

NEW YORK NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM

Scientific name: Valeriana officinalis USDA Plants Code: VAOF
 Common names: Common valerian
 Native distribution: Eurasia
 Date assessed: January 28, 2010
 Assessors: Steve Glenn, Gerry Moore
 Reviewers: LIISMA SRC
 Date Approved: 3 Feb. 2010 Form version date: 10 July 2009

New York Invasiveness Rank: Moderate (Relative Maximum Score 50.00-69.99)

Distribution and Invasiveness Rank (<i>Obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form</i>)		
Status of this species in each PRISM:	Current Distribution	PRISM Invasiveness Rank
1 Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
2 Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
3 Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
4 Finger Lakes	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
5 Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Not Present	Moderate
6 Lower Hudson	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
7 Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
8 Western New York	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

Invasiveness Ranking Summary (see details under appropriate sub-section)		Total (Total Answered*) Possible	Total
1	Ecological impact	40 (<u>20</u>)	10
2	Biological characteristic and dispersal ability	25 (<u>22</u>)	12
3	Ecological amplitude and distribution	25 (<u>25</u>)	19
4	Difficulty of control	10 (<u>7</u>)	5
	Outcome score	100 (<u>74</u>) ^b	46 ^a
	Relative maximum score [†]		62.16
	New York Invasiveness Rank [§]	Moderate (Relative Maximum Score 50.00-69.99)	

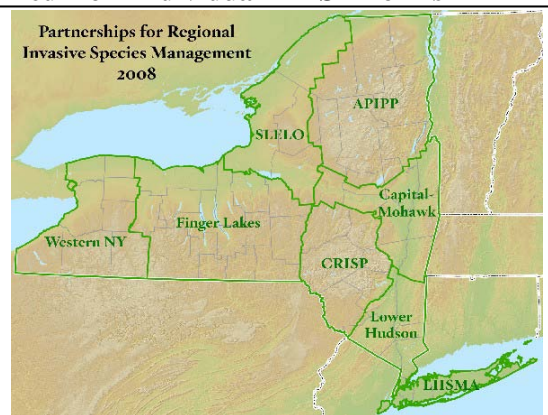
* For questions answered "unknown" do not include point value in "Total Answered Points Possible." If "Total Answered Points Possible" is less than 70.00 points, then the overall invasive rank should be listed as "Unknown."

[†] Calculated as 100(a/b) to two decimal places.

[§] Very High >80.00; High 70.00–80.00; Moderate 50.00–69.99; Low 40.00–49.99; Insignificant <40.00
 Not Assessable: not persistent in NY, or not found outside of cultivation.

A. DISTRIBUTION (KNOWN/POTENTIAL): Summarized from individual PRISM forms

A1.1. Has this species been documented to persist without cultivation in NY? (reliable source; voucher not required)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes – continue to A1.2
<input type="checkbox"/>	No – continue to A2.1
A1.2. In which PRISMs is it known (see inset map)?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adirondack Park Invasive Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital/Mohawk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finger Lakes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lower Hudson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Western New York



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Documentation:

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2010; Weldy & Werier, 2010.

A2.1. What is the likelihood that this species will occur and persist outside of cultivation, given the climate in the following PRISMs? (obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form)

Not Assessed	Adirondack Park Invasive Program
Not Assessed	Capital/Mohawk
Not Assessed	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership
Not Assessed	Finger Lakes
Very Likely	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area
Not Assessed	Lower Hudson
Not Assessed	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario
Not Assessed	Western New York

Documentation: Suitable habitats and climate (Grime, 1988); abundant opportunities for introduction, grown in American gardens for at least 200 years (Meyer, 1951); and is still the subject of considerable research for chemical and pharmacological utilization (Houghton, 1999).

Sources of information (e.g.: distribution models, literature, expert opinions): Meyer, 1951; Grime et al., 1988; Houghton, 1999.

If the species does not occur and is not likely to occur in any of the PRISMs, then stop here as there is no need to assess the species. Rank is “Not Assessable.”

