

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Rediscovering Natural Methods

Invasive Species are typically controlled in one or more of five ways. These methods include:

- Prevention
- Mechanical control
- Manual Control
- Chemical Control
- Biological Control

PREVENTION

Prevention focuses on stopping invasive species _____ they get into the natural ecosystem. Typically managed as part of a _____ program. The government may recommend not planting or regulate with laws preventing the import of species it deems too risky.

Mechanical Management

Includes methods such as mowing where the invasive plant species is cut down. The drawback of this method is that plants must be cut down before they _____ and sometimes must be cut down multiple times.

Manual Management

Is a method that includes hand pulling and digging. This is a good method for _____ areas, where chemical or biological methods would be risky. The drawback is that this method is very _____ intensive. This method is SLOW.

Chemical Management

This is what most people think of when talking about invasive species management. This method would include pesticides, herbicides, or other _____ that kill invasive species. The advantage of this method is that it is _____ to deploy. However, this method can have negative impacts on surrounding _____ plants. Many chemical agents are also toxic to animal species and humans.

Biological Management

Would include importing _____ that feed on the invasive species but, hopefully, not the native plant species.

Example: Leafy Spurge beetle

Cultural Methods

Cultural methods use _____, irrigation, or fertilization to encourage the establishment of a _____ ground or crop cover to resist invasive plants.

Rediscovering Ways

Recently, many environmental management groups have been _____ natural methods for stopping invasive species. Some of these rediscovered methods come from traditional _____ practices.

Natural Methods

A good example of this method is _____ ecosystem specific grazing practices. This is a method in which animal species are introduced in a _____ way to graze on land in a way that fits with how the ecosystem originally functioned before interference.

Example: Bringing in Sheep to graze on the North-East Swale near Saskatoon, this helps by removing invasive species through grazing and helps re-vegetate natural ground cover, such as native short-grass prairie. (See Sheep on Swale Video on Weebly)

Traditional Indigenous Methods

Controlled _____ is a method that imitates natural burning processes for areas that developed to burn regularly. Indigenous groups have been using these methods for a _____ time and it is a method that has gotten much attention from researchers in the last decade.

Controlled burning removes invasive species and aids in the _____ of a biologically diverse ecosystem. As the native plants have developed with _____ and have adapted to semi-regular burns.

Example: Burning Invasive Species infested areas and old growth areas to help in re-establishing native prairie ecology and preventing major forest fires, which are increasingly common with climate change. (See Firekeeper Article on Weebly)