



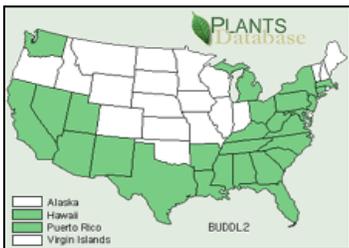
Butterfly Bush *Buddleja davidii* Franch.

Common Names: butterfly bush, orange-eye butterfly bush, summer lilac

Native Origin: China

Description: A perennial woody shrub with a weeping form that can grow 3-12 feet in height and has a spread of 4-15 feet. Opposite, lance-shaped leaves (6-10 inches) with margins finely toothed grow on long arching stems. Leaves are gray-green above with lower surface white-tomentose. Small fragrant flowers are borne in long, erect or nodding spikes that are 8-18 inch with cone-shaped clusters that droop in a profusion of color. The flower clusters can be so profuse that they cause the branches to arch even more. Flower colors may be purple, white, pink, or red, and they usually have an orange throat in the center. It spreads by seeds that are produced in abundance and dispersed by the wind.

Habitat: Butterfly bush likes well drained, average soil. They thrive in fairly dry conditions once established. Roots may perish in wet soil.



Distribution: In the United States, it is recorded in states shaded on the map.

Ecological Impacts: It has been planted in landscapes to attract butterflies, bees, moths and birds. It can escape from plantings and become invasive in a variety of habitats such as surface mined lands, coastal forest edges, roadsides, abandoned railroads, rural dumps, stream and river banks to displace native plants.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand pick seedlings or dig out where possible. Big plants may be difficult to dig out.
- **Chemical-** Cut plants and treat stumps with any of several readily available general use herbicides such as triclopyr or glyphosate . Follow label directions and state requirements.
- **Biological control:**
 - ◆ Goats eat this plant. They damage the plant by stripping leaves and flowers and break plants over. Areas which can be fenced can be treated with goats if a 3-4 year treatment program is acceptable.
 - ◆ In New Zealand it is estimated that the weed pest is displacing valued native species and costing the forestry industry \$0.5 to 2.9 million annually in control and lost production. New Zealand has begun to consider biological controls to prevent further spread of *B. davidii* in forestry plantations. A species of weevil, *Cleopus japonicus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), was tested as a potential biological control agent for *B. davidii*. Tests showed that feeding damage caused by the weevil can result in a significant reduction in stem length and biomass and can even cause death in some plants. In addition, a stem boring beetle, *Mecyslobus erro*, is also being considered for biological control of *B. davidii* in New Zealand. (For more information, see abstract: www.hortnet.co.nz/publications/nzpps/proceedings/99/99_113.pdf)

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