A2.2. What is the current distribution of the species in each PRISM? (obtain rank from PRISM invasiveness ranking forms)

	Distribution
Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed
Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed
Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed
Finger Lakes	Not Assessed
Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Not Present
Lower Hudson	Not Assessed
Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed
Western New York	Not Assessed

Documentation: Only historically reported from Long Island and Staten Island from 5 locations; none since 1914.

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2010.

A2.3. Describe the potential or known suitable habitats within New York. Natural habitats include all habitats not under active human management. Managed habitats are indicated with an asterisk.

<p>Aquatic Habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish waters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater tidal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rivers/streams</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural lakes and ponds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal pools</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reservoirs/impoundments*</p>	<p>Wetland Habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish marshes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freshwater marshes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peatlands</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrub swamps</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forested wetlands/riparian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ditches*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beaches and/or coastal dunes</p>	<p>Upland Habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated*</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grasslands/old fields</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shrublands</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forests/woodlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alpine</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roadsides*</p>
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Other potential or known suitable habitats within New York: old grave yard, mountain cliffs, partially open upland habitats, forest edges, river banks

Documentation:

Sources of information:

Bunce, 1968; Grime et al., 1988; Mehrhoff et al., 2003; Gravuer, 2006; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2010.

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B. INVASIVENESS RANKING

Questions apply to areas similar in climate and habitats to New York unless specified otherwise.

1. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

1.1. Impact on Natural Ecosystem Processes and System-Wide Parameters (e.g. fire regime, geomorphological changes (erosion, sedimentation rates), hydrologic regime, nutrient and mineral dynamics, light availability, salinity, pH)

- A. No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes based on research studies, or the absence of impact information if a species is widespread (>10 occurrences in minimally managed areas), has been well-studied (>10 reports/publications), and has been present in the northeast for >100 years. 0
- B. Influences ecosystem processes to a minor degree (e.g., has a perceivable but mild influence on soil nutrient availability) 3
- C. Significant alteration of ecosystem processes (e.g., increases sedimentation rates along streams or coastlines, reduces open water that are important to waterfowl) 7
- D. Major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes (e.g., the species alters geomorphology and/or hydrology, affects fire frequency, alters soil pH, or fixes substantial levels of nitrogen in the soil making soil unlikely to support certain native plants or more likely to favor non-native species) 10
- U. Unknown

Score

U

Documentation:
 Identify ecosystem processes impacted (or if applicable, justify choosing answer A in the absence of impact information)
 No studies on the impact to natural ecosystem processes located.
Sources of information:
 Authors' pers. comm.

1.2. Impact on Natural Community Structure

- A. No perceived impact; establishes in an existing layer without influencing its structure 0
- B. Influences structure in one layer (e.g., changes the density of one layer) 3
- C. Significant impact in at least one layer (e.g., creation of a new layer or elimination of an existing layer) 7
- D. Major alteration of structure (e.g., covers canopy, eradicating most or all layers below) 10
- U. Unknown

Score

3

Documentation:
 Identify type of impact or alteration:
 Often becomes abundant and sometimes even dominant in favorable habitats. Its capacity for vegetative reproduction allows it to form dense colonies. These colonies alter the density and/or cover of the herbaceous layer.
Sources of information:
 Gravuer, 2006; authors' pers. obs.

1.3. Impact on Natural Community Composition

- A. No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations 0
- B. Influences community composition (e.g., reduces the number of individuals in one or more native species in the community) 3
- C. Significantly alters community composition (e.g., produces a significant reduction in the population size of one or more native species in the community) 7
- D. Causes major alteration in community composition (e.g., results in the extirpation of one or several native species, reducing biodiversity or change the community composition towards species exotic to the natural community) 10

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U. Unknown

Score

7

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Sources and observations note that *Valeriana officinalis* can significantly reduce the number of individuals of native plant species.

Sources of information:

Mehrhoff et al., 2003; Gravuer, 2006.

