

Major invasive plants in Norwegian forests

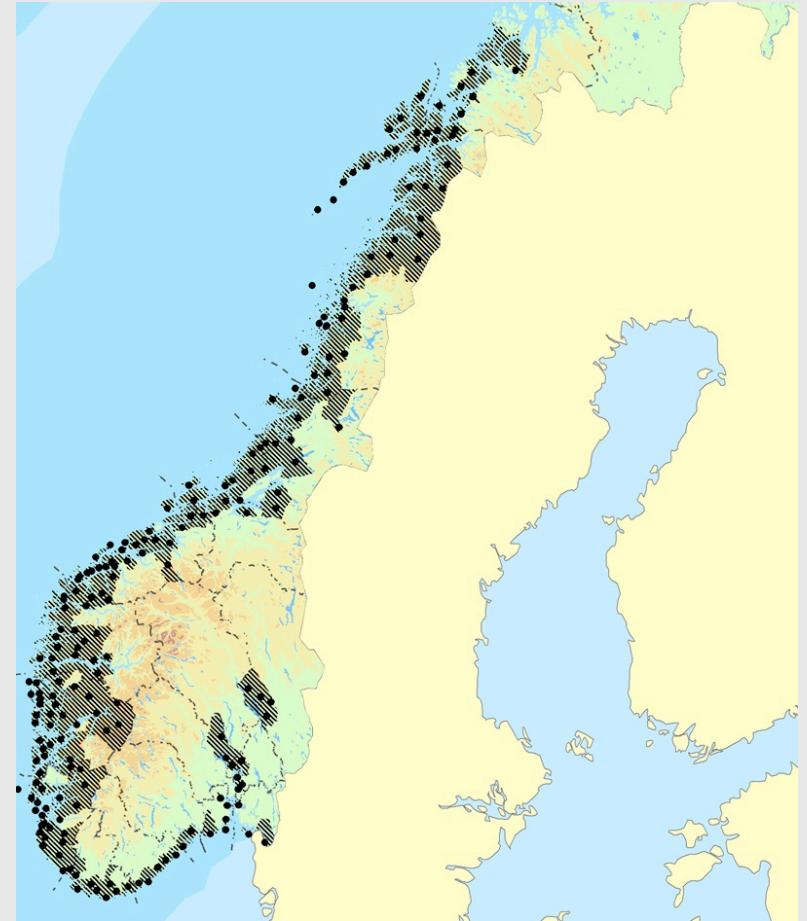
Bjørn Økland

Sitka spruce and Lutz spruce

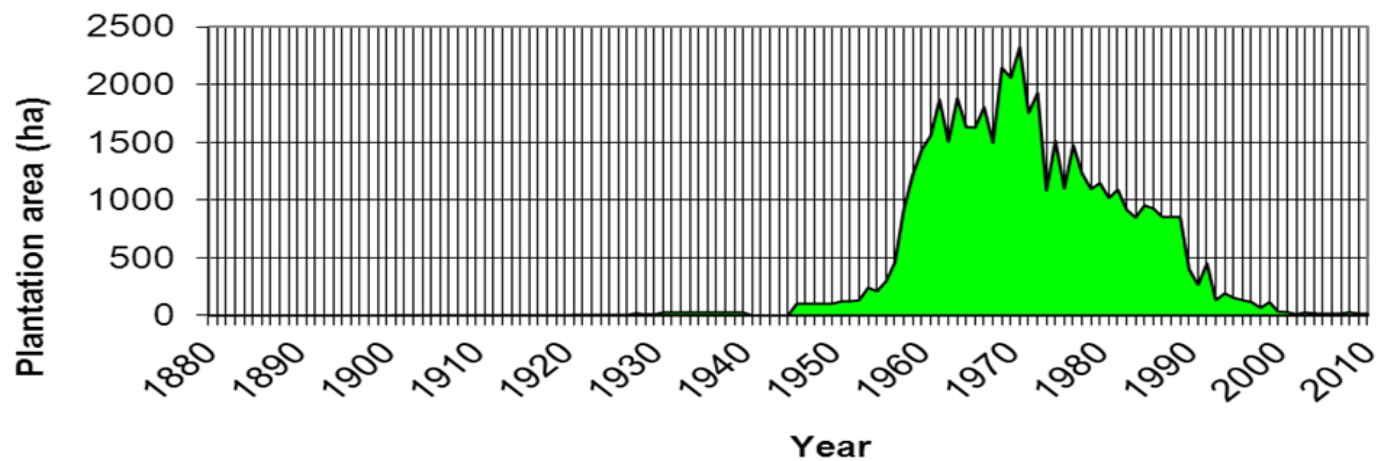
(*Picea sitchensis*, *Picea lutzii*)



