

8 Tips to Become Garden-Smart and Plant-Wise

1. Know Your Plants

When gardening, find out what plants are causing problems in parks or natural areas in your region to make sure you know what species to avoid. Visit the Georgia Exotic Plant Pest Council (www.gaeppc.org/list) for the State's list.

2. Use Non-invasive Alternatives

Learn about native plants that often have similar characteristics as invasives without the damaging ecological side effects.

3. Beware of Hitchhikers

Many invasive plants are spread to new places when seeds or plant pieces become attached to clothes, belongings and vehicles and then drop off somewhere new.

4. Have a Care if You Share

Although attractive garden plants, do not be tempted to share or receive cuttings, seedlings or plants that are invasive.

5. Use Clean Seed Mixes

Check the ingredients of seed mixes to make sure invasive plants are not included.

6. Don't Dump Aquatic Plants

Be especially careful with attractive water garden and aquarium decorations as many many be invasive and harmful if dumped.

7. Contain It, Control It or Cage It

Be responsible with garden plants that have invasive tendencies. Take special steps by inserting root barriers, trimming regularly, harvesting fruits or seeds before they spread.

8. Join the Weed Patrol

As a volunteer, you can help with natural area mapping and control efforts in your community. Learn more at elachee.org.