1.4. Impact on other species or species groups (cumulative impact of this species on the animals, fungi, microbes, and other organisms in the community it invades. Examples include reduction in nesting/foraging sites; reduction in habitat connectivity; injurious components such as spines, thorns, burrs, toxins; suppresses soil/sediment microflora; interferes with native pollinators and/or pollination of a native species; hybridizes with a native species; hosts a non-native disease which impacts a native species)

- | | | |
|----|--|----|
| A. | Negligible perceived impact | 0 |
| B. | Minor impact | 3 |
| C. | Moderate impact | 7 |
| D. | Severe impact on other species or species groups | 10 |
| U. | Unknown | |

Score

U

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

No studies on the impact to other species located.

Sources of information:

Authors' pers. comm.

	Total Possible	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td style="width: 40px; text-align: center;">20</td></tr></table>	20
20			
	Section One Total	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td style="width: 40px; text-align: center;">10</td></tr></table>	10
10			

2. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISPERSAL ABILITY

2.1. Mode and rate of reproduction

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| A. | No reproduction by seeds or vegetative propagules (i.e. plant sterile with no sexual or asexual reproduction). | 0 |
| B. | Limited reproduction (fewer than 10 viable seeds per plant AND no vegetative reproduction; if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 100 seeds per plant and no vegetative reproduction) | 1 |
| C. | Moderate reproduction (fewer than 100 viable seeds per plant - if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 1000 seeds per plant - OR limited successful vegetative spread documented) | 2 |
| D. | Abundant reproduction with vegetative asexual spread documented as one of the plants prime reproductive means OR more than 100 viable seeds per plant (if viability is not known, then maximum seed production reported to be greater than 1000 seeds per plant.) | 4 |
| U. | Unknown | |

Score

2

Documentation:

Describe key reproductive characteristics (including seeds per plant):

Reproductive biology complex. Sexually- reproduces by seed, but no numbers cited; Sprague (1944) suggest that regeneration by seeds may be infrequent. Sprague further comments that seedlings in the wild state take several years to reach the flowering stage, but under cultivation may flower their second year. Vegetatively species occasionally produce bulbils in the leaf axils. In some situations, it also reproduces vegetatively by epigeal and hypogeal

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stolons.

Sources of information:

Sprague, 1944; Grime et al., 1988; Gravuer, 2006; authors' pers. obs.

2.2. Innate potential for long-distance dispersal (e.g. bird dispersal, sticks to animal hair, buoyant fruits, pappus for wind-dispersal)

- A. Does not occur (no long-distance dispersal mechanisms) 0
- B. Infrequent or inefficient long-distance dispersal (occurs occasionally despite lack of adaptations) 1
- C. Moderate opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal, but studies report that 95% of seeds land within 100 meters of the parent plant) 2
- D. Numerous opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal and evidence that many seeds disperse greater than 100 meters from the parent plant) 4
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Seeds are wind (anemochory) and possible water dispersed (hydrochory)(Grime et al., 1988; Geertsema, 2005; Gravuer, 2006). Geertsema (2005) found that most seeds alighted within 100 meters, but a few traveled between 100-200 meters. Possible epizoochory via adhesion to animals- *Valeriana officinalis* seed mass ranges from .51 to 1 mg (Geertsema, 2005) with an average of 0.95 mg (Grime et al., 1988); studies have found seed weight highly significant to predict attachment potential to animal coats; light seeds were best retained, plant species with a diaspore mass <2 mg had a fair chance to be dispersed over long distances, once they get attached to the animal coats (Tackenberg et al., 2006; de Pablos & Peco, 2007).

Sources of information:

Grime et al., 1988; Geertsema, 2005; Gravuer, 2006; Tackenberg et al., 2006; de Pablos & Peco, 2007.

2.3. Potential to be spread by human activities (both directly and indirectly – possible mechanisms include: commercial sales, use as forage/revegetation, spread along highways, transport on boats, contaminated compost, land and vegetation management equipment such as mowers and excavators, etc.)