- Challenge in coastal areas of Norway
- Planting in heathlands – grows well
- Native in NW coastal America - adapted marine climate

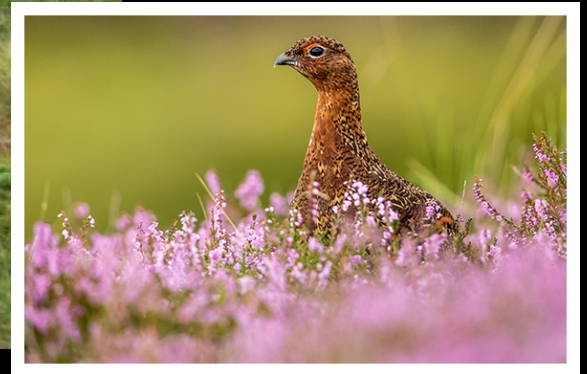


- Extensive planting 1950 - 2000
- More and more mature stands
- Planting has been stopped





- Uncontrolled spread despite stop of planting
- Loss of heathland ecosystems (including red grouse etc.)

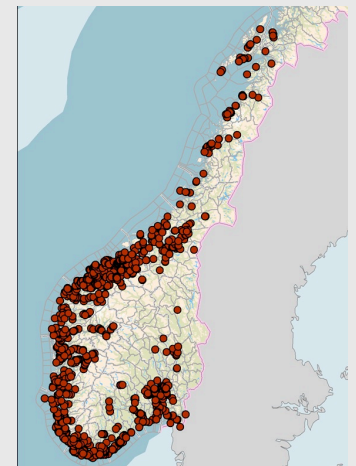


Sycamore maple

(*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

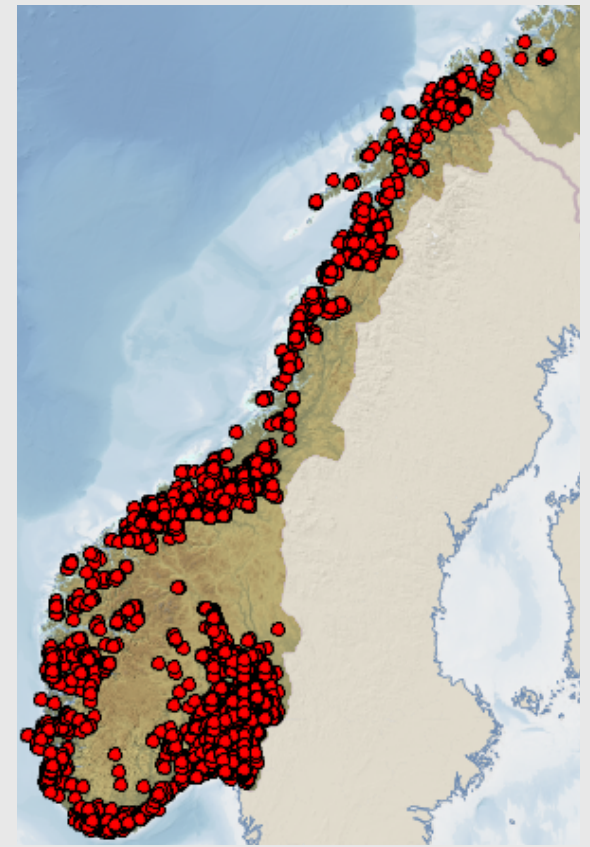


- colonizes significant areas in both deciduous and coniferous forests
- invades abandoned cultivated land (including semi-natural meadows and coastal heathland in decline)
- displacement effect - competition with rare/vulnerable plants (f.in. *Taxus baccata*)



Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Widespread in
Norway during
few years





- crowd out other species
- annual – population collapses
- can change vegetation and threaten the survival of other species
- can cause erosion - shallow root systems
- attracts pollinators - locally reduced pollination of fruit trees

Empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)

Future issue?



- only few records from plant import and in nature so far
- fast-growing pioneer with major ecological impacts in the eastern US
- flowering after 8-10 years, enormous seed production, forming dense stands
- root suckers that can grow five meters in one growing season
- invasive potential in Norway uncertain