

Characteristics of Invasive Plants

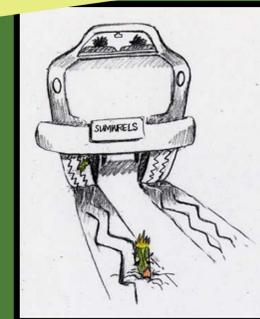
- **Grow rapidly**
- **Mature early and reproduce rapidly**
- **Effectively spread seeds that can lay dormant for a long time in the soil**
- **Produce dense shade, which suppresses growth of other plants**
- **Produce toxins, which suppress growth of other plants**
- **Find no natural enemies in new habitats**
- **Can easily hybridize or cross-pollinate**
- **Easily create monocultures**
- **Utilize large amounts of water and nutrients**
- **Cold or heat tolerant**



Human Accomplices

Invasive plants have special adaptations that allow them to takeover the landscape, and people unknowingly help these plants get a foothold. Disturbances such as road building, residential development, clearing for agriculture, and logging all increase the likelihood of an invasive plant being introduced and becoming established. Besides causing the initial disturbances, humans also smuggle the seeds of these fugitives into new areas purposely or accidentally.

SEEDY'S BIG ADVENTURE



From the Sketchbook of Mary Keefer Bloom

Invasive plants can be introduced in several ways:

- **Seed mixes**
- **Packaging material**
- **Ships or boat hulls**
- **Travel and trade**
- **Ornamentals in gardens**
- **Machinery**
- **Grazing**
- **Shoes and clothing**
- **Float planes**
- **Forest fires**
- **Dispersal by birds and wildlife**
- **Landscaping projects**