LESSON 3: WEEDS GONE WILD

Duration:

One 45-minute class period

Objectives:

- Sort information to discern relevant details.
- Summarize major points of a reading selection.
- Clearly describe major points of a reading selection.

Prepare in advance:

- Handout 1—one copy (Weeds Gone Wild brochure) per student
- Overhead transparency of "Contrasting Types of Information"

Materials:

- colored pencils or crayons
- overhead projector
- red, green, and blue overhead markers for teacher use

Description:

- Students learn to differentiate types of information in a brochure.
- Students read about invasive plants and then write a summary.

Instructional sequence:

(5-10 minutes)

- **Instruct** students to skim the Weeds Gone Wild brochure, then
  - Circle in red: the description of the Web site;
  - Circle in blue: the list of exotic invasive plants; and
  - Circle in green: the description of the Weeds Gone Wild project.

(5-10 minutes)

- **Contrast** the difference between information specifically about exotic invasive species and information about the project itself. Use the "Contrasting Types of Information" overhead transparency to help students clarify which information is relevant for a summary of information regarding the threat of exotic invasive plants.
- **Lead** a brief discussion about summarizing the brochure.

- For example: Does the description of the Website have information in it that you would use to inform someone about the threat of exotic invasive plants? Why or why not?
- For example: Does the explanation of the project itself have information in it that you would use to **d*escribe*** the threat of exotic invasive plants? Why? Why not?

(10-20 minutes)

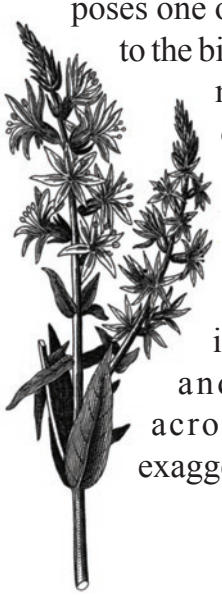
- **Instruct** students to read the brochure, paying close attention to information they can use to tell someone else about the threat of exotic invasive plant species; then write a one-two paragraph summary of the key points. Students should clearly describe the main message of the reading selection.

Source:
Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas; online at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/index.htm>, accessed 10/26/05

Weeds Gone Wild

Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

Legions of alien invaders are silently creeping into the United States and taking over our native plants and animals at an alarming rate. Does this sound like a plot lifted from X-Files or Star Trek? Unfortunately, the story is not science fiction. Invasive weeds are taking over public lands at the rate of 4,300 acres a day according to one source! With growth like this, it's not surprising that this tide of invaders poses one of the greatest threats to the biological diversity and natural ecosystems of the United States, next to direct habitat destruction. So, to say that a war is being waged against invasive alien plant and animal species across the U.S. is no exaggeration!



http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/

Weeds Gone Wild:
Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas
is a project of the Alien Plant Working Group (APWG), a subcommittee of the Plant Conservation Alliance. It is a cooperative effort intended to provide educational materials on the threat posed by invasive exotic plants to the native flora, fauna, and ecosystems of the United States. Additional fact sheet authors are needed, please contact the Chair of the APWG at: jil_swearingen@nps.gov for more information.

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Weeds Gone Wild

Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

Alien plants are those introduced by people into an area where they have never occurred before naturally. They are also known as exotic, non-indigenous, and non-native. Over eleven hundred plant species have been identified as threats to our native flora and fauna because of their aggressive, invasive characteristics. Invasive plants are species that reproduce rapidly and produce abundantly. Their phenomenal growth allows them to overwhelm and displace existing native plants by reducing the availability of light, water, nutrients and space available. Invasive plants can be found on land and in water.

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a website dedicated to educating the general public, natural resource managers, and others on the threats posed by invasive plant species. Moderately technical fact sheets include photos, plant descriptions, ecological threat, U.S. distribution and habitat, methods of reproduction and spread, management options, expert contacts, suggestions for native plants and non-invasive substitutes for landscaping, and references. A comprehensive list of invasive plants affecting natural areas in the U.S., links to over 100 relevant organizations, a section on exotic invasives in the news, a printable calendar, a meetings & events calendar and other information can also be found on the site. Keep visiting -- new fact sheets and other information will be continually added to the website!

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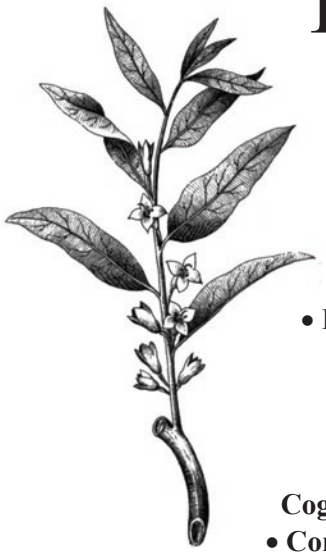
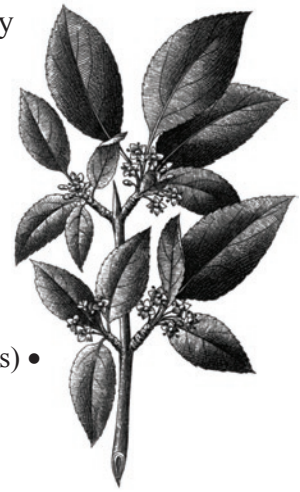


The fifty-four plant invaders with fact sheets currently available on the site are:



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Weeds Gone Wild

Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

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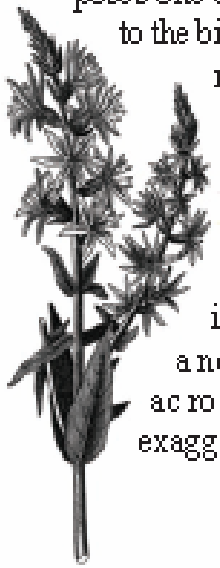

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Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

Lesson 3: Transparency on "Contrasting Types of Information"

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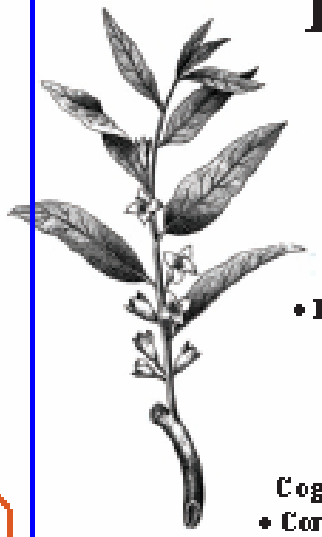

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