



**USDA
Forest
Service**

Non-Native Invasive Plant Management on the Superior National Forest

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leafy spurge

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 watermilfoil, and common buckthorn.

Why are non-native invasive plants a problem?

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.



common tansy

What kind of problem does the Superior National Forest have?

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

What is the Superior National Forest doing about NNIP?

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:

Prevention

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 Japanese knotweed

Control and management

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

Rehabilitation and restoration

Developed native grass and wildflower seed mix from local seed sources



common
buckthorn



Canada thistle



aquatic habitat susceptible to NNIP



purple loosestrife pull



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).