

Native Plant or Alien Plant?

Native Plants: Support the earth's biodiversity.

Alien (nonnative) Plants: Threaten the earth's biodiversity.

Directions: Write "N" for Native or "A" for Alien besides each statement.

1. _____ I supply the insects in my area with food as they like to nibble on my leaves.
2. _____ I am called wisteria. I like to twin my long stems around tree trunks or any available support. I become so strong that I can even strangle large trees as I wrap around their trunks and branches.
3. _____ I am honeysuckle. The caterpillars in my area do not eat my leaves.
4. _____ I support many species of animals and insects in my area.
5. _____ I grow as much as a foot a day in the summer in the U.S. I am Kudzu.
6. _____ I am milkweed, the host plant for monarch butterflies to lay their eggs on my leaves. The eggs hatch monarch caterpillars that eat my leaves for food.
7. _____ The birds in my area like to eat the berries that I produce.
8. _____ I will grow well in your yard, as few insects will eat my leaves for food.
9. _____ I spread easily to other yards and can cause weeding problems for years to come.
10. _____ I am a coneflower. The bees and butterflies love my nectar and pollen. Pollinators visit me often.
11. _____ I preserve the stability and biotic community of my area.
12. _____ I am English Ivy and I was introduced to America by in early colonial times. I came from northern Europe.
13. _____ Native animals, insects, birds, reptiles have evolved with me over time and we support each other. We share the same evolutionary history.

14. _____ I like the soil in your garden and the amount of sun and rain I receive. You do not need to add fertilizer or pesticides for me to grow my flowers in your garden successfully. The pollinators are attracted to the scent of my nectar.
15. _____ I am not found naturally outside, but can be purchased from a commercial plant nursery.
16. _____ My history of being in this area goes back to before the time the first colonists arrived from Europe.
17. _____ I am bamboo and I came from China. Zoos plant me to feed the pandas, but have to put up cement barriers to keep me contained from spreading into neighborhoods.
- 18 _____ I am foxglove and I came from the Mediterranean area. Wildlife and cattle have died after grazing on me in the US.
19. _____ I am part of an intact ecosystem and do not require extra water, pesticides, or fertilizer.
20. _____ I have other plant competitors in my area, which stop me from taking over an area.
21. _____ I am Japanese honeysuckle. I grow over other plants and smother them. I grow thick vines that act as a carpet over other plants and climb up trees as well.
22. _____ I grow up tree trunks in Georgia, adding weight, and making the trees susceptible to storm damage. My name is ivy.
23. _____ I am called a Butterfly Bush and I came originally from China. Some species of Butterfly Bushes are aggressive in spreading and some are not. Those that are aggressive are spreading rapidly along roadsides.
24. _____ I pose a threat to biodiversity in the landscape due to the lack of competitors to keep me in check from taking over an area.