INVASIVE Plant Management

We ARE at war. We ARE at war. We ARE at war.

You CAN'T Hide…

ARM YOURSELVES

Education
• Know the enemy-
  IDENTIFICATION

Education
• Know the enemy-
  EDUCATION
  LIFE CYCLE
Invasive Plant Characteristics

- Early colonizers
- Reproduce vegetatively and by seed
- Produce large amounts of seed
- Very shade tolerant
- Extremely fast growth rate
- Extremely adaptable – soil, moisture, sunlight
- Most have all the attributes of 1 gigantic organism AND all the attributes of thousands (or more) individuals.

Education + Observation = PREVENTION

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PLAN TO MANAGE

• Education
• Observation (monitoring)
• Containment
• Eradication
• Re-abilitation

Management Strategies

• PREVENTION
  – Clean ALL off-site equipment at a central location. Especially parts that contact soil, also screens on tractors, skidders, etc.
    • Utility contractors- electric, phone, road
    • Tree planters, loggers, site prep machinery
    • Fire break plows
    • Road graders
  – Approve ALL material from off-site:
    • Top soil
    • Fill dirt
    • Gravel
    • Pine straw
    • Tree seedlings

Prevention, con’t

• BEFORE contractors move onto your property- ask where they were working previous to your property.

• Monitor ALL disturbed sites intensively for invasives

Chinese tallow from R.O.W. side trimming mulch spread under R.O.W.
Management Strategies

- CONTAINMENT - "a line in the sand"
  - STOP the spread of an infestation beyond its current location.
  - A given infestation is not permitted to enlarge.
  - The number of infested sites on a property is not permitted to increase.

Containment Methods

- DO NOT CULTIVATE INFESTED SITES (food plots, fire breaks or landowner freakout).
- DO NOT MOW INFESTED SITES during bloom.
- SANITATION-clean equipment used in or near infestations PRIOR to entering un-infested sites.
- Aggressively treat perimeters with best herbicide treatment:
  - HERBICIDE SELECTION (what)
  - APPLICATION RATE (how much)
  - APPLICATION METHOD (how)
  - TREATMENT TIMING (when)

Management Strategies

Infestation MAPPING

- Mark EVERY known infestation on a map or by physically marking it in the field.
- SEARCH for "satellite" infestations within 200 yards of known infestations until an un-infested buffer of 200 yds is achieved.
- Don’t guess- get out of the truck and look.
- Mark the perimeter of EVERY isolated infestation over 50’ in diameter.
IMPORTANCE of Mapping

- Necessary to assess control and to look for escapes.
- Usually will monitor for a minimum of 3 years following “eradication” – mapping or field marking permit looking in the right spots.

Management Strategies

Infestation MAPPING

Field Markers MUST be easily visible the following year.

Don’t use markers that will BURN or discolor easily.

Eradication/Suppression

- Is achieved through the integrated use of ALL available cultural practices with the timely and accurate application of appropriate herbicide treatment(s).
  - Prescribed fire
  - Mechanical disturbances (mowing, chopping)
  - Cultivation (discing, plowing)
  - TIME

Eradication/Suppression

- Use everything in concert to create the optimum conditions for maximum herbicidal effectiveness.
- The first shot is usually the best—don’t blow it. Botched herbicide applications result in fragmentation—lots of little infestations.
Rehabilitation/Restoration

- Establish a fast growing (native) plant to shade the ground- minimize potential for re-infestation from latent seed.
- Should not be attempted until reasonable control is confirmed (90+%).
- Intensively monitor for 12 – 18 months.

Rehabilitation/Restoration

- Adjust monitoring interval to invasive recurrence rate.