- A. Does not occur 0
- B. Low (human dispersal to new areas occurs almost exclusively by direct means and is infrequent or inefficient) 1
- C. Moderate (human dispersal to new areas occurs by direct and indirect means to a moderate extent) 2
- D. High (opportunities for human dispersal to new areas by direct and indirect means are numerous, frequent, and successful) 3
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Long planted for ornamental, herbal, and medicinal purposes and still commercially available today (Gravuer, 2006). An ornamental in Europe since at least the early 16th century (Harvey, 1989) and grown in American gardens for at least 200 years (Meyer, 1951). Used in late medieval times by rat catchers to bait traps; and stored with clothes to preserve freshness (Drury, 1992). *Valeriana* has been used medicinally for 2000 years (Morazzoni & Bombardelli, 1995) and is still the subject of considerable research for chemical and pharmacological utilization (Houghton, 1999). Known to have been in cultivation on Long Island (Grier & Grier, 1929). Possible indirect transport through adhesion of small seeds onto clothing.

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Sources of information:

Grier & Grier, 1929; Meyer, 1951; Harvey, 1989; Drury, 1992; Morazzoni & Bombardelli, 1995; Houghton, 1999; Gravuer, 2006.

2.4. Characteristics that increase competitive advantage, such as shade tolerance, ability to grow on infertile soils, perennial habit, fast growth, nitrogen fixation, allelopathy, etc.

- A. Possesses no characteristics that increase competitive advantage 0
- B. Possesses one characteristic that increases competitive advantage 3
- C. Possesses two or more characteristics that increase competitive advantage 6
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Evidence of competitive ability:

Rhizomatous perennial, some shade tolerance. Possesses considerable genotypic and phenotypic variation (Sprague, 1944; Titz et al., 1983; Grime et al., 1988; Evstatieva et al., 1993), which may enhance ecological amplitude.

Sources of information:

Sprague, 1944; Meyer, 1951; Titz et al., 1983; Grime et al., 1988; Evstatieva et al., 1993; Gravuer, 2006.

2.5. Growth vigor

- A. Does not form thickets or have a climbing or smothering growth habit 0
- B. Has climbing or smothering growth habit, forms a dense layer above shorter vegetation, forms dense thickets, or forms a dense floating mat in aquatic systems where it smothers other vegetation or organisms 2
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Describe growth form:

No studies located or observations that suggest it forms a thicket or exhibits a climbing or smothering habit.

Sources of information:

Authors' pers comm., obs.

2.6. Germination/Regeneration

- A. Requires open soil or water and disturbance for seed germination, or regeneration from vegetative propagules. 0
- B. Can germinate/regenerate in vegetated areas but in a narrow range or in special conditions 2
- C. Can germinate/regenerate in existing vegetation in a wide range of conditions 3
- U. Unknown (No studies have been completed)

Score

Documentation:

Describe germination requirements:

Reported to require a high temperature for germination; other information lacking.

Sources of information:

Grime et al., 1988; authors' pers. comm.

2.7. Other species in the genus invasive in New York or elsewhere

- A. No 0
- B. Yes 3
- U. Unknown

Score

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Documentation:

Species:

No other non-native *Valeriana* spp. are reported from North America.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2010; Weldy & Werier, 2010; U.S.D.A. NRCS, 2010.

Total Possible	22
Section Two Total	12

3. ECOLOGICAL AMPLITUDE AND DISTRIBUTION

3.1. Density of stands in natural areas in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (use same definition as Gleason & Cronquist which is: “The part of the United States covered extends from the Atlantic Ocean west to the western boundaries of Minnesota, Iowa, northern Missouri, and southern Illinois, south to the southern boundaries of Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois, and south to the Missouri River in Missouri. In Canada the area covered includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and parts of Quebec and Ontario lying south of the 47th parallel of latitude”)

- A. No large stands (no areas greater than 1/4 acre or 1000 square meters) 0
- B. Large dense stands present in areas with numerous invasive species already present or disturbed landscapes 2
- C. Large dense stands present in areas with few other invasive species present (i.e. ability to invade relatively pristine natural areas) 4
- U. Unknown

Score 0

Documentation:

Identify reason for selection, or evidence of weedy history:

No large stands noted or reported from northeastern North America.

