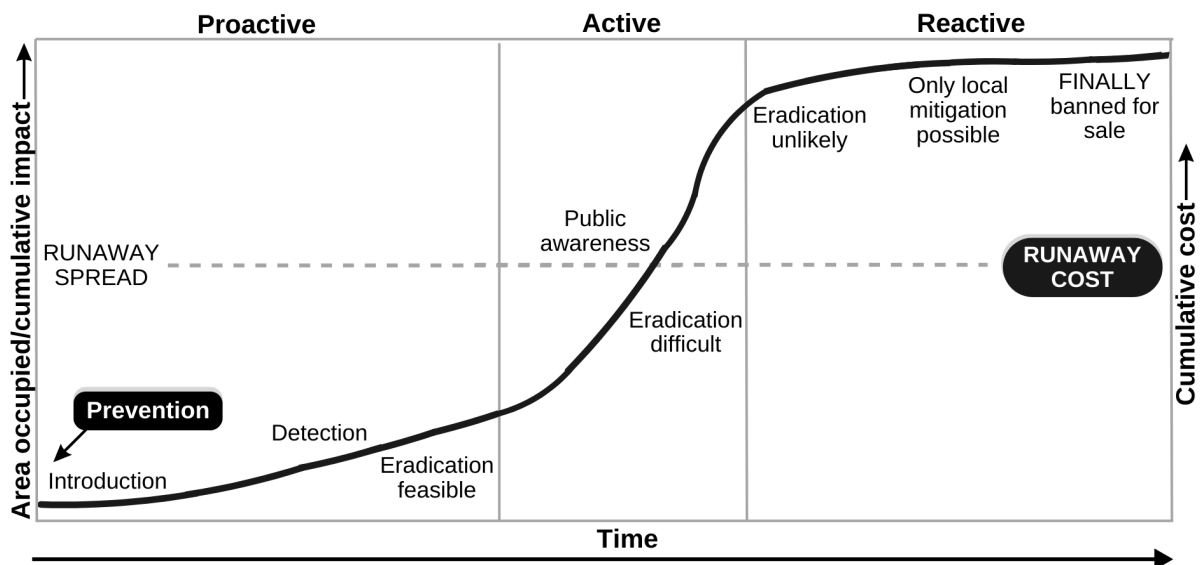


Foresters: Allies in the fight against invasive plants

- **Invasive plants are causing major and costly damage to forested areas** across much of southern Ontario and in urban natural areas in some northern Ontario cities.
- **Policies, regulations, and resourcing at all levels of government are inadequate**—failing to prevent invasive plants from entering Canada through garden/pet/aquarium trade or e-commerce.
- **Invasive plants can disrupt ecosystems on a broad scale.** A U.S. study published in 2023 showed that 70% of U.S. eastern national parks included in the study had imminent or probable regeneration failure (with white-tailed deer being another key factor).
- While most of northern Ontario's landscape is mostly free of invasive plants, **this is more due to it being at the beginning of the invasion curve** (see below) than being immune to invasion. Climate change will further disrupt ecosystems including favouring many invasives—far better to recognize risks and try to reduce risk of introducing new species.
- **Forestry operations (and any human activity in forests) can introduce non-native/invasive plants to new locations**, but steps can be taken to reduce those risks (see reading list on back).
- **Forestry professionals can play a key role in preventing invasive species (in addition to taking care in operations), via:**
 - a. **Educating** others in their organization and partners/stakeholders about the importance of preventing spread of invasives and encouraging planting of native species.
 - b. **Influencing** family, friends, and their communities to learn about invasive plants, to not share or move them, to remove them, and to grow more native plants.
 - c. **Signing on as supporters of the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation** (ccipr.ca) and asking their employers to do likewise.
 - d. **Advocating** for governments at all levels to address inconsistencies/shortfalls in policies and regulations and resource prevention, management, and education (FYI, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council has only two staff members and has had major reductions in funding).

Plant Invasion Curve



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Flip for reading list

Forestry/invasive plants reading list

- **Overabundant deer and invasive plants drive widespread regeneration debt in eastern United States national parks:** <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/eap.2837>.
- **Assessing the relative importance of human and spatial pressures on non-native plant establishment in urban forests using citizen science:** <https://neobiota.pensoft.net/article/65415/>.*
- **Invasive species drive cross-ecosystem effects worldwide:** <https://phys.org/news/2024-04-impacts-invasive-species-transcend-ecosystem.html>.
- **Economic impacts of invasive species to Canada's forest sector:** https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ForestImpactFactSheet_FINAL.pdf.
- **A review of the impacts and management of invasive plants in forestry:** <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/10.1079/cabireviews.2023.0034>.*
- **Clean equipment protocol for industry: Inspecting and clean equipment for the purposes of invasive species prevention:** https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Clean-Equipment-Protocol_June2016_D3_WEB-1.pdf.
- **Investing in prevention: Invasive species and stages of management:** <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/learn/invasion-curve/>.
- **A guide to the identification and control of exotic invasive species in Ontario's hardwood forests:** <https://afm.qc.ca/docs/Guidebook-Id%20&%20Control%20of%20Exotic%20Invasive%20species%20in%20Ont.%20SRI-2013.pdf>.
- **Managing exotic invasive species in Ontario's hardwood forests: how landowners and woodlot managers can protect their forest ecosystems:** <https://www.silviculturemagazine.com/articles/summer-2013/managing-exotic-invasive-species-ontario-s-hardwood-forests-how-landowners-and->
- **A landowner's guide to managing and controlling invasive plants in Ontario:** https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/35266_LandOwnerGuide_June262013_FINAL_WEB.pdf.
- **Forestry operations factsheet:** https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Forestry_OperationsFINAL_04_24_2019.pdf.
- **Invasive species and forestry: Preventing the spread of invasive species during forest management activity. A pocket guide for British Columbia's forest workers:** <https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/BMP-Forest-Management-Activities-2024-1.pdf>.
- **Reducing the sales of invasive plants in Canada:** <https://ccipr.ca/publications/>.
- **Value-for-money audit: Management of invasive species:** <https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/reporttopics/environment.html>.



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