

Non-Native Invasive Plant Management on the Superior **National Forest**

Superior National Forest 8901 Grand Ave. Place Duluth, MN 55808 (218) 626-4300 www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior



What are non-native invasive plants?

Non-native invasive plants (NNIP) are species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Another name for these types of plants is noxious weeds. Examples include purple loosestrife, Eurasian waterfmilfoil, and common buckthorn.

Why are non-native invasive plants a problem? leafy spurge

Unlike common garden and lawn weeds like dandelion, NNIP are very aggressive and difficult to eradicate, and they have an ability to invade natural ecosystems. In doing so, they can cause ecological, social, and economic impacts. For natural resource managers, NNIP are a vital concern because they degrade wildlife habitat, displace native plant species, contribute to the decline of threatened and endangered species, increase erosion, reduce recreational quality and enjoyment, and cost taxpayers money.



What kind of problem does the Superior National Forest have?

common tansy

Unlike much of the U.S., the Arrowhead Region and the Superior National Forest are fortunate because many of the species that are a problem in the upper Midwest are not well established here yet. For example, common buckthorn, purple loosestrife, and

leafy spurge have not spread extensively, while other species like Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, and common tansy are beginning to rapidly expand their reach. A few species, like orange hawkweed, have already become widespread. The Superior NF has only 146 acres infested by priority NNIP species, and we therefore still have an outstanding opportunity to prevent the ecological, social, and economic impacts caused by NNIP that plague other parts of the U.S.



purple loosestrife

aquatic habitat susceptible to NNIP



common

In the past five years, the Forest has begun to actively manage NNIP within the framework established by the USDA Forest Service National Non-native Invasive Species (NNIS) Strategy and the Region 9 NNIS Strategy. Accomplishments include:

What is the Superior National Forest doing about NNIP?

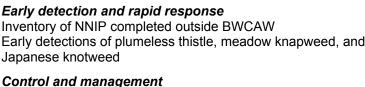


Cleaning road maintenance equipment Avoidance mitigations in timber sales



Early detection and rapid response

Inventory of NNIP completed outside BWCAW Early detections of plumeless thistle, meadow knapweed, and



Treat 3-12 acres annually, via pulling, mowing, or herbicides Education and awareness

Annual workshops for public, garden clubs, & partner groups Ongoing interpretive and educational displays and programs Educational signs at BWCAW entries and other sites



purple loosestrife pull

Rehabilitation and restoration

Developed native grass and wildflower seed mix from local seed sources



public education and training



How will the Superior National Forest keep NNIP from impacting Forest resources in the future?

In order to effectively combat NNIP, the Superior National Forest needs to continue working on all the elements listed above. One element that will receive more focus in 2006 is control and management. To capitalize on the unique opportunity we have to prevent widespread degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the Superior National Forest will be making an NNIP Management EA available for scoping and public comment in 2006.

Because NNIP don't respect property lines, we are reaching out to partners and neighbors to increase awareness of this resource management issue and continuing to seek partnership opportunities on the five elements listed above.

What can the public do?

- Learn more about NNIP and share what you learn.
- Get involved in control activities.

Please visit the Superior National Forest website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/. There you will find maps and species information specific to the Superior National Forest, as well as useful links to other information sources.

Table 1.1. Known abundance of non-native invasive plants on the Superior National Forest

Species Name	Number of known sites	Total known infested acres
Canada thistle	409	13.6
Common buckthorn	1	0.25
Cypress spurge	8	0.2
Goutweed	3	0.5
Leafy spurge	14	1.7
Orange hawkweed*	67	1.3
Oxeye daisy*	100	0.6
Plumeless thistle	1	0.0003
Purple loosestrife	14	4.6
Siberian peabush	1	0.25
Spotted knapweed	291	68.3
St. Johnswort	55	3.8
Tansy	578	49.5
Tatarian honeysuckle	1	0.005
Yellow hawkweeds*	143	1.3
TOTALS	1686	145.9

^{*} Acres and number of occurrences for orange hawkweed, oxeye daisy, and yellow hawkweed are only for occurrences found within the BWCAW (there are over 600 acres for each of these species outside of the BWCAW).