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Quantifying invasiveness as part of a weed management prioritization framework.

Invasiveness of non-indigenous plant species (NIS) is characterized by two basic attributes: the population growth rate (number of individuals) and the rate of spatial spread on the landscape. The amount and distribution of suitable habitat and specific traits associated with NIS demographics and dispersal will determine the population and spatial growth rates. These determinants of invasiveness vary as a function of the biotic and abiotic conditions of a particular site. In this research, we used a post-establishment empirical approach to determine whether invasiveness varied among populations of spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) found in different environments. Due to extent of infestation and limited budgets, land managers typically can not control all NIS populations. Using these methods to quantify invasiveness could allow managers to prioritize populations for management