



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

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Support Alaska's fish and wildlife by doing **your part** to help stop the introduction and spread of invasive species.

- **Report** invasive species to the Alaska Invasive Species Hotline



1-877-INVASIV

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=invasivespeciesreporter.main-INVASIV

- **Download** Alaska Invasives ID App
- **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 updates on invasive species issues in Alaska. Visit alaskainvasives.org and click "Subscribe"!



Together, we can support Alaska's fish and wildlife. Stop the introduction and spread of invasive species!





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.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD AND INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES MATTERS!

Alaska's ecosystems are threatened by a variety of invasive species. These are a few to look out for:

EUROPEAN GREEN CRAB



European green crabs 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, and juvenile crabs
- Shell color can vary from green, yellow, brown, or grey
- Severely degrades estuaries and other coastal habitats important for many marine species

EUROPEAN BIRD CHERRY

- Planted as an ornamental tree in Alaska since 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 and remove
- 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

- First discovered in Alaska in Cordova in the early 1980s
- First and only non-native aquatic plant known to exist in Alaska
- Currently found in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, the Copper River Delta, the Interior, and on the Kenai Peninsula
- Degrades native fish habitat, spreads rapidly via plant fragments, easily transported by watercraft



Bright green in color, Elodea 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
- Displaces native vegetation
- 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
- Spread to many islands along the Aleutian Chain, as well as communities of Southeast Alaska, Fairbanks, and Nome
- Transmits diseases, consumes seabirds and their eggs, and damages crops and structures



Norway rats have dark grey to brown fur and lack fur on the tail. They can be distinguished from muskrats by their smaller size. Credit: Dunpharlain