

DELAWARE INVASIVE SPECIES TRACKING SYSTEM

SURVEY FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Please use the accompanying survey form to record observations of invasive plants and/or animals at a specific location, following the guidance below. Enter this data on the DISTS website as soon as possible, then mail the form to DISTS (see below for the website and mailing addresses).

For plants, record only those that do not appear to have been intentionally planted for cultivation. Thus, a Norway maple in a residential yard should not be recorded, but one in a woodlot should.

FRONT OF FORM

******FIELDS IN BOLD ARE REQUIRED INFORMATION******

SURVEY DATE

Record the date of the observation in YYYY/MM/DD format.

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Name and phone number are required.

PROPERTY/POINT INFORMATION

All plants or animals in a particular population should be considered a single observation. Use your best judgement in distinguishing one population from another. Generally, individuals in different patches of community types should be considered different populations. For example, Norway maples in two forest blocks separated by an open field are two populations; those in a single block, even if separated by great distances, are one population.

Directions to Observation Point: Provide directions to the point such as, “North side of Rt. 24, 500 yards west of Rt. 625”.

GPS Coordinates/Differential Correction: If a GPS was used, record the latitude and longitude in NAD 83 decimal degrees (e.g., 49.1437 latitude, 42.6029 longitude), and indicate whether or not the GPS had differential correction (i.e., referenced a base station to improve accuracy).

Property/Waterbody Name: Enter the formal name of the property or waterbody, if any. This field is intended for lands and facilities that have designated names in popular use (parks, wildlife areas, refuges, forests, preserves, military bases, schools, government facilities, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, shopping centers, factories, etc.). Leave this field blank for privately owned residential properties.

Ownership: Indicate the type of ownership. If not known, circle “Private.”

Site Description: Provide a brief description of the property, including the existing land use (e.g., “Forest partly cleared for development.”).

SPECIES FOUND

Scientific Name: Enter the scientific name (you can abbreviate the genus, e.g., “*A. platanoides*”). Refer to the list of common species on the back of the form, or the complete list of *Invasive Species of Delaware*, available on the DISTS web site.

Confident in ID?: Indicate whether or not you are confident in your identification of the plant or animal. Contact the DE Natural Heritage Program for assistance with identification.

Area of Infestation: Estimate the area covered by the species. Your estimate should be based on the outer perimeter formed by all individuals within a population (e.g., if there are several discrete clusters of Norway maples in a block of upland deciduous forest, imagine a line encircling all of the patches, and estimate the size of area within that line).

Community Code(s): Enter the code number for the community type(s) in which the species occurs, using the key on the back of the form. You may enter more than one code if the infestation covers multiple adjacent communities, but enter the one with the largest infestation first.

INVASIVE SPECIES: An alien (non-native) species whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

DISTS Survey Form Instructions

SPECIES FOUND (cont)

% Cover: FOR PLANTS ONLY, estimate the percentage of the infested area that is actually covered by the species.

Individuals: FOR ANIMALS ONLY, estimate the number of individuals within the infested area.

Specimen Repository: If you collect a specimen, enter an abbreviation of the location where the specimen is stored; you can describe the location more completely in Comments if necessary. Specimens may be sent to the DE Natural Heritage Program if you do not wish to deposit them elsewhere.

Comment: If you wish to add comments about your observations, enter a number here and the same number in the Comments section on the back.

SURVEY INFORMATION

Survey Method: If data on area, percent cover, and number of individuals was collected by a quantitative point, plot, or route method, circle "Quantitative." If this data was simply "eyeballed," circle "Qualitative."

Project: If data was collected while conducting a specific project with a formal name (e.g., Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, Forest Health Monitoring, Environmental Review, Coastal Plain Pond Study), provide the project name.

Survey Point/Plot/Route ID: Enter the point/plot/route ID, if any. Generally, this field will be applicable only to specific projects with formal names listed in the field above.

LANDOWNER INFORMATION

Enter any information of which you are certain.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Management Method: briefly describe the method used to manage (control) the invasive species, if any (e.g., "Garlon 4 bark application on multiflora rose," "Hand pulled garlic mustard").

Date of Treatment: indicate the date that the management method was employed.

Area Treated: record the size of the area that was treated.

Treatment Results: briefly describe the results of the treatment (e.g., "All rose eliminated; no resprouting observed.").

BACK OF FORM

SPECIES

Use a check or X to indicate species that were searched for but not found at the observation point. Remember that negative data can be just as important as positive data. If you did not search for a species, leave that box blank. If you wish to add comments, enter a number here and the same number in the Comments section to the right.

COMMENTS

Enter comments for particular species, as well as comments about the property, point, landowner, survey, management, etc.

UPON COMPLETION

After completing this form, enter the data on the DISTS website as soon as possible:

<http://www.lsc.usgs.gov/gis/dists/intro.asp> . Then, mail this form to: DISTS, Delaware Natural Heritage Program, 4876 Hay Point Landing Road, Smyrna DE 19977