Sources of information:

Authors' pers comm., obs.

3.2. Number of habitats the species may invade

- A. Not known to invade any natural habitats given at A2.3 0
- B. Known to occur in one natural habitat given at A2.3 1
- C. Known to occur in two natural habitats given at A2.3 2
- D. Known to occur in three natural habitat given at A2.3 4
- E. Known to occur in four or more natural habitats given at A2.3 6
- U. Unknown

Score 6

Documentation:

Identify type of habitats where it occurs and degree/type of impacts:

See A2.3.

Sources of information:

Bunce, 1968; Grime et al., 1988; Mehrhoff et al., 2003; Gravuer, 2006; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2010.

3.3. Role of disturbance in establishment

- A. Requires anthropogenic disturbances to establish. 0
- B. May occasionally establish in undisturbed areas but can readily establish in areas with natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 2
- C. Can establish independent of any known natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 4
- U. Unknown

Score 2

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Documentation:

Identify type of disturbance:

It has been observed spreading on its own into mid-successional vegetation and disturbance is known to facilitate the establishment and spread of this species. It typically inhabits somewhat disturbed habitats, but has often been observed to spread from these disturbed areas into a variety of more natural habitats. Does not often invade or persist in closed-canopy, late-successional forest vegetation. Not known to require anthropogenic disturbance in order to establish.

Sources of information:

Gravuer, 2006.

3.4. Climate in native range

- A. Native range does not include climates similar to New York 0
- B. Native range possibly includes climates similar to at least part of New York. 1
- C. Native range includes climates similar to those in New York 3
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Describe what part of the native range is similar in climate to New York:

Eurasia, as far north as Scandinavia.

Sources of information:

Grime, 1988.

3.5. Current introduced distribution in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (see question 3.1 for definition of geographic scope)

- A. Not known from the northeastern US and adjacent Canada 0
- B. Present as a non-native in one northeastern USA state and/or eastern Canadian province. 1
- C. Present as a non-native in 2 or 3 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces. 2
- D. Present as a non-native in 4–8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 1 northeastern state or eastern Canadian province. 3
- E. Present as a non-native in >8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 2 northeastern states or eastern Canadian provinces. 4
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Identify states and provinces invaded:

Reported from all northeastern states and provinces except DE, KY, RI, & VA.

Sources of information: See known introduced range in plants.usda.gov, and update with information from states and Canadian provinces.

U.S.D.A. NRCS, 2010.

3.6. Current introduced distribution of the species in natural areas in the eight New York State PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)

- A. Present in none of the PRISMs 0
- B. Present in 1 PRISM 1
- C. Present in 2 PRISMs 2
- D. Present in 3 PRISMs 3
- E. Present in more than 3 PRISMs or on the Federal noxious weed lists 4
- U. Unknown

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Documentation:

Describe distribution:

See A1.1.

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2010; Weldy & Werier, 2010.

Total Possible	25
Section Three Total	19

4. DIFFICULTY OF CONTROL

4.1. Seed banks

- A. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for less than 1 year, or does not make viable seeds or persistent propagules. 0
- B. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for at least 1 to 10 years 2
- C. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for more than 10 years 3
- U. Unknown

Score U

Documentation:

Identify longevity of seed bank:

This species appears to have a transient seed bank, but data on viability not known.

Sources of information:

van der Valk & Verhoeven, 1988; Geertsema, 2005; Gravuer, 2006.

4.2. Vegetative regeneration

- A. No regrowth following removal of aboveground growth 0
- B. Regrowth from ground-level meristems 1
- C. Regrowth from extensive underground system 2
- D. Any plant part is a viable propagule 3
- U. Unknown

Score 2

Documentation:

Describe vegetative response:

Perennial with a root system that includes rhizomes, so re-sprouting may occur.

Sources of information:

Grime et al., 1988; Gravuer, 2006.

