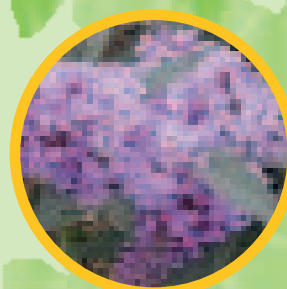


Invasive Plants

Are Spreading Throughout The World



Banana Poka (*Passiflora mollissima*)
 ORIGIN: Central and South America
 INVASIVE IN: Southern and Eastern Pacific
 Aggressive vine that smothers and competes with native plants.



Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
 ORIGIN: China
 INVASIVE IN: South Africa, British Isles, New Zealand, Australia, USA
 A seriously invasive plant and a particular threat in woodland areas and quickly establishes in disturbed areas — and is very difficult to remove.



Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)
 ORIGIN: Japan, Korea, Northern China, Taiwan
 INVASIVE IN: Australia, New Zealand, North America, Greenland, and throughout Europe
 A seriously invasive plant and a particular threat in wetland areas where it can survive floods and quickly establishes in disturbed areas — and is very difficult to remove. It causes physical damage to property and obstructs public access.



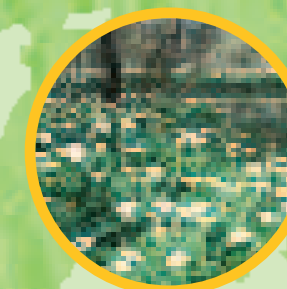
Scotch Broom, Spanish Broom (*Cytisus scoparius, Spartium junceum*)
 ORIGIN: Europe, Canary Islands
 INVASIVE IN: Chile, Brazil, India, Iran, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and North America
 It has overrun large areas of land used for recreation, forestry, pastures, orchards and invaded natural habitats displacing native species and is still spreading and unfortunately both plants are often sold in nurseries.



Pampas and Jubata Grass, (*Cortaderia selloana and C. jubata*)
 ORIGIN: Central and South America
 INVASIVE IN: Africa, Galápagos, New Zealand, Australia, USA, South Pacific Islands, India, Madagascar, South Asia, Southeast Asia
 This grass has become a popular landscape plant, it is seriously impacting ecosystems and displacing important flora with its aggressive spread in many parts of the world.



Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
 ORIGIN: Brazil
 INVASIVE IN: Africa (South and Namibia), India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, French Polynesia, USA, Australia
 This popular water garden plant infest various waterways the world over. It impedes river and lake transport, prevents fishing. It creates a habitat for hosts of human diseases like bilharzia and schistosomiasis.



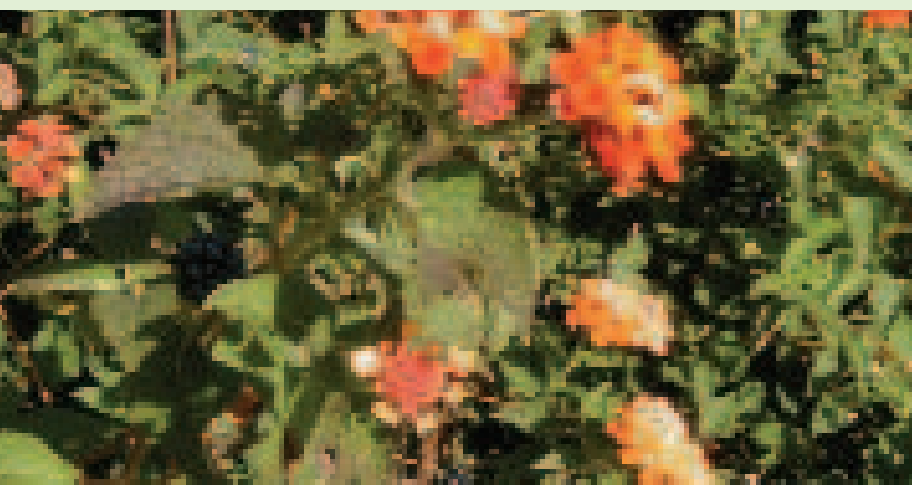
Cala Lily, Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)
 ORIGIN: Southern Africa
 INVASIVE IN: Australia, USA, South America, and many parts of Asia
 The Arum Lily is a popular ornamental, but when it escapes and spreads it competes with valuable perennial pasture plants on summer grazing lands.



