



# ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association

July-August 2009

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## Reston Association Covenants Now Limit Homeowners' Planting Options

In May 2008 the Reston Association Board of Directors adopted an invasive plant resolution that applies to all private and cluster property that is subject to the Reston deed. The resolution is contained in the RA Use and Maintenance Standards for vegetation. The resolution prohibits the installation of eight commonly available landscape plants on homeowner and cluster properties and in Reston's natural areas. **Please note that the resolution does not require homeowners or clusters to remove existing plants; it only prohibits new installations of any of the eight "invasive exotic plants."**

### What Invasive Exotic Plants Are

Invasive exotic plants are non-native species that have been introduced intentionally or accidentally and tend to spread from landscaped areas into natural areas. Without the wildlife, parasites and diseases that control their growth in their native ranges, these plants grow aggressively and push out our native vegetation. They aren't bad plants, they're just not native to our area.

These opportunistic plants spread by seeds, roots, or other plant fragments and thrive in areas with disturbed soils. As they take over a landscape, they force out the native trees and shrubs that our wildlife depends on for food and shelter.

### Managing Existing Invasive Exotic Plants

The RA deed now prohibits new installation of any of the eight plants identified below. If you have any of the plants already growing in your yard, you are not required to remove them, but you are expected to ensure that they don't spread to your neighbors' yards or onto cluster common property.

If you choose to remove them, be sure to remove all of the roots and dispose of the debris by putting it into the trash. Do not compost it or dump it in a natural area.

If you keep the existing plants, cut them out of your trees and shrubs and don't let them spread to neighboring areas.

### The Eight Prohibited Invasive Plants

#### 1. Flowering Pears (*pyrus colleryana*, Bradford Pears )

Native Plant Alternatives: sweetbay magnolia, black haw, serviceberry, redbud, southern arrowwood, fringe tree, crape myrtle.

#### 2. Exotic Bamboos (*Bamboo species*)

Native Plant Alternatives: ornamental grasses such as miscanthus, calamagrostis, pennisetum, big bluestem, eastern red cedar.

#### 3. Burning Bush (*euonymus alata*, winged euonymus)

Native Plant Alternatives: red chokecherry, Virginia sweetspire, mapleleaf viburnum, highbush cranberry, silky dogwood.

#### 4. Oriental Bittersweet (*celastrus orbiculatas*)

Native Plant Alternatives: American bittersweet, pipevine, trumpet vine or coral honeysuckle, passionflower, crossvine.

#### 5. Chinese or Japanese Wisteria (*wisteria sinensis*, *wisteria floribunda*)

Native Plant Alternatives: Pipevine, crossvine, trumpet vine or carol honeysuckle, virgin's bower.

#### 6. Bush Honeysuckle (non-native *Lonisera species*)

Native Plant Alternatives: Arrowwood, northern bayberry, swamp rose, groundsel tree, spicebush, red or black chokecherry.

#### 7. Japanese Barberry (*barberis thunbergii*)

Native Plant Alternatives: Sweet pepperbush, spicebush, northern bayberry, highbush blueberry, pasture rose, swamp rose.

#### 8. English Ivy (*hedera helix*)

Native Plant Alternatives: Virginia creeper, crossvine, wild ginger, lady fern, foam flower, evergreen wood fern.

## Landscape Planning Meeting for Courtyards A and E

Interested residents of Courtyards A and E (2074-2100 and 2101-2137) are invited and *encouraged* to attend a planning meeting to discuss your interests in the landscape design for the entrances to your courtyards.

**Date:** Saturday, September 12

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Location:** Entrance to Courtyard E

The new landscape designs will be installed in early 2010.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 pm at 2080.

Interested residents are invited to attend.