4.3. Level of effort required

- A. Management is not required: e.g., species does not persist without repeated anthropogenic disturbance. 0
- B. Management is relatively easy and inexpensive: e.g. 10 or fewer person-hours of manual effort (pulling, cutting and/or digging) can eradicate a 1 acre infestation in 1 year (infestation averages 50% cover or 1 plant/100 ft²). 2
- C. Management requires a major short-term investment: e.g. 100 or fewer person-hours/year of manual effort, or up to 10 person-hours/year using mechanical equipment (chain saws, mowers, etc.) for 2-5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication is difficult, but possible (infestation as above). 3
- D. Management requires a major investment: e.g. more than 100 person-hours/year of manual effort, or more than 10 person hours/year using mechanical equipment, or the use of herbicide, grazing animals, fire, etc. for more than 5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication may be impossible (infestation as above). 4
- U. Unknown

Score 3

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Documentation:

Identify types of control methods and time-term required:

Listed as invasive or potentially invasive in New England (Mehrhoff et al., 2003) and the Great Lakes region (Gravuer, 2006). Although much of the United States appears climatically suitable for this species, past and present spread of established populations do not appear to be particularly rapid, although it does appear to be currently increasing in some regions. Management by hand-pulling or herbicide should be "straightforward" (Gravuer, 2006). Small stands and isolated plants can be relatively easily controlled by hand-pulling, since plants are relatively shallow-rooted and are often easy to pull out when the soil is moist. However, because this species is rosette-forming, mowing is not a viable control option. Medium-sized stands can presumably be controlled using commonly available herbicides (e.g. glyphosate, 2,4-D, triclopyr), although little or no published information exists to confirm the efficacy of this approach. For very large stands, late spring burning may be useful in fire-adapted communities (Gravuer, 2006). Biocontrol-Phytoplasma-induced yellows diseases were discovered on valerian in Alberta (Hwang et al., 1997); but further research of its use as a dedicated biocontrol is lacking. Plant's presence in wetlands would complicate any management efforts

Sources of information:

Hwang et al., 1997; Mehrhoff et al., 2003; Gravuer, 2006.

Total Possible	7
Section Four Total	5

Total for 4 sections Possible	74
Total for 4 sections	46

C. STATUS OF CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS:

At the present time (May 2008) there is no protocol or criteria for assessing the invasiveness of cultivars independent of the species to which they belong. Such a protocol is needed, and individuals with the appropriate expertise should address this issue in the future. Such a protocol will likely require data on cultivar fertility and identification in both experimental and natural settings.

Hybrids (crosses between different parent species) should be assessed individually and separately from the parent species wherever taxonomically possible, since their invasiveness may differ from that of the parent species. An exception should be made if the taxonomy of the species and hybrids are uncertain, and species and hybrids can not be clearly distinguished in the field. In such cases it is not feasible to distinguish species and hybrids, and they can only be assessed as a single unit.

Some cultivars of the species known to be available: 'Anthose', 'Kardiola', 'Polka', 'Select', 'Shipka'; probably numerous others

References for species assessment:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 2010. AILANTHUS database. [Accessed January 28, 2010].

Bunce, R. G. H. 1968. An ecological study of Ysgolion Duon, a mountain cliff in Snowdonia. *J. Ecology*. 56:59-75.

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- Grier, N. M. & C. R. Grier. 1929. A list of plants growing under cultivation in the vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. *Amer. Midland Naturalist*. 11(8):389-434.
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Citation: This NY ranking form may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY. Note that the order of authorship is alphabetical; all three authors contributed substantially to the development of this protocol.

Acknowledgments: The NY form incorporates components and approaches used in several other systems, cited in the references below. Valuable contributions by members of the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area's Scientific Review Committee were incorporated in revisions of this form. Original members of the LIISMA SRC included representatives of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; The Nature Conservancy; New York Natural Heritage Program, New York Sea Grant; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; National Park Service; Brookhaven National Laboratory; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 1; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk/Nassau Counties; Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association; Long Island Farm Bureau; SUNY Farmingdale Ornamental Horticulture Department; Queens College Biology Department; Long Island Botanical Society; Long Island Weed Information Management System database manager; Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation; Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums; Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District.

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