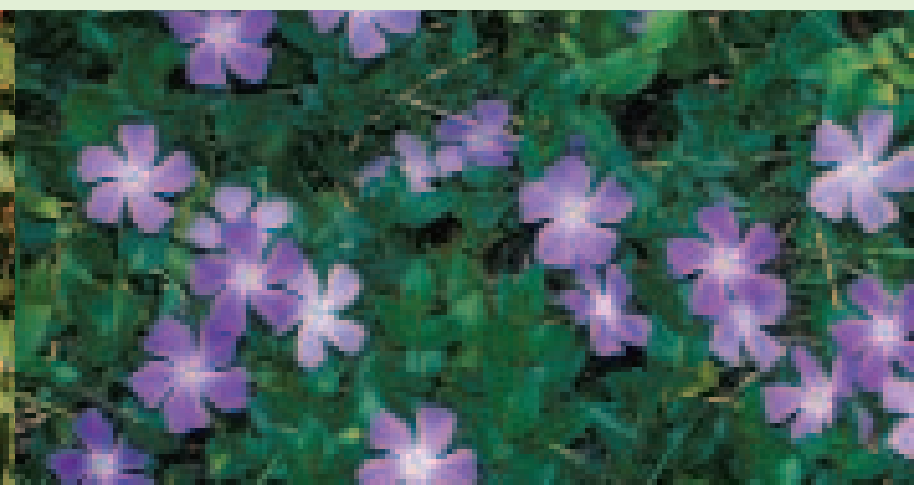
Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 ORIGIN: East Asia
 INVASIVE IN: Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, USA, South Africa, and South America
 A very invasive vine yet widely planted in schools, parks, roadsides, hotels, and housing complexes and can still be bought in most garden shops.



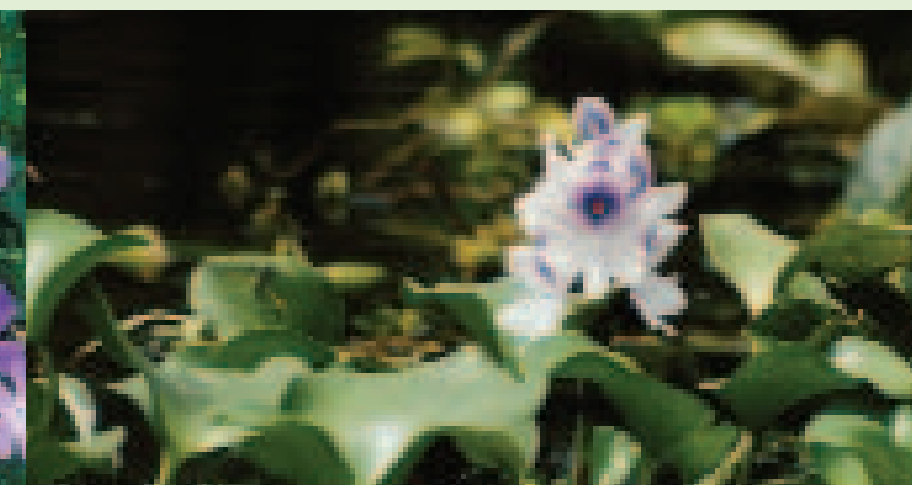
An invasive plant is one that is introduced and successfully reproduces resulting in the establishment of a population that spreads and threatens ecosystems, habitats or species with economic or environmental harm. Often called weeds when established they can result in harmful impacts to biodiversity, property and life.



Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
 ORIGIN: Central and South America
 INVASIVE IN: Africa, Galápagos, New Zealand, Australia, USA, Islands of the South Pacific, India, Madagascar, South Asia, Southeast Asia
 This popular plant is very invasive in forests, on farms and in disturbed areas in many parts of the world.



Bignonia Periwinkle (*Vinca minor and Vinca major*)
 ORIGIN: Mediterranean Europe and Madagascar
 INVASIVE IN: Africa, South America, Australia, North America
 Once planted — it takes over, spreading into woodlands and other areas.



Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
 ORIGIN: South America
 INVASIVE IN: Africa, Madagascar, Australia, Asia, North America and the Caribbean
 This South American native is one of the worst aquatic weeds in the world. It is a popular ornamental plant for ponds. It is now found in fifty countries on five continents. Infestations block waterways, limiting boat traffic, impacting wildlife and recreation. It causes fish kills, shading and crowding.



Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria L.*)
 ORIGIN: Eurasia
 INVASIVE IN: North America, Turkey, Eastern Africa, Australia and New Zealand
 Spreads from cultivation into wetlands where it totally replaces communities of native plants. Loosestrife has caused major problems and is a damaging plant in many temperate and sub tropical parts of the world. Despite its reputation as a wetland invader, it is still being sold as a flowering plant.



Strawberry or Pineapple Guava (*Psidium cattleianum, Psidium guajava*)
 ORIGIN: South America
 INVASIVE IN: Islands in the Indian Ocean, Galápagos, India, Islands of the South Pacific and North America
 Fruits are spread by birds, wildlife and feral pigs in most places. Dense shrubs overtake landscapes.

