KEEP A LOOK OUT!
for NEW INVASIVE PLANTS in the Northern Great Plains

RIPARIAN & MESIC AREAS

The maps show current reported distribution in the Northern Great Plains.  □ Not reported  ▪ Present
To report new infestations of these and other invasive species, go to EDDMAPS.org/mrwc/.  See reverse side for species descriptions.
**New INVASIVE PLANTS in the Northern Great Plains**

**Riparian and mesic areas**

**TREE OF HEAVEN (Ailanthus altissima)**
Deciduous tree grows to 80’ on a 1-2’ diameter trunk. Bark is pale gray. Large, alternate, pinnately compound leaves grow 1-4’ long, and are composed of 11-25 leaflets with 1 or more glandular teeth near the leaf base. Small, yellow-green flowers have 5-6 petals and form in dense, terminal inflorescences. Numerous papery samaras (dry, winged fruit) form on female trees. Samaras are yellow to red then turn tan at maturation and may persist on tree through winter. Crushed leaves and pith have a rancid peanut butter smell. Threatens fields, woodland edges, and forest openings.

**GARLIC MUSTARD (Alliaria petiolata)**
Herbaceous biennial grows 2-4’ tall. First-year rosette remains green through winter. Basal leaves are dark green, heart-shaped, with large teeth. Stem leaves are alternate, triangular, large-toothed, and grow 2-3’ across. Fresh leaves have a strong garlic smell when crushed. Abundant, small, white, 4-petaled flowers bloom throughout spring. Numerous, small, dark seeds form in long, slender capsules, up to 3,000 seeds per plant. Threatens forests and savannas.

**GIANT REED (Arundo donax)**
9-30’ bamboo-like perennial grass. Multiple stems grow in clumps, forming large colonies. Gray to yellowish green stems tough, hollow, round 1” cross section, solid joints every 1 to 8”. Alternate, lanceolate, hairless leaves grow 1.5-2.5’ long and line stem with a conspicuous white, 1-4” base. Terminal, erect, cream to brown flowerhead grows to 3’ tall. Does not produce viable seed, spreads by tuberous rhizomes. Threatens forest margins and river valleys.

**GIANT HOGWEED (Heracleum mantegazzianum)**
Large perennial herb, flowers once then dies. A single basal leaf grows the first year, then grows a larger rosette each year. In 4th or 5th year plant produces a 7-15’ tall flower stalk. Leaves 3-part compound, 1-4’ wide, deeply incised and pointed. Flowers white in multiple broad-domed umbels, up to 2.5’ in diameter. Flower stalk hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple splotching. Looks similar to cow parsnip but is larger, has more deeply incised leaves, and red splotching on flower stalk. Threatens river corridors and woodland edges. Closest reported location to the northern Great Plains is in Minnesota. **Caution! Plant sap causes severe burns when sap on skin is exposed to sunlight.**

**YELLOW IRIS (Iris pseudacorus)**
Perennial herb that grows in thickets. Stout rhizome, 0.4-1.6” diameter. Leaves rise 3-4’ in a fan shape. Individual leaves flattened, sword-shaped with a raised midrib and pointed ends. Flowering stem is leafless, round, often branched, 3-4’ tall. Showy, yellow flowers have 3 smaller, erect petals and 3 larger, outward-curving sepals with purple or brown flecks. Glossy green seed pods grow to 4’ and contain numerous flattened brown seeds. Spreads by rhizome and seed. Threatens riparian areas and wetlands.

**PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED (Lepidium latifolium)**
Multi-stemmed perennial forb grows 3-8’ tall, though initially forms as rosette. Lanceolate, bright green to gray green leaves grow to 1’ long at plant base with leaf size decreasing up the stem. Dense clusters of very small, 4-petaled white flowers form near stem tips early summer to fall. Seed pod is 2-chambered and slightly flattened. Semi-woody stem base leads to a woody root crown. Dead stems can persist for several years. Plant has a horseradish odor. Threatens wetlands, marshes, and floodplains.

**JAPANESE & GIANT KNOTWEEDS (Polygonum cuspidatum/P. sachalinense)** Perennial herb with shrub-like form grows 3-9’. Stem hollow, bamboo-like with swollen leaf joints. Leaves 6” long, 3-4” wide, leaf base straight across to bluntly right angled. Flowers white to pink and densely crowded on erect stalks. Threatens riparian corridors, fens, springs, ravines, forests, and stream sides.

**KUDZU (Pueraria montana var. lobata)**
Semi-woody, perennial vine climbs 30-90’. Leaves alternate, compound with 3 unlobed to deeply lobed leaflets, hairy beneath and up to 4” wide. Flowers purple, pea-like, grow from leaf axils in long hanging clusters, bloom in late summer. Seedpods brown, flattened and hairy. Threatens forest edges, woodlands, and savannas.

**COMMON BUCKTHORN (Rhamnus cathartica)**
Multi-stemmed shrub grows 20-25’ tall. Gray to brown bark has prominent light flecks with an orange cambium (inner) layer. Blunt thorns form at branch tips. Ovate to elliptic leaves are opposite or sub-opposite, 1-2.5” long, and have prominent veins and tiny teeth. Small, fragrant, greenish-yellow, 4-petaled flowers form in leaf axils. Black, pea-sized fruit form in abundant clusters. Threatens forests and prairies.

Map distribution data obtained from the Biota of North America Program (http://bonap.org), the Black Hills Herbarium (http://herbarium.bhsu.edu), EDDMaps.org, the National Park Service, the Northern Prairie Herbarium (http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/herbar/), the Nebraska Invasive Species Project (http://neinvasives.com), the Rocky Mountain Herbarium (http://www.mnh.uwyo.edu), and the Wyoming Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (http://www.uwyo.edu/capsweb/).

For control & management of these species, please visit http://mipcontroldatabase.wisc.edu & http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact.htm

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