



ALASKA INVASIVE SPECIES  
AWARENESS WEEK  
SECOND FULL WEEK OF JUNE

**Alaska Invasive Species Awareness Week** is an annual event focused on empowering Alaskans to learn about and prevent the spread of invasive species. **ANYONE** can participate!

**How Alaska Invasive Species Awareness Week is celebrated across Alaska:**

- ➔ The Governor issues a proclamation recognizing invasive species as a state-wide issue with the potential to affect all Alaskans
- ➔ AKISP members host in-person and virtual events across the state
- ➔ AKISP members reach out to the public via social media, educational fliers, and public service announcements



*Volunteers and AKISP partners pulled over 100 pounds of invasive bird vetch from the grounds of Seward Middle School during a 2022 Alaska Invasive Species Awareness Week event. Credit: M. Schumacher*

[www.alaskainvasives.org](http://www.alaskainvasives.org)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

We need **YOUR HELP** to protect Alaska from harmful invasive species.

Here are some things you can do:

- ➔ **Report** invasive species via the Alaska Invasive Species Hotline

**1-877-INVASIV**

- ➔ **Download** the Alaska Invasives ID App to your phone



- ➔ **Participate** in community efforts to control invasive species

- ➔ **Prevent** the spread of invasive species by cleaning all your gear and outdoor equipment

- ➔ **Learn** about the invasive species present in your community

- ➔ **Join** the AKISP Listserv to receive biannual newsletters with updates on invasive species issues in Alaska. Visit [alaskainvasives.org](http://alaskainvasives.org) and click "Subscribe"!

 [facebook.com/AlaskaInvasives](https://facebook.com/AlaskaInvasives)



**Let's Keep Alaska  
Wild and Free From  
Invasive Species!**



**ALASKA INVASIVE SPECIES PARTNERSHIP**



**INVASIVE SPECIES** are any species not native to a particular place and cause harm to **humans**, the **environment**, or the **economy**.

### WHO WE ARE

The Alaska Invasive Species Partnership (AKISP) is a group of diverse stakeholders working together to provide statewide leadership to prevent, detect, and manage invasive species in Alaska. Members of AKISP include state, federal and tribal agencies as well as local governmental and non-governmental entities, industry, and private stakeholders.

Alaskans depend on natural resources for food, work, and fun. **INVASIVE SPECIES** threaten resources that are fundamental to life in Alaska.

### WHAT WE DO

We facilitate collaboration and foster awareness by providing forums for the exchange of scientific and technical information; coordinating outreach campaigns; and providing credible, unbiased scientific information to promote better management decisions.

# KEEPING ALASKA FREE FROM INVASIVE SPECIES MATTERS!

Alaska's ecosystems are threatened by a variety of invasive species. The following are just a few to be on the lookout for:

## EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB



European green crab are distinguished by five points on each side of the top shell. Credit: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Discovered in Southeast Alaska for the first time in 2022
- Feeds on many organisms, including clams, oysters, mussels, juvenile crabs, and shellfish
- Shell color can vary from green, yellow, brown, or grey
- Degrades habitat severely in Pacific Northwest estuaries and coastal areas, resulting in the loss of healthy habitat for many marine species

## EUROPEAN BIRD CHERRY

- Planted as an ornamental tree in Alaska since the mid-1900s
- Found throughout much of Alaska, including the Pacific-Maritime and the Interior-Boreal regions
- Spreads rapidly via bird droppings and root suckers, making populations difficult to monitor
- Crowds out native vegetation, disrupts aquatic food webs, poisonous to moose



European bird cherry trees flaunt bright white flowers in early summer and often keep their leaves long into the fall. Credit: Bruns Pflanzen

## ELODEA

- Discovered in Cordova in the early 1980s, it is the first and only non-native aquatic plant known to exist in Alaska
- Elodea can now be found in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, the Copper River Delta, and the Interior
- Degrades native fish habitat, spreads rapidly via plant fragments, easily transported by watercraft



Elodea is bright green in color and grows in dense mats with leaves arranged in whorls of three, packed along the stem. Credit: D. Coleman

## CREEPING THISTLE



Flowers of creeping thistle are bright purple; its "creeping" root system allows it to spread horizontally. Credit: J. Chauvet

- Arrived in Alaska in the mid-1950s as an agricultural pest
- Poses a threat to intact ecosystems by displacing native vegetation
- Impacts outdoor recreation opportunities, harmful to pets and livestock
- Classified as a noxious weed by the State of Alaska

## NORWAY RAT

- Arrived in Alaska in the early 1800s as "stowaways" on ships
- Have spread to many islands along the Aleutian Chain, as well as into the communities of Southeast Alaska, Fairbanks, and Nome
- Transmits diseases, consumes native seabirds and their eggs, and damages crops and structures



The Norway rat has dark grey to brown fur, lacking fur on its tail. It can be distinguished from the muskrat by its smaller size. Credit: Dunpharlain