

Assessing

MANAGEMENT BASED ON THE INVASION PROCESS

Prevention

PREVENTION is the most effective management strategy that can be employed to restrict invasion by a species. Prevention strategies are important at all levels: international, national, state, county, city, community, and individual.

Introduction Phase

If the EARLY DETECTION strategy is implemented, a plant population that is starting to invade a site may be detected and successfully *eradicated* through rapid response efforts. During the introduction phase, environmental factors may facilitate the establishment of invading plants.

Colonization Phase

As plant populations rapidly grow or colonize a site, eradication generally is no longer effective. Management should focus on the CONTROL of the colonized populations with *suppression* to reduce the populations and *containment* to prevent expansion. During the colonization phase, the invading plant's biological factors play an important role in the population's ability to successfully expand.

Naturalization Phase

As nonnative plant populations become naturalized, little can be done to manage these populations without expending massive amounts of resources. RESTORATION efforts may be appropriate on a smaller scale and in highly valuable areas.