

Tennessee Invasive Species Youth Poster Contest

Empowering through education to prevent the spread of all invasive species.

Tennessee 4-H has partnered with the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to present this educational program and contest for 4th-8th grade students in public, private, and homeschools. Entries should be made by individual students through local UT Extension 4-H programs. This inaugural event in 2022 will lead the way for an annual statewide competition.



Contest Information

Tennessee youth are invited to participate in the 2022 Tennessee Invasive Species Youth Poster Contest. The goal of this contest is to spread awareness and knowledge among youth and adult audiences through science-based information and individual creativity to educate others on the impacts of invasive species in Tennessee and beyond. A "most wanted" invasive species is selected each year by the planning committee and denotes the primary focus on the poster content.

Ailanthus altissima (common names include varnish tree, stinking sumac, or Tree of Heaven) *Ailanthus altissima* grows rapidly and produces many seedlings. It crowds out native plants and produces chemicals that prevent them from growing. It is also the preferred host of an invasive insect, *Lycorma delicatula*, or spotted lanternfly.



2022 Most Wanted Species

***Ailanthus altissima* and
*Lycorma delicatula***

Photos source: PennState Extension

Eligibility

All students in public, private, or home school in Tennessee are eligible to participate. Entries must be made in association with a Tennessee 4H County program with UT-TSU Extension.

Poster Divisions

There are two contest divisions:

- 1) 4th and 5th grade division
- 2) 6th, 7th, and 8th grade division.

Deadline

All entries must be submitted by **Friday, June 3, 2022.**

**Prizes awarded to top
three individuals in each
division and the class with
the overall winning entry!**

Entry Submissions

All entries must be submitted electronically at <https://tiny.utk.edu/invasivesposter>. Review the entry form for more details and return when ready to submit an entry. Each entry requires an upload of a high-resolution image (>1 MB) of the poster. This could be a photograph, scanned document, or original digital creation. Files accepted include .jpg, .png, or .pdf.



Judging

A panel of judges from the public sector with expertise in the sciences, education, and the arts will judge each entry. Judging will take place in June-July and winners will be announced by Aug 1, 2022.

Judging criteria include:

- Message is effective 40%
- Student demonstrates understanding of topic 20%
- Universal appeal 20%
- Follows contest rules 10%
- Originality and creativity 10%

Prizes

Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be made for each division (4th-5th Grades and 6th-7th-8th Grades). Honorable Mentions will be identified as judges see fit.

- Gift card awards for student winners in each division are provided by Weed Wrangle and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and include:
 - 1st Place - \$75
 - 2nd Place - \$50
 - 3rd Place - \$25
- The class with the overall winner will receive a **Weed Wrench** provided by UpRooter.
- The overall winner will be included on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Poster **distributed statewide** beginning in September 2022.

Winners in each division will be showcased at the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) display at the **Tennessee State Fair in Wilson County in August 2022**. To be included in the display, original hard copy posters must be delivered to the local County Extension Office by July 1, 2022. Original posters will be returned to students at a later date.

Rules

- ✓ All artwork must be the original work of the individual student.
- ✓ Poster content must focus on the most wanted species of the year (*Ailanthus altissima*).
- ✓ Poster dimensions must be 11 by 17 inches or smaller. Construction paper is permitted but all poster components must be trimmed and fit inside the dimensions of 11 x 17 inches.
- ✓ Posters can be on any color paper.
- ✓ Photos cannot be used on posters. No imported images allowed (e.g. clipart, icons).
- ✓ Any media or coloring materials may be used (i.e. crayons, watercolors, chalks, markers, etc.)
- ✓ Stamps or stickers cannot be used.
- ✓ Creativity and “thinking outside the box” will be rewarded.
- ✓ No personal identification information (i.e. names) should be included on the poster.

- ✓ Poster artists must release all rights and provide permission for their work to be displayed in public platforms related to this competition.

Helpful Tips

- Be aware of copyrights, which are protected by law. If you see this symbol - © - then it can not be used on your poster.
- Choose a brief, catchy message for your poster. Keep it simple.
- Use colors and visual interest to capture attention.
- Do not use photos, stamps, stickers, copyrighted materials, personal names.

Additional Opportunities

We encourage youth to display their posters in their communities to help spread awareness. Some ideas for where to seek permission to display posters are:

- School entryways, hallways, cafeterias, or classrooms
- Local libraries, city hall, and other municipal buildings
- County Extension office
- Local or state park welcome centers

Resources

Learn about the impact of invasive species in Tennessee and around the country with the resources below. Start with these and find additional references through research. Use science-based, verified information to direct poster content and creativity to hook audiences and transfer knowledge about the importance of eradicating and managing invasive species.

- Tennessee Department of Agriculture: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/plants/plant-pests-and-quarantines/insects.html>
- US Department of Agriculture: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly>
- Washington State Noxious Weed Board: https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/pdfs/Tree_of_heaven_and_spotted_lanternfly_small.pdf
- Tennessee Invasive Plant Council - www.tnipc.org
- National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-invasive-species/>
- Kids Britannica: <https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/invasive-species/631812>
- National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Threats-to-Wildlife/Invasive-Species>

With general questions, contact Andrea Ludwig at aludwig@utk.edu with questions. For Tennessee 4-H STEM questions, contact Daniel Collins at dcolli38@utk.edu.

