

Vocabulary

adaptation – The adjustment or changes in behavior, physiology, and structure of an organism to become more suited to an environment.

allelopathy - the process through which some plants out-compete other species by poisoning their environment with a chemical that inhibits the growth of other plants.

biodiversity – a measure of the variety, complexity, and relative abundance of plants and animal species present and interacting in an ecosystem, and the natural processes that support them; generally, a biodiverse ecosystem is thought to be a more natural and healthier ecosystem.

biological control - controlling weeds through the introduction of a host-specific agent, or organism that only attack the plants targeted for control.

carrying capacity – the maximum number of individuals of a species a given area can sustainably support over time.

chemical control - the use of chemicals (herbicides) to control plants.

cultural control - controlling invasive plants through the use of tilling, planting competitive vegetation, fertilizing, crop rotation, etc.

ecosystem – system formed by the relationships between organisms and with non-living features of their environment.

exponential growth – rapidly becoming greater in size.

fire regime – the pattern that fire follows in a particular ecosystem.

herbicide - a chemical preparation designed to kill or inhibit the growth of plants.

herbicide resistance – the ability of a species to survive and reproduce following exposure to a dose of herbicide normally lethal to organisms of that species.

Integrated Weed Management (IWM) - the use of chemical, mechanical, cultural, and biological control methods in combination to manage weeds, including invasive plants.

invasive plant – a non-native species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human, animal, or plant health.

limiting resources – factors present in an environment that controls a process, particularly the growth, abundance, or distribution of a population of organisms in an ecosystem.

mechanical control – any physical activity to remove invasive plants; includes pulling by hand, grazing, controlled burns, removal with weed eaters, chainsaws, mowing, etc.

native plants – species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

non-native plants - plants that have been introduced, intentionally or unintentionally, into a habitat.

noxious weeds – “any living stage (including seeds and reproductive parts) of a parasitic or other plant of a kind which is of foreign origin, is new to or not widely prevalent in the U.S., and can directly or indirectly injure crops, other useful plants, livestock, poultry or other interests of agriculture, including irrigation, navigation, fish and wildlife resources, or the public health.”

- from Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974.

population density – number of individuals in a population relative to space.

prevention - measures taken to keep invasive plants from entering and growing in a new area. This is the ideal method of controlling invasive plant species.

seedbank – comprised of seeds a plant produces for reproduction in the future.

trophic levels – classification of organisms according to their feeding relationships.

weed – any plant growing where it is not wanted; can be native or non-native.