

Greetings,

The [Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) (GLIFWC) and the [Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin](#) (IPAW) seek your help in developing and prioritizing a list of non-native invasive plants that threaten native plant communities in Wisconsin. Although similar lists have been developed previously, it is not always clear how they were derived and how independent they are.

Our objective is to develop a prioritized list that ranks each species from a *consistent set of ecological criteria and methods*. Our approach is adapted from the *Alien Plant Ranking System* ([Hiebert, R.D. and J. Stubbendieck. 1993. Handbook for ranking exotic plants for management and control. USDI National Park Service Natural Resources Report NPS/NRMWRO/NRR-93/08. 31pp.](#)). Because quantitative data are lacking for many invasive species, we are supplementing existing data with expert opinion to derive a database that can be ranked by several relevant (or site-specific) factors. This survey is designed to solicit first-hand knowledge from professionals in the field.

Many of you are familiar with the concept of developing an “index of conservatism” for native plants by averaging the opinions of a panel of experts. Similarly, the median responses from this survey will be calculated and combined with data derived from published literature and plant databases to develop an “index of invasiveness”.

The results of this effort, along with the database we develop, will be made available at [GLIFWC's web site](#) . Although our focus is Wisconsin, we expect the results of this effort will have wider regional applications depending on the response rate from neighboring states. Some of the potential uses of these data include:

1. formulating policy
2. information and education outreach
3. prioritizing management efforts
4. justifying management efforts
5. identifying knowledge gaps
6. discerning large-scale spatial patterns

Attached is a survey form that asks you to rate several attributes and impacts for each plant. **Please limit your responses to only those species with which you have personal experience.** We have started with a comprehensive list comprised of the [U.S. Forest Service's list of invasive plants for the Eastern Region](#) and the [University of Wisconsin Herbarium's list of ecologically invasive plants](#) (nomenclature follows Gleason and Cronquist 1991). If you are aware of other problem species not included on the list, please add them in the spaces provided. Similarly, if you disagree with the listing of a species, please note that too.

You will need the acrobat reader to print out the survey. It can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>. We would appreciate receiving your response by 30 March 2002 at the address listed below:

Invasive Plant Survey  
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission  
P.O. Box 9  
Odanah, WI 54861  
ATTN: Miles Falck

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort. If you have questions pertaining to this survey, please forward them to Miles Falck at (715) 682-6619 or [miles@glifwc.org](mailto:miles@glifwc.org).

Sincerely,

Miles Falck, Wildlife Biologist  
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Eric Parker & Heather Patti, Co-Chairs, Science Committee  
Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin



**SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS:** Please use this page as a guide for filling out the survey. Limit your responses to only those species you are familiar with. If you are unsure of one of the categories below for a given species, leave it blank.

**Ecoregion** - Refer to the map and record the ecoregion(s) where you have observed this plant..

**Habitat** - Plant community most often invaded (record all that apply)

- A aquatic
- B barrens
- G grasslands
- F forests
- W wetlands
- D disturbed ground

**Disturbance** - This plant is found:

- 0 only in sites disturbed within the last 3 years
- 5 in sites disturbed within the last 10 years
- 10 in mid-successional sites disturbed 11-50 years before present (BP)
- 15 in late-successional sites disturbed 51-100 years BP
- 20 in high-quality natural areas with no known major disturbance in the last 100 years

**Abundance** - Within my geographic work area, this plant occurs:

- 0 in <10% of vulnerable sites
- 5 in 10-25% of vulnerable sites
- 10 in 25-50% of vulnerable sites
- 15 in >50% of vulnerable sites

**Impact** - At sites where it occurs, this plant

- 0 has little or no ecological impact
- 5 invades and modifies native communities
- 10 invades and replaces native communities

**Competition** - Observed ability of the plant to compete for limiting resources

- 0 poor competitor
- 5 moderate competitor
- 10 highly competitive

**Rate of Spread** - Within the last 5 years, this plant's population has

- 0 decreased
- 5 remained the same
- 10 increased slightly
- 15 more than doubled

**Control** - Feasibility of effective long term control

- 0 None required, plant will lose vigor as succession proceeds
- 5 One time management application
- 10 Periodic management required (every 5-10 years)
- 15 Requires annual management
- 20 No feasible control option































