REUFIS Webinar and Annual Meeting

Invasive Species in Forests and Forested Areas in Türkiye

Ministry of Agriculture And Forestry
General Directorate Of Forestry

Dr. Mehmet Rıdvan ÇÖRTÜ & Cuma Uykun

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Slovenia

Forests

There is no direct threats for invasive alien species in Türkiye





Alien species that can be considered invasive in Türkiye

Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin	Notes / Status
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Common Ragweed	North America	Allergenic species; widespread in agricultural areas, pastures, and along roadsides.
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven	China / East Asia	Fast-spreading tree species; causes severe ecological disruption in native habitats.
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	North America	Nitrogen-fixing tree that alters soil composition and outcompetes native plant communities.
Sicyos angulatus	Bur-Cucumber	North America	Climbing vine that damages young forest saplings and smothers vegetation.
Eichhornia crassipes	Common Water Hyacinth	Amazon Basin (South America)	Highly invasive aquatic plant; affects water flow, navigation, and aquatic biodiversity.
Conyza canadensis	Canadian Horseweed (Canadian Fleabane)	North America	Aggressive colonizer of agricultural and open lands; herbicide-resistant in some areas.
Fallopia japonica / Reynoutria japonica	Japanese Knotweed	East Asia (Japan, Korea, China)	Rhizomatous plant damaging infrastructure and displacing native vegetation.
Hedera helix	Common Ivy / English Ivy	Europe, Western Asia	Shade-tolerant climber; forms dense mats on trees and forest floors, suppressing photosynthesis.
Acer negundo	Box Elder / Ash-leaved Maple	North America	Fast-growing tree spreading along rivers and disturbed areas; competes with native riparian species.

Insects

Threats



Dendroctonus micans

Damage





*Picea orientalis(*Spruce)

Dendroctonus micans (Spruce bark beetle) is a pest that poses a serious threat to spruce forests in Türkiye and has been seen in our country since 1966.

Solution



Rhizophagus grandis

Threats



Dendroctonus micans

Solution



Rhizophagus grandis



Threats



Dryocosmus kuriphilus)

Damage





In cases of severe infestation, it can reduce both chestnut fruit and timber production.

Solution





Torymus Sinensis Kamijo (Hymenoplere Torminade)

Alien species that can be considered invasive in Türkiye

Latin Name	**Common name**
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust
Sicyos angulatus	Bur Cucumber









- *On the roadsides, parks and gardens*

- *far from natural forests*





- ***Robinia pseudoacacia***

Used for afforestations to reduce soil floding, soil conservation works, arid – semi arid area also used for forest fire resistance in afforestations activities.

No direct threat to forest- far from natural forests

Sicyos algunatus

• This species entered Türkiye from Georgia and has spread along the entire coastline of the Eastern Black Sea Region, reaching as far as Ordu. It has invaded agricultural areas, including hazelnut orchards, and expanded up to the forest line. Continuous monitoring is being conducted, and interventions are carried out where necessary



Sicyos algunatus





Solution







- Adressing of Invasive Alien Species Threats in Terrestrial Areas and Inland Waters in Turkey Project (2018-2024) (EU Project)
- Türkiye will be monitoring for 10 years by the National Invasive Alien Species Data and Information System

Invasive Species in Forests and Forested Areas in Türkiye

Latin Name	Common Name	Ecological Impacts	Distribution in Türkiye
Ailanthus altissima	**Tree of Heaven**	- Very fast-growing, spreads via root suckers. - Shades and suppresses native seedlings. - Releases allelopathic chemicals that inhibit other plants.	Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean, Black Sea coasts (urban areas, roadsides, forest gaps).
Robinia pseudoacacia	**Black Locust**	- Alters soil chemistry through nitrogen fixation. - Outcompetes native plant communities. - Expands rapidly via root suckers.	Central Anatolia, Marmara, Black Sea, Thrace (roadsides, forest clearings).
Sicyos angulatus	**Bur-Cucumber**	- Climbing vine covering young trees and seedlings, blocking photosynthesis. - Can smother small habitats when dense.	Black Sea (especially Eastern Black Sea) and Marmara regions.