The Challenge

The spread of invasive plant species is creating complex and far-reaching challenges that threaten the natural biological riches of the earth and the well being of its citizens. While the problem is global, the nature and severity of the impacts on society, economies, health and natural heritage are distributed unevenly across nations and regions. Some problems require solutions tailored to the specific values, needs, and priorities of communities while others call for consolidated action by the global community.



Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) infests a village in Benin, West Africa, blocking waterways, reducing local biodiversity and creating intensive task of clearing for local people.

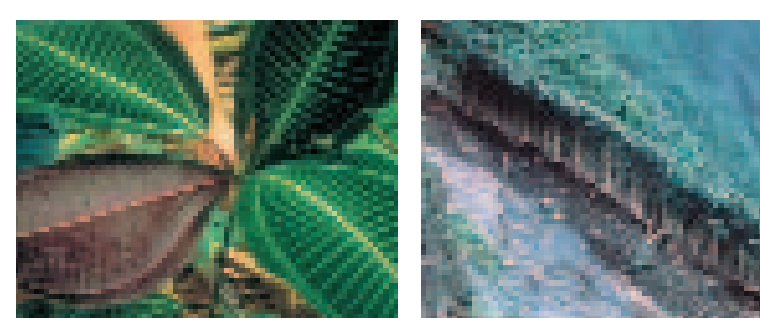
The magnitude of spread of alien species of plants is the greatest it has ever been and has promoted dispersal of species that tend to have aggressive tendencies in new locations.

Invasive plants are one of the most serious drivers of environmental change globally characteristics that promote many troublesome plants as invaders include adaptability, prolific fruiting and aggressive vegetative growth.

Many introduced species of plants are harmless and pose no threat, bringing richness to our everyday lives. However, there are quite a few that can cause havoc for many natural systems, human and animal health, commerce, and agriculture.

Prevention and early detection are the most cost effective techniques that can be used to avoid the problems caused by invasive plants.

The impacts of invasive plant species can occur at times and places far removed from the place they were first introduced seeds and plants may be dispersed far and wide by wind, water, vehicles, animals, birds and of course, people.



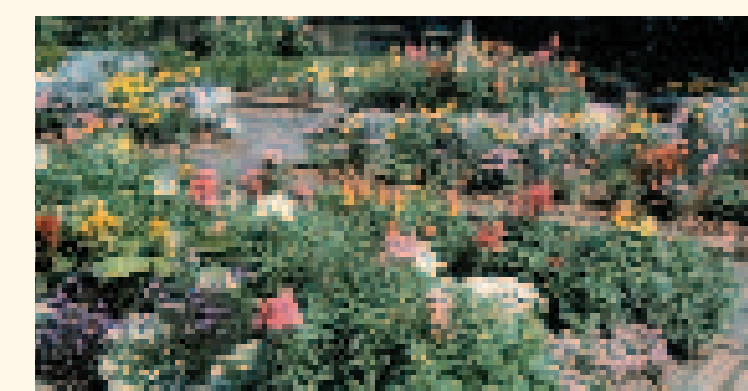
Miconia or Velvet Tree (*Miconia calvescens*) Origin: Central and South America. Invasive in: Sri Lanka, French Polynesia Hawaii, Australia, Jamaica. The velvet tree crowds native plants and causes mountain landslides when thin topsoil supporting the plant becomes unstable.

What Can Happen?
 Invasive plants are usually hardy species that are introduced from their native habitat into a new area. Free from their natural insect enemies and diseases, they thrive unchecked, often escaping from landscapes to spread into surrounding areas upsetting the balance of ecosystems.

Invasive plants are serious competitors with native plants, often crowding and taking over entire landscapes. These new invaders may degrade soil and water resources by increasing erosion, surface runoff, and stream sedimentation.

You Can Make A Difference!

For more information and to find support and resources for the best management practices in your region of the world, contact the Global Invasive Species Programme on the web at www.gisp.org



Gardening is an important and popular pastime around the world, and with a little awareness, it can be beneficial rather than harmful to the incredible range of natural environments.

What Can You Do?
 Seek out information on which species are a problem in your area.

Information sources include botanical gardens, garden shops and nurseries, horticulturalists, environmental groups, conservationists and government agencies, such as departments and ministries of agriculture and the environment. Experts are available in many countries and regions around the world.

Talk to your garden professionals about which plants are environmentally safe for gardens. Promote landscape design and plantings that are friendly to your environment and your neighbors.

Once you are in the know, remove invasive plants from your land and replace them with alternative non-invasive plants suited to your site and needs. Removal methods may include physical, chemical, biological and environmental management control, consult your local professionals for the safest and best method for your area.

Consider planting local native plants in your garden. There are many alternative plants at nurseries in your area that are beautiful and do not cause harm to agriculture or the environment!