

City of Portland Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project

City Council Hearing February 3, 2010



City of Portland Bureau of
Planning and Sustainability
Sam Adams, Mayor | Susan Anderson, Director



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Project Context

- Invasive Town Hall – November 2005
- Resolution No. 36360 – November 2005
- Invasive Plant Management Strategy – Nov. 2008
- Invasive Species Summit – November 2008
- Resolution No. 36726 – August 2009
- Planning Commission – November 2009

Mayor Sam Adams
and a volunteer
pulling English ivy.



Introduction to the Project

Presentation

- Overview of invasive plants
- Project proposal
- Q/A with City Council /staff
- Public testimony
- City Council action

English ivy is a widely recognized invasive plant.



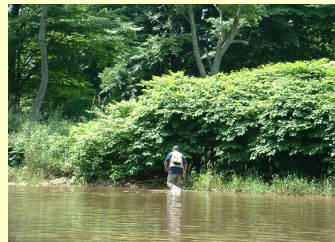
Introduction to Invasive Plants

What is an invasive plant?

- Terms - invasive, noxious weed, weed, nuisance
- City's term is "nuisance"

Why do we care? Impacts to public health & safety.

- Human and animal health
- Watershed health
- Trees and erosion
- Wildfire risk
- Economics



Japanese knotweed along a stream.

Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project

- 1) **Update** the *Portland Plant List* (PPL)*
- 2) **Improve** invasive plant management with updates to codes and policies re: development and non-development*
- 3) **Ensure** that invasive plants are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan update (the Portland Plan)
- 4) **Research** the feasibility of establishing a local noxious weed control district

Butterfly bush is a very popular plant in the metropolitan area.



Project Component #1: Update Portland Plant List

- **Provide** information on invasive (nuisance) plants
- **Consolidate** the Nuisance and Prohibited Plants Lists
- **Update** listed plant species
 - Add 43 and remove 23 plants
 - New total of 183 nuisance plants



Kudzu enveloping trees and other plants.

Project Component #1: Update Portland Plant List

- **Assign** plant priority ranks
 - Ranks A, B, C, D and W
 - Informs programs/project investments
- **Establishing** definitions
 - Ranks, invasive, region
- **Convert** the *Portland Plant List* to administrative rule



Yellow flag iris, pretty but incredibly invasive in/near water.

Project Component #2: Improve City Codes and Policies

Clarify and Modify Zoning Regulations – Title 33

Require removal of nuisance plants when development is proposed.

- New areas of City-required landscaping

Remove nuisance groundcovers and shrubs (citywide).

- New areas of City-required mitigation

Remove nuisance groundcovers, shrubs, and trees (resource zones). Paterson's curse.

- New standard requires removal of nuisance plants

Remove nuisance plants in area equal to 50% of the proposed permanent disturbance area or the entire site, whichever is less (resource zones).



Project Component #2: Improve City Codes and Policies

Change Property Maintenance Regulations – Title 29

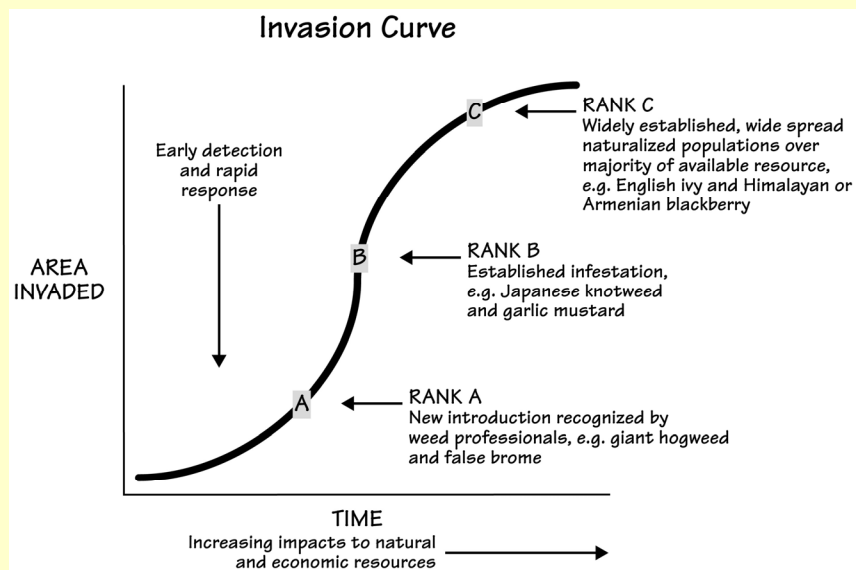
Require removal of plants on the new Required Eradication List.

