

# Plant Blindness Identification

# broadleaf plantain

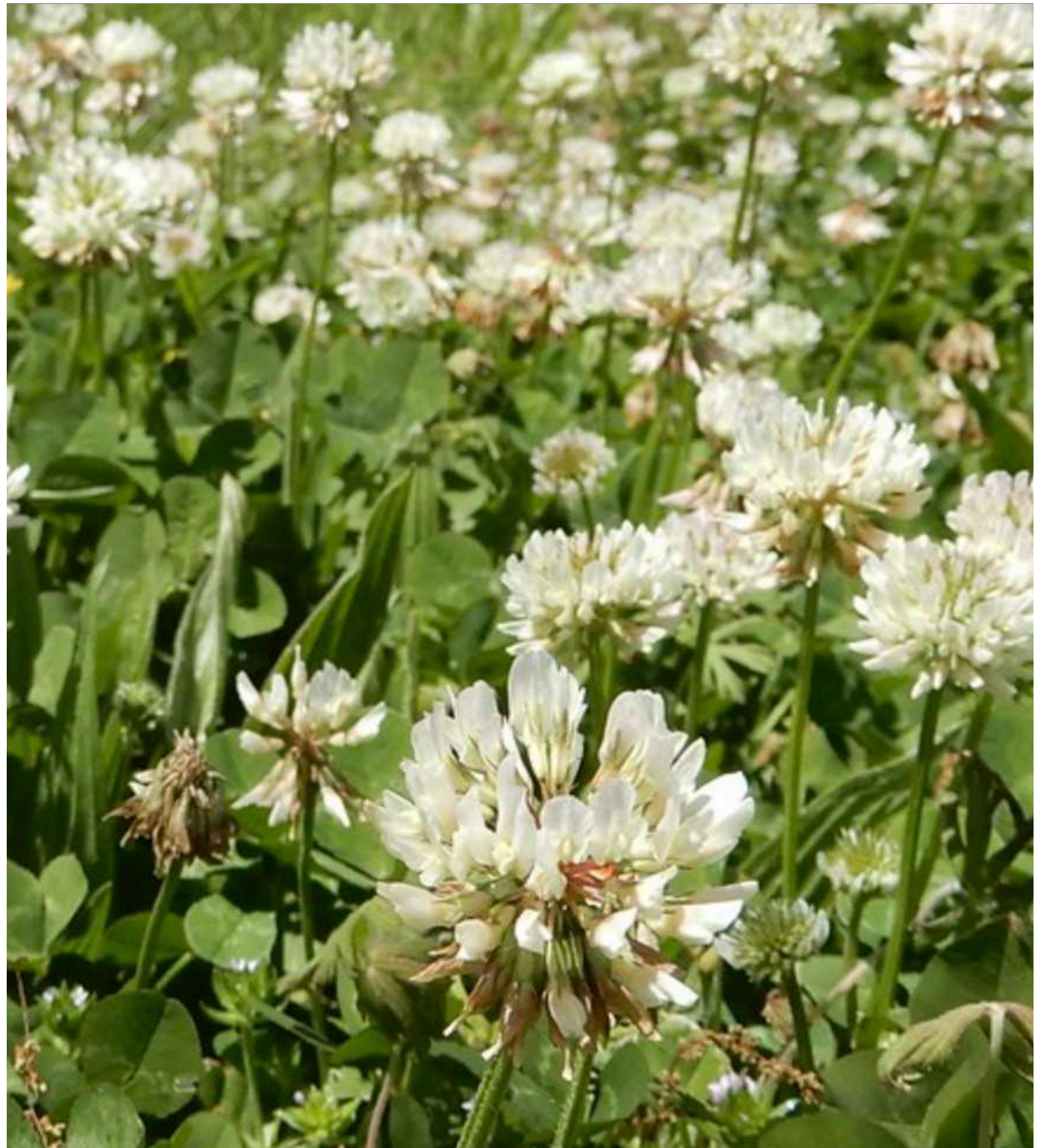
*Plantago major*; introduced weed, but not harmful to local ecology; originally from Europe, now one of the most widely distributed plant species in the world; one of the first plants from Europe to establish populations in North America. Also known as white man's footprint, for it seemed to follow European colonists everywhere they went.





