

PRISM
 (New York Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)
NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM

PRISM: Long Island Invasive Species Management Area

Scientific name: Ailanthus altissima (Miller) Swingle USDA Plants Code: AIAL
 Common names: Tree of heaven
 Native Distribution: China
 Date Assessed: 1 March 2008
 PRISM Assessors: Jinshuang Ma, Steve Clemants, Gerry Moore
 PRISM Reviewers: LIISMA SRC
 Date Approved: July 21, 2008 Form version date: 13 April 2009
 New York Relative Maximum score: 68.00 Date NY assessment approved: July 21, 2008
 New York State Invasive Rank: Moderate

SUMMARY OF PRISM RANKING RESULTS:

Distribution: Widespread
Estimated number of infested sites: over 100
PRISM Invasiveness Rank[§]: Moderate



A. DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE (KNOWN/POTENTIAL):

1. What is the species distribution and abundance in the PRISM?
- | | |
|--|-------------|
| A. Not present | Not Present |
| B. Occurs in three or fewer natural areas (locations that are at least ¼ mile apart) with no infested area* >1 acre or containing >100 individuals | Restricted |
| C. Present in 4–10 natural areas, or with one occupied location >1 acre or containing >100 individuals | Common |
| D. Present in >10 minimally managed areas | Widespread |
| U. Unknown | Unknown |

Answer: Widespread

Describe distribution:
 Present in all counties of the LIISMA PRISM.
 Sources of information:
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008; Weldy & Werier, 2005.

[§]Not Assessable: not persistent in the PRISM, or not found outside of cultivation.

*Definition of “infested area” is the “...actual or percentage of land occupied by [canopy cover of] weed plants”
 NAWMA (North American Weed Management Association) 2002. North American Invasive Plant Mapping Standards (see <http://www.nawma.org/>).

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2. What is the likelihood the species will occur (if not yet present) or expand its distribution and abundance (if already present) in the PRISM?

Answer:

Documentation (e.g.: history of establishment in PRISM, suitability of habitats and climate, distribution models, literature, expert opinions):
literature, expert opinions.
Sources of information:
Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008; New York Flora Association, 2008; United States Department of Agriculture, 2008.

B. INVASIVENESS RANK IN THE PRISM:

Is the species distribution Widespread or Common?

Yes: Go to column A in table below.

No: What is the likelihood of species occurrence or expansion? Answer:

- Very Likely: Use column A below
- Moderately likely: Use column B below
- Unlikely: Use column C below
- Zero likelihood Invasive potential Insignificant
- Unknown Invasive potential Unknown
- Not assessed Invasive potential not assessed

Assign a PRISM invasiveness rank to the species based on its New York Relative Maximum Score, using the designated column in the table below.

New York Relative Maximum Score	New York Invasiveness Rank	A	B	C
> 80.00	Very High	VH	H	M
70.00–80.00	High	H	M	L
50.00–69.99	Moderate	M	L	Ins
40.00–49.99	Low	L	Ins	Ins
<40.00	Insignificant	Ins	Ins	Ins

Column used: A (Insert PRISM Invasiveness Rank on page 1)

References for species assessment:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2008. AILANTHUS databse. (accessed 1 March 2008)

Burch, P. L. & S. M. Zedaker. 2003. Removing the invasive tree *Ailanthus altissima* and restoring natural cover. *Journal of Arboriculture* 29(1): 18-24.

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Mergen, F. 1959. A toxic principle in the leaves of *Ailanthus*. *Botanical Gazette* 121:32-36.

Miller, J. H. & H. W. Yawney (1965, revised December 1990). *Ailanthus altissima*. *Silvics of Forest Trees of the United States, Volume 2*. United States Department of Forestry
<http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/ailanthus/altissima.htm>. (Accessed on 2 March 2008).

New York Flora Association. 2008. New York Flora Atlas. <<http://atlas.nyflora.org/>> (Accessed 1 March 2008).

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Swearingen, J. M. & P. Pannill, 2006. Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group - Least Wanted: *Ailanthus* <<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/aial1.htm>> (accessed at 1 March 2008)

United States Department of Agriculture. 2008. The PLANTS Database. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA <<http://plants.usda.gov>> (Accessed 1 March 2008)

Citation: This ranking form for regions within NYS may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY. Note that the order of authorship is alphabetical; all three authors contributed substantially to the development of this protocol.

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