

Major invasive plants in forests of Slovakia

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Ailanthus altissima — tree-of-heaven

- ▶ rapid colonizer of disturbed sites, forms dense stands that suppress native tree and shrub regeneration
- ▶ produces allelopathic compounds that hinder seedling growth
- ▶ resprouts vigorously after cutting, making control difficult
- ▶ frequently recorded in floodplain and disturbed forest edges



Negundo aceroides — the box elder

- fast-growing, colonizes riverbanks, forest edges and gaps
- shades out native seedlings and alters riparian forest composition
- recorded among trees in floodplain and softwood forests



Solidago canadensis / *Solidago gigantea* — Canadian / Giant goldenrod

- forms tall monospecific stands in forest clearings and edges
- reduce native herbaceous diversity and limit tree seedling recruitment in openings
- recorded in softwood / floodplain forests and alongside roads, rivers...



Impatiens glandulifera / *Impatiens parviflora* — Himalayan balsam / small balsam

- rapid colonizer of forest margins and riparian strips
- outcompetes native herbs and destabilizes riverbanks (Himalayan balsam dies back in winter leaving bare banks)
- Recorded mostly in riparian and disturbed forest habitats



Fallopia sp. — knotweed

- forms dense thickets that prevent native regeneration, causes mechanical damage to infrastructure
- difficult to eradicate because of deep/fragmenting rhizomes.
- a high-impact invader along riparian corridors and disturbed sites



Phytolacca americana — American pokeweed

- tall, perennial herb forming dense stands in forest edges, clearings, and disturbed understories
- shades out native herbs and young tree seedlings
- berries spread by birds enable rapid colonization of semi-shaded forest habitats
- alters soil chemistry (acidification, nutrient changes) and may release allelopathic substances that inhibit native plant growth.
- increasingly observed along forest margins, logging roads, and riparian zones in southern and western Slovakia



Asclepias syriaca — common milkweed

- ▶ vegetative spread in open forest clearings and edges
- ▶ can form dense stands that suppress some native herbs
- ▶ an agricultural weed, also invades forest openings

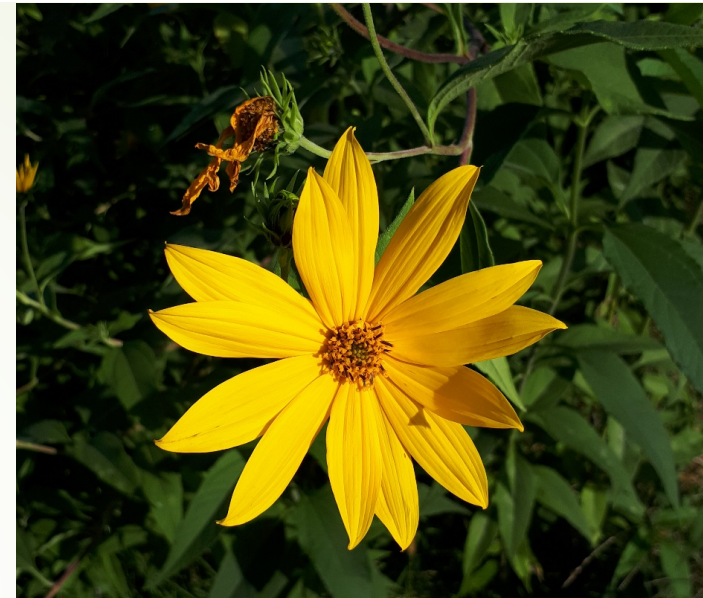


Heracleum mantegazzianum — giant hogweed

- tall, dense stands reduce native plant diversity
- sap causes severe photodermatitis in humans
- invades open forest edges and road verges.
- listed among widespread invasive roadside, forest edge species



- *Prunus serotina* — black cherry
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* — black locust
- *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* — common ragweed
- *Helianthus tuberosus* — The Jerusalem artichoke



Thank You

National Forest Centre, Forest Protection Service



Book: Invasive and non native species in forests of Slovakia
insect - fungi – plants (in Slovak)

<https://www.los.sk//pdf/invazKniha.pdf>

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