



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Invasive plant species in Myanmar

TCP/MYA/3803:
Strengthening the institutional capacity on
forest health

Invasive species is a plant or animal that has been transported outside of its natural home range by humans - either accidentally or intentionally. Non-native species or alien species or introduced species are the synonyms of Invasive species.

Some key characteristics of invasive species:

- **Non-native:** Invasive species are not originally from the ecosystem they invade. They come from other regions or countries.
- **Rapid reproduction:** Invasive species often reproduce quickly and prolifically, allowing them to outcompete native species.
- **Lack of natural predators:** In their new environment, invasive species may not have natural predators or diseases that help keep their populations in check.
- **Ecological disruption:** Invasive species can alter the ecosystem by changing the availability of resources, disrupting food webs, and modifying habitats.
- **Economic impact:** Invasive species can have significant economic consequences, such as damaging crops, fisheries, and infrastructure.

**Some invasive plant species collected
from field trips, FAO Project:
YCP/MYA/3803**



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***Chromolaena odorata* (L.) King&H.Rob.**

This species is a widely distributed invasive species in Myanmar. Their rapid and aggressive growth leads to covering and killing the species planted in the young plantation.



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***Derris trifoliata* Lour**

This species is a mangrove invasive woody climber scrambling and smothering the species planted in the young mangrove plantation. It is also host plant for itching moth which eats the leaves of mangrove species.



***Imperata cylindrical* (L.) P. Beauv.**

Imperata cylindrical (L.) P. Beauv. is an invasive grass. It increases the fire hazard during the dry season.



***Mikania micrantha*
Kunth**

Mikania micrantha Kunth is aggressive invasive species scrambling on plants. It's scrambling growth takes over the plant canopy eventually killing the plant by girdling or toppling it.



Mimosa diplotricha is a noxious invasive weed. Their thickened bushy and spiny habit make their removal very difficult.

***Mimosa diplotricha*
C. Wright**



***Mimosa pudica* L.**

Mimosa pudica is a noxious invasive low-growing weed. Their prolific reproduction and spiny habit make their removal very difficult.



***Neptunia plena* L. (Benth.)**

It is a noxious weed species. Their thickened bushy and wide spreading nature cover and kills the planted and native species.

Major threats posed by invasive plants to tropical forest ecosystem

- competition with native species
- alteration of fire regimes
- disruption of nutrient cycling
- changes in hydrology
- impact on wildlife habitat
- altered pollination dynamics
- spread of invasive pathogens
- erosion and soil degradation
- human health concerns
- interference with restoration efforts.

Contact

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