# white clover

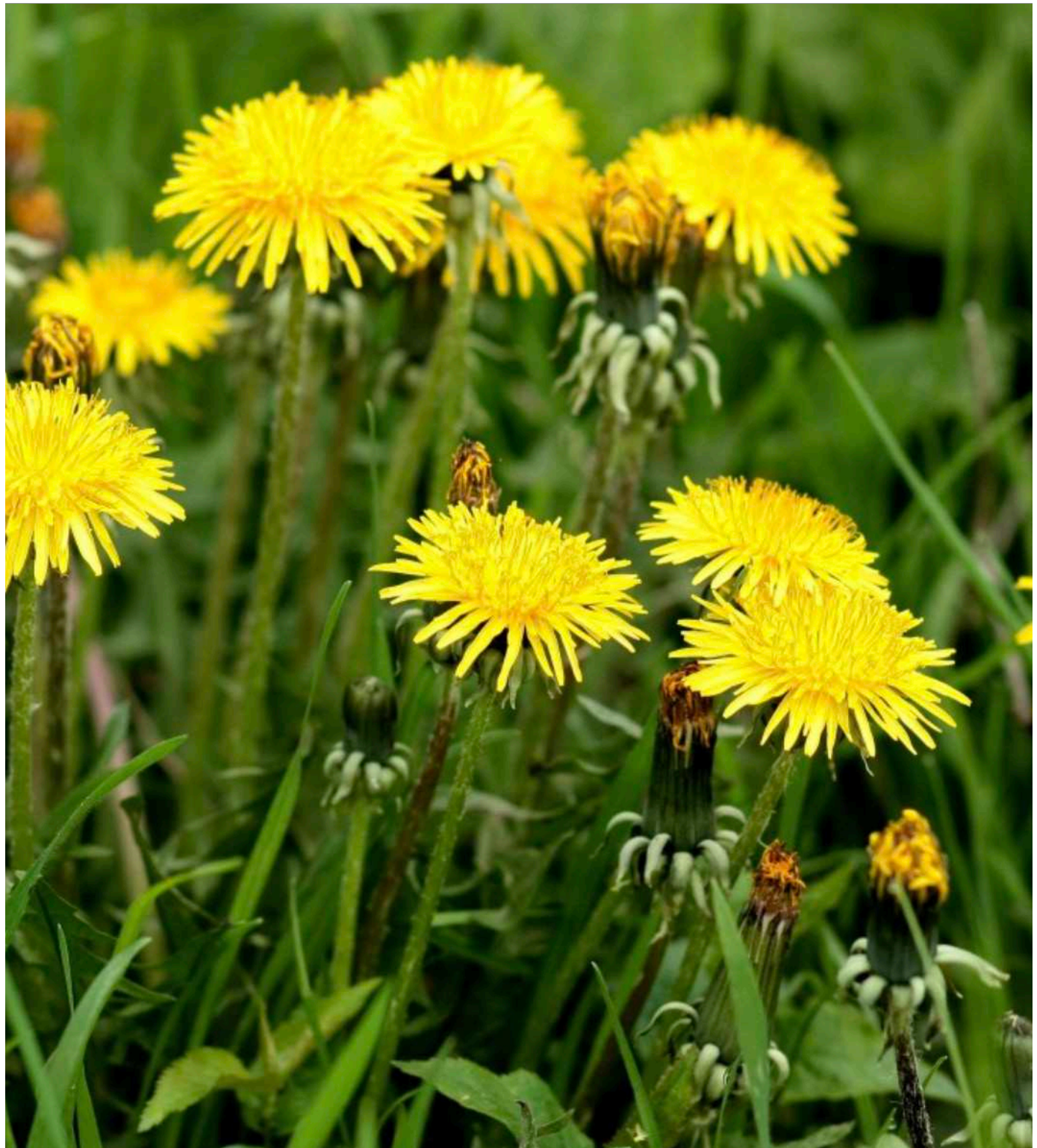
*Trifolium repens*; introduced weed, but not harmful to local ecology; much loved by honeybees





# dandelion

*Taraxicum officinale*;  
introduced weed, but not  
harmful to local ecology;  
distributed across the world,  
the leaves are edible





# pokeweed

*Phytolacca americana*;  
weedy native, very valuable  
plant for birds, who eat the  
berries; this plant is highly  
toxic to humans, both leaves  
and berries





# daylily

*Hemerocallis* (this one happens to be 'Stella d'Oro'); introduced, not invasive; native to east Asia, daylilies have been cultivated for hundreds of years, with more than 80,000 different varieties





# fern

Some introduced ferns can be harmful invasives for local ecology; most ferns prefer shady areas with moist soil, although many will tolerate sun and some will grow in extremely dry conditions





# mophead hydrangea

*Hydrangea macrophylla*;  
introduced, not invasive;  
native to Japan, this is  
one of the most commonly  
used garden plants in the  
southeast; the flowers can  
be either pink or blue,  
depending on the acidity  
of the soil





# nandina

*Nandina domestica*;  
introduced, harmful invasive  
for local ecology; the berries  
are very toxic to birds; native  
to east Asia, nandina has  
been cultivated as a garden  
plant there for hundreds  
of years





# **oakleaf hydrangea**

*Hydrangea quercifolia*, native to the southeastern United States, found on slopes and in ravines in moist forests





