



Yukon Invasive Species Council

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Terminology

Acclimation – A change in the morphology, physiology, behavior, and/or life cycle of an organism in response to changes in the physical or biotic environment.

Adaption – A change in the genetic make-up of a population as a result of genetic selection in response to changes in the physical or biotic environment of that population.

Alien species (non-native, introduced, exotic, foreign, non-indigenous) – are species of plants, animals, and micro-organisms introduced by human action outside their natural past or present distribution.

Annual – a plant completing its life history in one year (e.g. lamb's quarters).

Biennial – a plant requiring two years to complete its life history (e.g. spotted knapweed).

Ecological succession – The process by which a series of plant communities and associated animals and microbes successively occupy and replace each other over time following a disturbance to that ecosystem.

Ecotype - A population that is adapted to a particular set of environmental conditions. In botany the selection of plants and seeds derived, from local or regional sources at sites having the same or similar environmental conditions as the site of planting. Such plant material is often termed the local ecotype.

Introduced - (see alien) with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

Invasive - any species whose introduction does, or is likely to, cause undesirable or detrimental impacts to humans, animals or ecosystems'. Some 'introduced' species are not 'invasive'. There are different degrees of invasiveness or aggressiveness.

Native (indigenous) species- an organism that lives or grows naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat without direct or indirect human intervention. Species native to any specific part of North America are generally considered to be those present prior to European settlement

Naturalized – an alien species that grows without assistance and reproduces in an area other than its native region (e.g. Caragana). An introduced plant may be persistent such as European larch, but is not reproducing so is not naturalized.

Niche – The geographical range and habitat a species occupies, and the ecological (functional) role it can or does fulfill in an ecosystem. (A species has a genetically controlled fundamental niche, but it generally occupies only a subset of this [ie: the realized niche] because of pressures, competition, interactions etc.)

Noxious weed – a legal term used by the provincial and federal governments meaning “any plant that the minister may designate in the regulations as a noxious weed for the purposes of this Act, and includes seeds of that plant.” Canadian Noxious Weed Act – 1984. The federal seeds act has a noxious weeds list which applies to Yukon.

Perennial – a plant persisting for many years (e.g. oxeye daisy). Compare to annual and biennial.

Persistent – existing or remaining in the same state for an indefinitely long time; enduring.

Provenance – place of origin. Term used in forestry, the place in which a group of trees is growing. If seed which these trees produce is gathered and planted, the provenance of the resultant saplings is the location of the group. For example, if acorns are gathered from an oak tree growing in France and planted in England, the resultant trees are of French provenance.

Re-introduction – an attempt to establish a species in an area which was once part of its historical range, but from which it has been extirpated.

Rhizome (rootstock) – a horizontal, usually underground stem that often sends out roots and shoots from its nodes (e.g. creeping thistle).

Taproot – the main, descending root of a plant that has a single, dominant main root (e.g. sweetclover).

Tussock – a clump or tuft, as of growing grass.

Weed - A plant that interferes with management objectives at a particular location at a particular time; a plant growing where it is not wanted. Under certain situations, the plant may not be totally undesirable.

Weedy The condition where a plant reproduces prolifically.

Ranking:

The ranking used in the preliminary list of plants introduced to Yukon, Bennett 2007

- 1 – Highly invasive** - may displace or replace **undisturbed** native species or change ecosystem function
- 2 – Aggressive** - widespread, persistent, and can invade undisturbed native ecosystems, but may not replace native species or change ecosystem function
- 3 – Naturalized** – non-native taxa present in the territory that are not known to be invasive here - but have been found to be invasive in other jurisdictions
- 4 – Casual** – non-native taxa that has been reported in the territory but is not known to be problematic, may not persist
- 5 – Fleeting** -not likely to persist