Indigenius species that can be considered invasive in Türkiye

Latin Name	Common Name
Viscum album	European Mistletoe
Hedera helix	Common Ivy / English Ivy
Rhododendron ponticum	Pontic Rhododendron



Viscum album

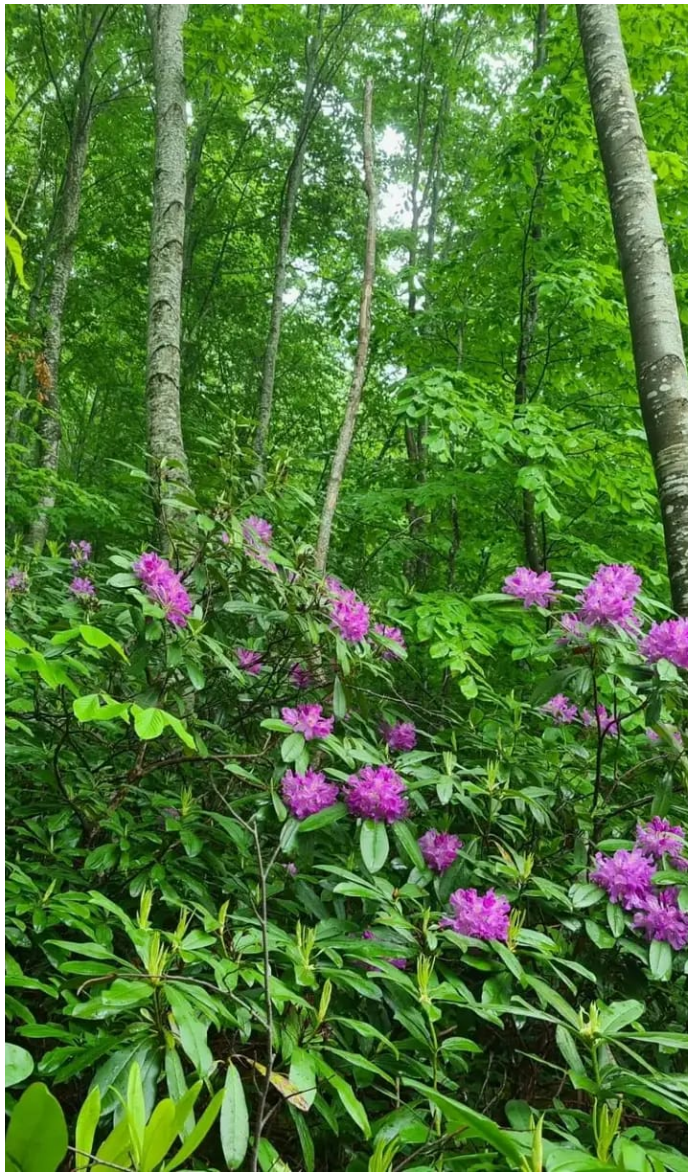




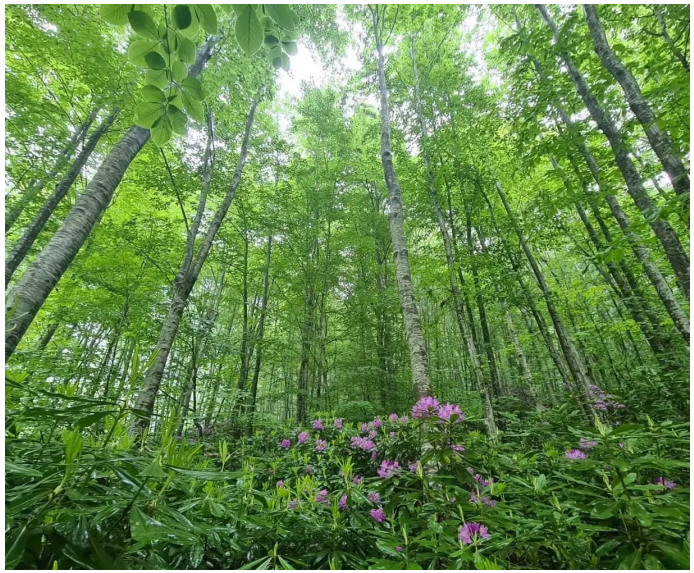
Rhododendron ponticum



Hedera helix









Indigenius species that can be considered invasive in Türkiye

Latin Name	Common Name	Distribution in Türkiye	Ecological Impacts
Viscum album	**European Mistletoe**	Widespread in Türkiye, especially in **Central Anatolia, Marmara, and Black Sea regions** on conifers and fruit trees.	Hemiparasitic plant that extracts water and nutrients from host trees, weakening them, reducing growth, and increasing vulnerability to pests and diseases.
Hedera helix	**Common/English Ivy**	Common in **Marmara, Black Sea, and Aegean regions**, particularly in moist and shaded forest areas.	Aggressive climber; covers trunks and crowns, competes for light, and may cause mechanical damage by increasing windthrow risk for infested trees.
Rhododendron ponticum	**Pontic Rhododendron**	Native but invasive in some habitats of the **Eastern Black Sea region** (Trabzon, Rize, Artvin).	Forms dense thickets, shades out understory vegetation, reduces biodiversity, and hinders natural forest regeneration.



THANK YOU

Dr. Mehmet Rıdvan ÇÖRTÜ-Head of Silviculture Department

Email:mehmetridvancortu@ogm.gov.tr

Cuma Uykun-Forestry Specialist

cumauykun@ogm.gov.tr