# chinese privet

*Ligustrum sinense*; very invasive and very harmful to local ecosystems; probably the most harmful invasive plant in Atlanta and the Atlanta region, privet can dominate the understory of forests, displacing most native plants





# rose

*Rosa Knock Out*™; introduced, not invasive; most commonly planted rose variety; implicated in the spread of rose rosette disease, a virus that is very deadly to most varieties of rose





# Eastern redbud

*Cercis canadensis*; native, used widely as a street and landscape tree; a member of the bean family, redbud produces pink flowers directly from the surface of its branches and trunk in early spring





# Japanese maple

*Acer palmatum*; introduced, not invasive; many varieties, but the red-leaved variety is one of the most common; cultivated in Asia for hundreds of years, there are many different varieties of Japanese maple with drastically different characteristics





# loblolly pine

*Pinus taeda*; native, most common pine in the Atlanta region, and one of the most important timber production trees; loblolly is an old word for a mire or swampy place, an allusion to this trees penchant for lowlands; the widespread depletion of southeastern soils through intensive farming has allowed this pine to spread widely, due to its tolerance for acidic, clay soils





# red maple

*Acer rubrum*; native, found growing wild and planted as a street and yard tree; one of the most adaptable tree species in eastern North America, able to grow in wet, swampy soils as well as very compacted and dry soils





# red oak group

Clockwise: northern red oak, *Quercus rubra*; scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea*; southern red oak, *Quercus falcata*; all native, highly beneficial to wildlife, oaks host more species of insect than any other native tree; red oaks can generally be distinguished from white oaks by the sharp points on their leaves





# southern magnolia

*Magnolia grandiflora*; native, very common yard tree; has spread into natural areas in the Atlanta region, but this is most likely the result of the tree escaping from cultivation, as its native wild range seems to be more to the south, in the coastal plain





# sweetgum

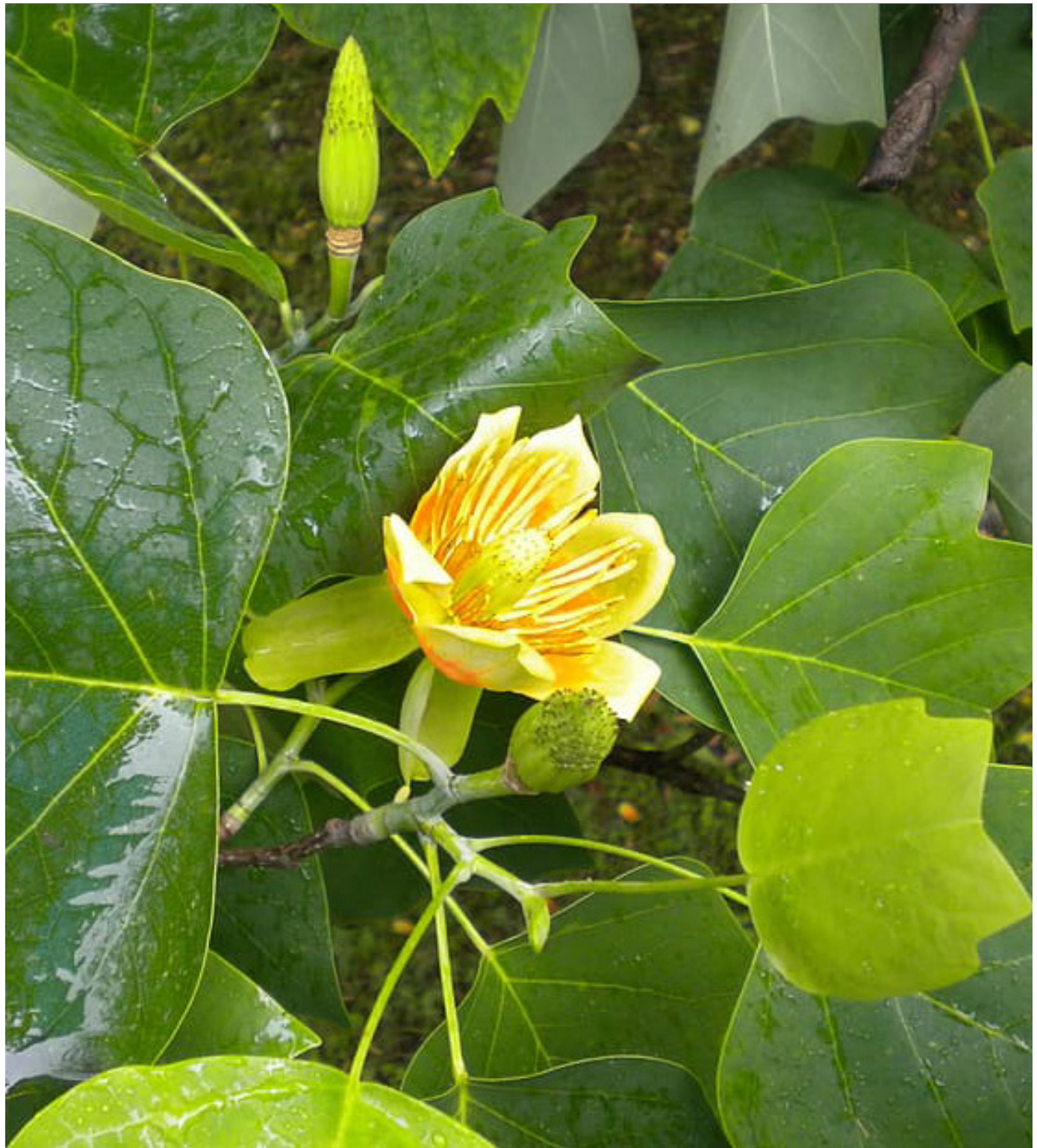
*Liquidambar styraciflua*;  
native, seeds from gum balls  
eaten by birds; very common  
in the southeast, sweetgum  
is one of the first trees to  
recolonize disturbed areas or  
abandoned fields





