

SOME FACTS ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Experts estimate that invasive plants already infest more than 100,000,000 acres of land in the United States. Source: "Pulling Together", National Strategy for Invasive Plant Management.
- In the United States, about 3 million acres are lost to invasive plants each year (= twice the area of Delaware). Source: "Pulling Together", National Strategy for Invasive Plant Management.
- Our natural habitats on public lands are being lost at the rate of 4600 acres a day to invasive species. Source: "Pulling Together", National Strategy for Invasive Plant Management.
- Already, invasive non-native organisms have contributed to the decline of 42% of our federally listed threatened and endangered species. Source: The Nature Conservancy
- Of the 235 woody plants known to invade natural areas in the United States, 85% were introduced primarily for ornamental and landscape purposes, while another 14% were introduced for agricultural uses. Source: S. Reichard & F. Campbell. "Invited but Unwanted", *American Nurseryman*, 1996.
- Within nearly 200 of the approximately 250 National Parks protecting significant natural resources, non-native plants have been identified as serious threats to those resources. S. Reichard and F. Campbell. "Invited but unwanted." *American Nurseryman*, 1996.
- Research results suggest that "the increasing dominance of glossy buckthorn in New England pine forest is likely to change the relative abundance of tree species in the forest canopy, and may delay the filling of canopy gaps." M. Fagan and D.R. Peart. "Impact of the invasive shrub glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* L.) on juvenile recruitment by canopy trees." *Forest Ecology and Management* 194:95-107. 2004.

ECONOMIC COSTS

- In Massachusetts, state agencies spent over half a million dollars in 2001 on the control of nonindigenous aquatic plants through cost share assistance and direct control efforts on state lands. This figure does not include extensive control efforts undertaken by municipalities and private landowners, lost revenue due to decreased recreational boating, fishing, and swimming opportunities, or documented decreases in property values due to infestations of neighboring lakes and ponds by aquatic macrophytes. Hsu, Tommy. 2000. "A Hedonic Study of the Effects of Lake Water Clarity and Aquatic Plants on Lakefront Property Prices in Vermont." Unpublished MS Thesis, University of Maine. August 2000, 91 pp.
- Invading non-indigenous species in the United States cause major environmental damage, public health problems and cost the nation more than \$122 billion per year; plants are responsible for \$36.6 billion of this. Source: D. Pimental et al. "Environmental and Economic Costs Associated with Non-indigenous Species in the United States, Cornell University, 1999.
- From 1906 to 1991, just 79 non-indigenous species caused documented losses of \$97 billion in harmful effects. Source: Office of Technology Assessment. *Harmful Non-Indigenous Species in the United States*. 1993.
- Purple loosestrife now occurs in 48 states and costs \$45 million per year in control and forage losses. Source: ATTRA, U.S. National Wildlife Refuge pest management web site. 1997.
- In the United States, a total of \$100 million is invested annually in aquatic weed control. Source: Office

of Technology Assessment. Harmful Non-Indigenous Species in the United States.