- To **prevent** plants from getting foothold
- **15 rank “A”** plants/183 total on Nuisance Plants List
- **Require** eradication if discovered
- **City** provides free assistance to remove plants
- **Non-compliance** - existing Title 29 abatement process



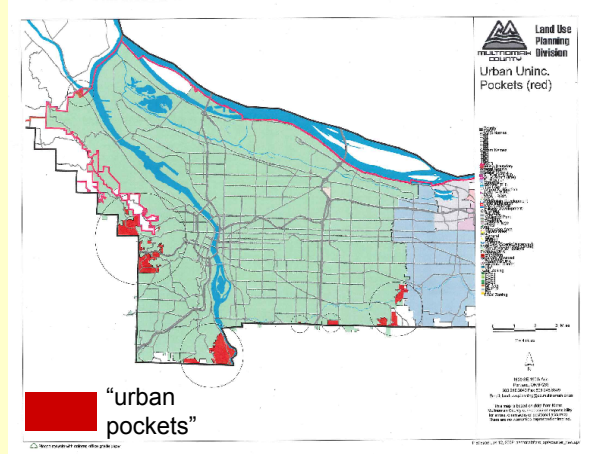
Giant hogweed sap sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet light, causes burns.

Early Detection and Rapid Response



Implementation in Multnomah County “Urban Pockets”

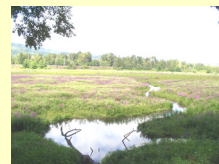
- Comprised of 2,500 acres & 1700 properties
- Changes to Zoning Code (Title 33) and Property Maintenance Regulations (Title 29)
- Existing IGA for Title 33
- New IGA for Title 29
- Multnomah County supportive



Implementation & Fiscal Impacts

- **Portland Plant List**
Proposed changes are covered in the current budget.
Future changes will cost less as administrative rule.
- **Property Maintenance Regulations**
Minor costs associated with abatement if a case arises (BES to fund it).
- **Zoning Code**
Clarifications to text will have no additional cost.
Minor costs are associated with the new standard.
- **Effective date July 1, 2010; new standard effective July 1, 2011.**

Purple loosestrife at Oaks Bottom.



Summary

Planning Commission recommends approval and endorsement of the Invasive Plant Policy Review and Regulatory Improvement Project:

Approve –

- Amendments to Portland Plant List and re-establishment as administrative rule
- Amendments to Title 33 Zoning Code
- Amendments to Title 29 Property Maintenance Regulations
 - IGA between City of Portland and Multnomah County for Title 29

Endorse the next steps –

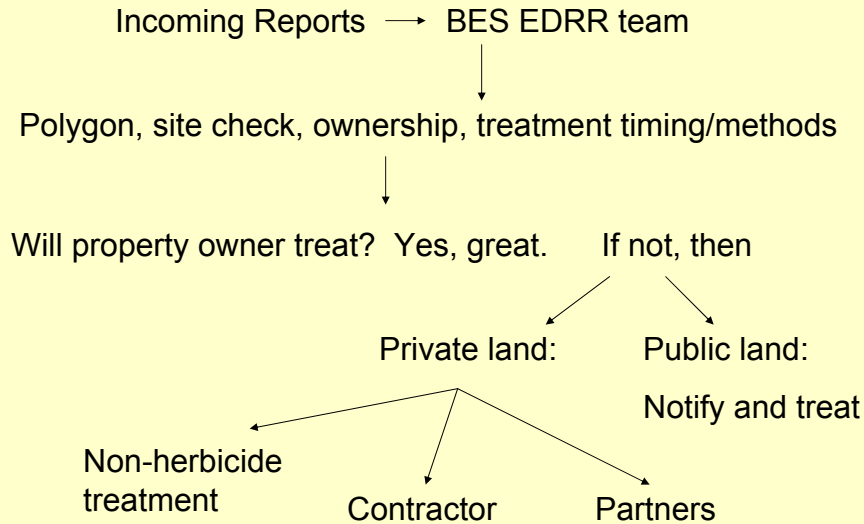
- BDS and BES adoption of administrative rules related to Title 29
- Updates to Comprehensive Plan/Portland Plan to address invasive species
- Updates to technical manuals and other documents for consistency
- Explore ways to sustain Grey to Green programs (e.g. EDRR, plant inspector)

Any Questions?

Hitchhiking plants and animals can become invasive in their new homes.



EDRR Flow Chart



Invasive Plant Management Strategy

1. Policy and Regulations
2. Outreach and Education
3. Coordination
4. Assessment
5. Control and Restoration
 - Wildfire risk reduction
 - Protect the Best
 - BES Revegetation program
 - Early Detection Rapid Response
 - Protect the canopy



Native meadow checkermallow (non-invasive).