIRGINIA



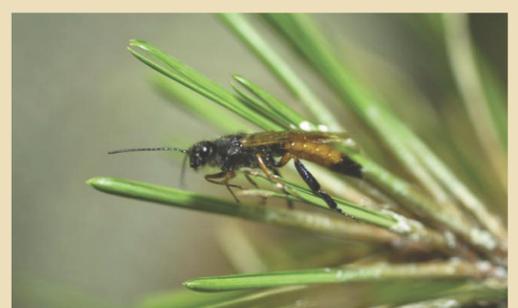
#### Zebra Mussel

- Striped shellfish 1 to 2 inches long that forms colonies of up to 1 million mussels per square yard.
- Damages water intakes, docks, dams, boats and more.



#### Emerald Ash Borer

- A wood-boring beetle that has killed more than 40 million ash trees in the United States.
- Do not move firewood out of quarantine areas.



#### Sirex Wasp

- A 1 to 1.5 inch wood boring wasp found in shipping crates.
- Aggressively attacks healthy trees, with up to 80% mortality.



#### Rusty Crayfish

- Up to 4 inches long with dark spots on sides.
- Out-competes native crayfish; reduces aquatic plant abundance.
- Leads to the decline of bluegill, bass and northern pike.



#### Chinese Mitten Crab

- A burrowing crab with white-tipped hairy-looking claws.
- They steal bait from fishing traps and lines, clog intakes, and cause streambank collapse.



#### Sudden Oak Death

- A tree disease caused by a fungus-like blight.
- It has killed millions of oaks in California forests.
- Nursery surveys are done in Virginia to safeguard our forests.

For more information go to: [www.vainvasivespecies.org](http://www.vainvasivespecies.org) • To report sightings call: 804-786-7951

