



U.S. National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants

Recommendations for Developing New Capacity for EDRR at the State and Regional Levels

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Development of the **U.S. National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants** depends on the development of state and local capacity for preventing the establishment and spread of new invasive plants. Steps in developing EDRR capacity at the state/provincial and local levels include:

1. **Establish a State/Provincial EDRR Coordinating Committee**
 - a. Develop a Committee Work Plan (template available upon request)
 - b. Identify Committee Members; Develop an EDRR Target List
 - c. Develop a Clear Communications Structure with Protocols for Reporting, ID and Vouchering, Data Archival, Rapid Assessments, and Rapid Response Initiatives
2. **Develop and Train a State Early Detection and Reporting Network (EDRN)**
 - a. Agency Field Personnel (Department of Natural Resource Biologists, Nature Conservancy Land Stewards, County Extension Agents, County Weed Supervisors, County Ag Fieldmen, etc.)
 - b. EDRN Volunteers (Native Plant Society Members, Friends Groups, Civics Club Members, Master Gardeners, Fishermen, Scouts, etc.)
3. **Identify, Survey, and Monitor Important Natural and Managed Resources that are at Risk from Biological Invasion.**
 - a. Conduct Weekend Bio-Blitzes for New Weeds at Selected Parks, Forests, Refuges, etc.
 - b. Monitor High Hazard Sites Where New Invasive Species May Become First Established (e.g., Maritime Ports of Entry, International Airports, Bonded Warehouses, Free Trade Zones, Inland Intermodal Shipping Terminals)
4. **Develop a State/Provincial Invasive Plant Atlas (modeled after the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England)**
 - a. Archival of Field Data Records Submitted by the EDRN
 - b. ‘Real-time Distribution Information on EDRR Target Species – Beneficial for:
 - i. Creating Distribution Maps of EDRR Target Species
 - ii. Ecological Niche Modeling Research
 - iii. Planning Invasive Plant Control Programs
5. **Rapid Assessment - Conduct Rapid Assessments of Newly Reported Species that are not already Regulated within a State (regulated species generally don’t require a new assessment).**
 - a. Identify an appropriate lead agency to address a particular new invasive plant problem – OR –
 - b. Recommend the establishment of an invasive plant task force to address a new invasive plant problem that cannot be address by a single agency.
6. **Rapid Response – Develop a Rapid Response Plan to Address Specific Problems.**
 - a. Assist the designated lead agency in addressing a new invasive plant problem –
 - b. OR – establish an invasive plant task force to address the problem – as appropriate. The Carolinas Beach Vitex is a good example of a successful interagency partnership.

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