

Invasive Plants

- Plants growing in an area where they did not evolve.
- Introduced mostly by humans as ornamentals or by accident
- Outcompete local plants for resources.
- Have no native pathogens or herbivores that can control their numbers.
- Create "pollinator deserts" because they smother out native plants that serve as food for pollinators.



1

Invasive Plant Strategies



- Quick Growth
- Produce lots of seeds
- Produce Allomones in roots that kill other plants (allelopathy)
- Grown on top of plants (shade)
- Use too much water (drain swamps)
- Short Lifecycles
- Hearty root systems

2

Examples of Invasives in the US

- Purple Loosestrife
- Maleleuca- taking over Everglades
- Kudzu- taking over forests
- Watermilfoil- taking over lakes/ponds
- Russian Olive/Common Privet
- Multi-flora rose
- Bittersweet



3