



# PUBLIC GARDENS AS SENTINELS AGAINST INVASIVE PLANTS

Using botanic garden and arboreta expertise to help prevent problematic plants from becoming  
invasive across North America

## Watchlist Category

This category represents taxa that have been observed spreading in or around their sites of cultivation, but rarely, if ever, occur in uncultivated areas. Reports of these taxa occurring in the regional flora are either absent or rare and isolated, and these taxa are highly unlikely to be described as invasive by authorities and/or experts in the region where the garden is located. This category may be used by public gardens to observe and record the reproductive and spreading behavior of taxa that are obscure and little known in commercial horticulture and elsewhere, or that may be exhibiting changes in reproductive capacity or growing range in response to climate change. The spreading of taxa ranked in this category may be an early signal of potential invasiveness, though it is entirely possible that these taxa will never spread sufficiently to pose an invasive threat. Gardens need not consider Watchlist taxa invasive, but these taxa may be of most interest for further comparison of observations with other gardens in the same geographic region.