



Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association

Policy on Invasive Plants

**(adopted by the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association
Board of Directors in July 2009)**

The KNLA is committed to the protection of our environment and ecosystems. Part of this commitment is the endorsement and participation in discussions leading toward the development of a system to monitor, recognize and regulate the introduction and continued use of invasive species. We promote and support the use of native and non-native plants in our landscapes, provided they are well adapted to the region and do not pose a threat of invasiveness and disruption of the surrounding ecosystems. The KNLA further supports the education of our members regarding plants found to be invasive through rigorous, scientific research and their reasonable alternative plant choices. Through this educational system, we encourage our members to then educate their customers.

When determining the invasive potential of a plant, **the KNLA will adopt the Missouri Botanical Garden voluntary code of conduct**, developed in December 2001, for Nursery Professionals and they are as follows:

- Ensure that invasive potential is assessed prior to introducing and marketing plant species new to North America. Invasive potential should be assessed by the introducer or qualified experts using emerging risk assessment methods that consider plant characteristics and prior observations or experience with the plant elsewhere in the world. Additional insights may be gained through extensive monitoring on the nursery site prior to further distribution.
- Work with regional experts and stakeholders to determine which species in our region are either currently invasive or will become invasive. Identify plants that could be suitable alternatives in our region.
- Encourage the development and promotion of alternative plant material through plant selection and breeding.
- Where agreement has been reached among nursery associations, government, academia and professional ecology and conservation organizations, phase-out existing stocks of those specific invasive species in regions where they are considered to be a threat.
- Follow all laws on importation and quarantine of plant materials across political boundaries.
- Encourage customers to use, and garden writers to promote, non-invasive plants.