# tulip poplar

*Liriodendron tulipifera*;  
native, common all over  
the Atlanta region; the tulip  
poplar is found throughout  
the eastern United States,  
but is most common in the  
southeast, especially the  
southern Appalachians and  
the piedmont region; related  
to magnolias, tulip poplar  
produces large flowers in  
spring and only has one other  
member in its genus, found in  
China; sole host plant for the  
tuliptree silkmoth





# water oak

*Quercus nigra*; native, common throughout the Atlanta region; water oak is one of the first trees to colonize abandoned fields and disturbed areas; adaptable to both wet and dry soils, this is a fast growing oak with a short lifespan; produces abundant acorns eaten by wildlife





# white oak group

Clockwise: *Quercus alba*, white oak, *Quercus bicolor*, swamp white oak, *Quercus montana*, chestnut oak; all native, *Quercus alba* is the most commonly found white oak in and around Atlanta; oaks are very valuable wildlife trees, and host more insect species than any other genus; oaks are adaptable and very long lived; the southeastern United States has the highest diversity of oak species in North America and one of the highest number of species in the world





# English ivy

*Hedera helix*; introduced, very invasive, one of the most destructive invasive plants for local biodiversity; native to Europe, English ivy will choke out almost all native plants in southeastern forests, and can cover and kill even large trees





# poison ivy

*Toxicodendron radicans*; native, the sap causes itchy rashes in most people and can cause severe reactions in people that are particularly sensitive to it; found in forests and at forest edges, poison ivy grows as a ground cover or vine on trees; related to cashews and pistachios, poison ivy produces berries that are a valuable food source for birds, and has brilliant red fall color, so it is not all bad





# Virginia creeper

*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*;  
native, common forest  
understory plant, often  
confused with poison ivy;  
produces berries eaten by  
birds, and has brilliant red  
fall color





# false strawberry

*Duchesnea indica*, introduced from east and southern Asia, a common yard weed; the fruits are edible but they do not have much flavor, unlike cultivated strawberries, like the cultivated variety, which are actually native to North and South America





# Japanese cedar

*Cryptomeria japonica*, introduced, not invasive; this tree is native to Japan and perhaps parts of China, where it grows in mountain forests to enormous size. It is used as an ornamental tree in the United States but does not grow as large as it does in Asia. An important timber tree in Asia, it is the national tree of Japan and is often planted near temples and shrines





# Japanese honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*, invasive, native to east Asia; this plant is very invasive of natural areas and is harmful to local ecology. If left to grow freely, it can create a groundcover that can smother native plants, and can climb and cover trees and shrubs, killing them. Originally introduced as an ornamental, the flowers are very fragrant





# mullein

*Verbascum thapsus*;  
introduced, invades roadsides  
and abandoned lots and fields,  
but does not outcompete  
native plants; native to dry,  
rocky landscapes in Europe  
and central Asia, it has now  
been introduced to many places  
across the globe; bumblebees  
are attracted to the flowers





# flowering dogwood

*Cornus florida*, native to the eastern and south central United States; this small tree flowers in early spring, and is commonly planted as an ornamental in yards and parks; flowering dogwood is very susceptible to anthracnose, a fungal disease, and does best when planted in full to partial sun in the Atlanta region





# yellow woodsorrel

*Oxalis stricta*, native to the eastern and central United States; this native is very common, occurring as a weed in lawns and along roadsides; this plant is very useful to wildlife, including bees, moths, butterflies, grasshoppers, and birds

