

Horticultural Invasives Prevention: A look back, a look ahead

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About AmericanHort

- Launched January, 2014
- Consolidation of American Nursery & Landscape Assn, OFA-The Association of Horticulture Professionals
- Legacy of 220 years of service
- Complementary programs, memberships
- Columbus headquarters for admin and member services
- Washington, DC office for advocacy and research

How you see the stage...

- “A victim and a vector”
- Stewardship ethic
- Right Plant, Right Place
- Trends in new introductions

“Under the Plant Health Microscope”

- Federal rules governing int'l, some interstate commerce
- State licensing, inspection, certification
- Many cooperative programs



An Observation (Or Two)

- Room for several approaches
- Each has its place, and limits

The St. Louis Declaration

(Dec. 2001)

- Center for Plant Conservation, Missouri Botanical Garden
- Government, Nursery Industry, Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, Landscape Architects, Gardening Public
- Findings, Principles, Voluntary Codes of Conduct

Voluntary Codes -- Nursery Professionals

- Ensure that invasive potential is assessed prior to introducing and marketing plant species new to North America.
- Work with regional experts and stakeholders to determine invasive or likely invasive plants and alternatives.
- Develop and promote alternative plant material through plant selection and breeding.
- Where stakeholder agreement has been reached, phase out existing stocks of those invasive species
- Follow all laws on importation and quarantine of plant materials across political boundaries.
- Encourage customers to use, and garden writers to promote, non-invasive plants.

A Decade in Review

- Codes generated and guided much discussion and debate
- Regulatory and non-regulatory approaches taken shape in many places
- Consensus around an assessment tool has been a work in progress
- And...

The Great Recession



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Impact on Horticulture

- 20 – 25% reduction in sales of trees and shrubs (2012 vs. 2007 Ag Census)
- Reductions in other categories
- Business attrition
- Demographic shifts
- “The New Normal”

Voluntary Efforts: Breaking New Ground

- Pre-screening is the “Holy Grail”
- Various efforts, models world-wide and in U.S. (e.g. APHIS)
- Our current focus is on California-Horticultural Invasives Prevention (Cal-HIP) “Plant-Right” effort
 - Consensus-based stakeholder effort
 - Goal: clear, straightforward tool for voluntary application

Plant-Right Plant Risk Evaluation (PRE) Tool

- First developed 2008, fine-tuned since
- Can screen at plant species and cultivar levels
- 98% accuracy for predicting invasive behavior (CA)
- 95% accuracy for predicting non-invasive behavior (CA)
- Evaluation in other regions (Midwest, Northeast, South) being initiated

PRE Potential Benefits

- Identify problematic characteristics early (before too much investment)
- Avoid lengthy delays (~2 hour process)
- Voluntary process that may lend itself to certification programs

Other Initiatives

- “Systems Approach to Nursery Certification”
- Preparing to pilot in collaboration with National Plant Board, APHIS
- Critical Control Points
- Integrated measures
- It starts with a Standard

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Standard

To Participate You
Must Address XYZ

2

Application for Designation

To Participate We Will
Address XYZ

3

Pest Management Plan (Operation Manual)

Describes How We Will
Address XYZ

4

Records

Confirm That We Are
Doing XYZ as
Described in PMP

5

Audits

Evaluates Records
and Confirms that
PMP is Being Adhered
to.

It all boils down to RISK MANAGEMENT

- **Prevent problems coming in**
- **Monitor and scout crops for issues**
- **Accurately diagnose pests/diseases**
- **Treat problems as appropriate**
- **Avoid shipping pests/diseases**



(Any Questions?)