

# Invasive Plant Program

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



**Description:** Invasive plants are one of the major threats to the nation's forests and grasslands and have negative effects upon our economy, environment and human health. Invasive plants are recognized by the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters as a priority issue. Many non-governmental organizations and others are interested in addressing the issue, although efforts are fragmented.

## Key Issues:

- Limited availability of state and private forestry (S&PF) funding for this issue has resulted in a focus on education and outreach, stimulating others to establish control mechanisms through training, development of Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's), and providing information transfer and limited technical assistance through a minimal Northeastern Area (NA) infrastructure.
- Accurate plant distribution data, critical to successful invasive plant management, is often unavailable, incomplete, inaccurate, and scattered among a variety of sources.
- Chemical, mechanical, and biological control strategies are lacking for many new invasive plant species.

## Accomplishments:

- Provided funding to develop forestry best management practices to prevent introduction and movement of invasive plants.
- Provided funding for the Ohio Invasive Plant Council, Midwest Invasive Plant Network and Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council symposia.
- Supported the advancement of biological control agents of garlic mustard and mile-a-minute weed. Biological control agents for mile-a-minute weed are being disseminated to state agencies.
- The states of Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Pennsylvania received funds for direct control of invasive plants. Approximately 6,000 acres of invasive plants were treated in these states.
- Provided technical assistance to developing CWMA's in Ohio and Illinois.

## Budget History:

Invasive Plant Program (\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$455</b>	<b>\$350</b>	

## Future Direction:

- Promote localized cooperative weed management partnerships to facilitate more efficient use of partner resources, to provide more effective weed management and to establish local coordination for the implementation of control projects.
- Continue support of the development of biological control agents of selected, regionally important invasive plants.
- Promote and facilitate a process where invasive plant distribution data is available for the northeastern states.

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