

Dear Colleagues

In the course of preparing the new Birds and Habitats Regulations, to update and strengthen the transposition of the Birds and Habitats Directives, we are preparing a list of terrestrial and freshwater plants that we wish to regulate because of the threat their establishment in Ireland poses to native species and habitats.

The botanists in NPWS have drafted a list of the species that they believe need to be included or considered for inclusion. I am now requesting your advice and input into this process. You may wish to recommend that some of the species should be excluded from the list, or alternatively suggest additional species for inclusion.

To assist in your consideration, I have prepared some questions that you may wish to consider in relation to each of the species on the list or any other species you consider we should include.

RISK ANALYSIS TABLE FOR INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES			
(a) Established capacity to naturalise in Ireland	high	Some naturalisation documented	None or merely casual
(b) Establishment capacity in other temperate areas	high	Some naturalisation documented	None or merely casual
(c) Is the species a recognised problem species in a temperate area?	Yes		No
(d) potential threat posed to native species	Serious	Grounds exist for concern	None or low
(e) Impact on native fauna biodiversity*	Positive	Not significant	Negative
(f) Are significant costs or economic impacts documented?	Very serious	Significant	No
(g) Can legislative intervention reduce risk?	Yes	possibly	unlikely
(h) Horticultural importance	high	limited	insignificant
(i) Should restrictions be limited to specified regions only?	Specify regions where restrictions should apply (by county or province)		
(j) Should restrictions, if warranted, exclude all or some cultivars?	List any "safe" cultivars		

* it has been pointed out, for example, that *Acer pseudoplatanus* is an important plant for invertebrate biodiversity. Other plants may be an important nectar source for insects.

I would greatly appreciate if you would revert to me before the end of this month (October).

Many thanks for your assistance

Peter Carvill
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