

### Outline

- Invasive Exotic Plant Species, what they are, associated problems
- Current methods of control
- Challenges associated with control
- Future outlook

# **Exotic Invasive Plants?**

- Non-native plants that out-compete native vegetation
- Have the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside natural range
- Lack of any native biological control (insects, diseases, foraging animals)

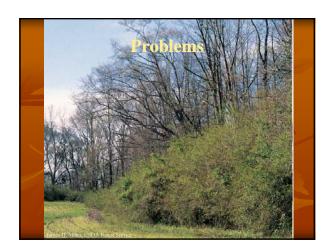












Metr	ods of	Control	
<ul><li>Prevention</li></ul>			
<ul><li>Mechanical</li></ul>			
■ Chemical			
<ul><li>Biological</li></ul>			

### **Prevention**

- Stopping it before it starts
- Washing equipment
- Using clean seed, mulch, soil, etc.
- Killing plants before they become established
- Can be very difficult

# Mechanical Pulling weeds Mowing/cutting Burning Can be expensive for large areas



# **Biological**

- Not used very often
- Can cause new exotics to be introduced
- Not always effective
- Expensive to develop
- Slow to work

# Why are they so hard to Control? Plant Side

- The nature of the plant
  - High plasticity
  - Aggressive
  - Rapid growth
- Seeds
  - dispersal
  - seedbed



## Why are they so hard to Control? Human Side

- Lack of knowledge
- Failure to care
- Neighbors
- MONEY



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### **Future outlook**

- Exotics are here to stay
- Best case scenario = suppression



### Sources

- The United States National Arboretum <a href="http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.h">http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.h</a> <a href="mailto:tml">tml</a>
- Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/hehe1. htm

