

Help Fight Invasive Trees



from the **TREE CITY USA®
BULLETIN**

No one can argue that our world is shrinking. With modern trade and transportation systems, environmental change is inevitable. The spread of plants beyond their natural range is one of these changes. Unfortunately, in many cases this is detrimental or even disastrous to the local ecosystems where the plants are introduced. We cannot turn back the hands of time or stop the invasion of alien plants. However, we can and should recognize the problems and take action to keep invasives under control.

Fundamentals of Invasive Trees

Definitions

The following are adapted from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The term “exotic” is used instead of “introduction” by Morton Arboretum and some other organizations.

Introduction: The intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement of a species into an ecosystem as a result of human activity. (“Introduction” is not synonymous with “invasive” as there are many beneficial and harmless introduced trees and other plants.)

Native Species: With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

Non-native Species: Within a particular ecosystem, any species — including its seeds or spores or other biological material capable of propagating that species — that is not native to that ecosystem.

Invasive Species: Those species whose introduction does, or is likely to, cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. (In the legal sense, for a species to be considered invasive, it must occur on a federal or state list developed by a department of agriculture.)

Invasive species management becomes a concept like safety; it is part of everybody's job. Everybody has a role and responsibility. It's not just the weed specialists or the bug specialists.

— Mike Ielmini,
Invasive Species Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service



Courtesy of Friends of the Mississippi River

Volunteer Steve Phillips and Stewardship Events Coordinator Karen Solas of Friends of the Mississippi River know that control of invasive trees and other plants requires understanding, determination, and persistence. The results are a natural heritage for future generations.

IN THIS ISSUE, ALSO LEARN ABOUT:

- What makes a tree an invasive
- 14 important invasives, how they reproduce, and their potential for ecological damage
- Examples of how communities are fighting back
- What you can do



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