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IAS - Why we should be concerned

- One key driver of biodiversity loss across Europe
- Damage and management costs in Europe are at least €12 billion per annum
- Recent all Ireland study calculated economic costs of at least €260 million

International Response

- High Priority under CBD with specific post-Nagoya target
- Aichi Biodiversity Target 9
- By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

EU Concerns

- Currently dealt with in a fragmented and incomplete way across a number of EU legislative instruments
- Lack of consistency in approach
- Lack of leverage for MS action

EU Response

- 2009 –European Parliament and Environment Council strongly endorsed development of an IAS strategy for the EU
- 2010 – IAS was one of 10 priority objectives in the Biodiversity Action Plan
- Target 5, *By 2020 Invasive Alien Species and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS*
- Commission concluded that a Regulation/Directive was the only real option to deal with the issue effectively
- Draft legislative instrument to be published shortly

Tackling IAS on an All Ireland Basis

- Joint Report completed in 2004 made recommendations to tackle invasive species on all Ireland basis
- Invasive Species in Ireland Project was established and in operation from 2006 to 2012
- New all Ireland Project will be commenced later in the year

Invasive Species in Ireland Project

- Project aims

1. Reducing the risks of invasions of new species
2. Developing contingency plans in conjunction with stakeholders
3. Producing management plans to help control and manage new and established invasive species and vectors
4. Engaging key stakeholders
5. Developing codes of good practise in conjunction with stakeholders
6. Raising public awareness
7. Recommending surveillance, monitoring and recording programmes
8. Reviewing legislation

Invasive Species in Ireland Project

- Contingency Plans – non native crayfish and deer, wild boar, Japanese kelp
- Management Plans – Didenmum, chub, floating pennyworth, ruddy duck
- Best Practice Management Plans – Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsalm, Giant Hogweed, Rhododendron
- Horticulture Code of Practice
- Economic Impact Assessment report on the economic impact of invasive species in Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Awareness Campaigns – Be Plant Wise and Be Pet Wise
- Stakeholder Consultation – Annual Forum and Conference
- Next Annual Forum – 30 May in Belfast

National Biodiversity Plan 2011-16

- Target: Harmful invasive alien species are controlled and there is reduced risk of new species

National Biodiversity Plan 2011-16

- Actions: Prepare by 2011 detailed species and pathway risk assessments and develop exclusion and contingency plans for priority pathways and high impact species that are likely to invade Ireland
- Continue and enhance measures for eradication, where, feasible, control and containment of IAS
- Examine options for rapid response when new IAS are discovered

National Biodiversity Plan 2011-16

- Increase awareness within the horticultural and constructed wetlands industries of native alternatives that can be used in place of IAS
- All public bodies will endeavour to use native species, landraces and breeds and the public will be encouraged to do so.

Legislation

- Under the 1976 Wildlife Act there were provisions relating to the importation into the State of wild animals, birds and plant
- 2000 Wildlife Act strengthened legal basis for controlling invasive species. Made provision for Minister to make Regulations prohibiting introduction of certain species

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

- Regulations published in September 2011
- Provisions included in the Regulations to strengthen the controls on the introduction of non-native species
- Regulations 49, 50 and 74

REGULATION 49

- Regulation 49: Prohibition on introduction and dispersal of certain plant species in the Third Schedule
- Unless granted a licence by the Department a person shall be guilty of an offence if they
 - plant
 - disperse
 - allow or cause to growthe plant in the State listed in the Third Schedule
- Hybrids or breeds, cultivars etc of plant species are included in the provisions

THIRD SCHEDULE

Non-native species subject to restrictions under *Regulations 49 and 50*

Part 1: PLANTS

First column	Second column	Third column
Common name	Scientific name	Geographical application
American skunk-cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Throughout the State
A red alga	<i>Grateloupia doryphora</i>	Throughout the State
Brazilian giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera manicata</i>	Throughout the State
Broad-leaved rush	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	Throughout the State
Cape pondweed	<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Throughout the State
Cord-grasses	<i>Spartina</i> (all species and hybrids)	Throughout the State
Curly waterweed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Throughout the State
Dwarf eel-grass	<i>Zostera japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Throughout the State
Floating pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Fringed water-lily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Throughout the State
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Throughout the State
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Throughout the State
Giant-rhubarb	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Throughout the State
Giant salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Throughout the State
Himalayan knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Throughout the State
Hottentot-fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Throughout the State
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Throughout the State
Large-flowered waterweed	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Throughout the State
Mile-a-minute weed	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Throughout the State
New Zealand pigmyweed	<i>Crassula helmsii</i>	Throughout the State
Parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Throughout the State
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Throughout the State
Salmonberry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Throughout the State
Sea-buckthorn	<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Throughout the State
Spanish bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Throughout the State
Three-cornered leek	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Throughout the State
Wakame	<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	Throughout the State
Water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Throughout the State
Water fern	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Throughout the State
Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Throughout the State
Water-primrose	<i>Ludwigia</i> (all species)	Throughout the State
Waterweeds	<i>Elodea</i> (all species)	Throughout the State
Wireweed	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Throughout the State

Vector Materials

Vector Material	Species Referred to	Geographical application
Soil or spoil taken from places infested with Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) or giant knotweed (<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>)	Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>) Giant knotweed (<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>)	Throughout the State

REGULATION 50

- Regulation 50 makes it an offence to import, buy, sell, breed, reproduce or propagate, offer or expose for sale plant species or vector material listed in the Third Schedule except under licence
- It is also an offence to advertise, publish a price list, transport and distribute these plant species except under licence

Regulation 74

- Transitional arrangements set out in Regulation 74 once Regulation 50 comes into force
- Any person who is in possession of any plant species listed in Third Schedule must inform the Minister within 21 days
- Licence may be granted for six months which may include conditions on the disposal of the species
- Under certain circumstances persons may be entitled to compensation

Commencement of Regulation 50

- Risk assessments to be carried out on the species listed in the Third Schedule before commencement of Regulation 50
- Intend to advertise for tenders shortly
- Engagement with stakeholders, such as horticultural industry, pet shop owners etc