

The Landscape Approach to IVS Early Detection and Rapid Response - A Land Conservation Challenge for the 21st Century

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To date, weed geographer Rod Randall from Western Australia has documented over **36,502** species of invasive plants around the world. Of this total, biogeographer John Kartesz from North Carolina has documented over 1,300 introduced invasive plant species in the United States. *Do you know how many introduced invasive plants already occur in your country or region?*

Considering the ecological and economic impacts that we are already seeing from introduced invasive species (IVS), it is imperative that we take steps now to protect future generations, native ecosystems, and agricultural production systems from this *human induced biological tsunami*. This can be done by strengthening our current IVS management systems [i.e., Foreign Pest Prevention and Exclusion, Single Agency-led Pest Eradication Programs (EDRR 1.0), Interagency Councils and IVS Task Forces (EDRR 2.0), and Long Term Control], and by encouraging IVS land conservation practices at the local level.



In light of current global economic conditions, and agency budget limitations in most countries, it is only prudent that local landowners and managers take steps *now* to protect their own natural and managed resources from all types of introduced invasive species, *regardless of whether they are regulated or not*. The Landscape Approach to EDRR – which involves development of EDRR capacity at all levels of the landscape is one such strategy (EDRR 3.0).

From a societal standpoint, due to accelerating global climate change and increased global trade and travel, it is inevitable that the impacts of invasive species on food security, human health, and biodiversity will continue to increase unless steps are taken now to minimize their *introduction, establishment, and spread*. Development of EDRR capacity at the local level is the best way that land owners and managers can assist in meeting this land conservation challenge.

For more information about the *Landscape Approach to EDRR* and how it might be used to protect your lands and waters from introduced invasive species, contact Randy Westbrooks (rwestbrooks@intrstar.net) or Steven Manning (stevemanning@mindspring.com) with **Invasive Plant Control, Inc.**

Partnerships Now! Weeds Won't Wait!
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