

ML 2015, CH. 76, Art. 2, Sec. 6a, MITPPC Sub-Project #13 Project Abstract
For Period Ending July 31, 2021

PROJECT TITLE: MITPPC #13: Terrestrial invasive species prioritization

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2015, Ch. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 6(a)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$74,461

AMOUNT SPENT: \$74,461

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$0

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project produced written risk evaluations of 77 terrestrial invasive species requested for review by MITPPC stakeholders, and assisted with the 2020 update of the MITPPC prioritization analysis. Thorough review of species allows MITPPC to be dynamic and transparent in how it responds to emerging TIS threats and stakeholder concerns.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

In 2017, the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center undertook an expansive research prioritization to systematically evaluate threats posed by a wide array of terrestrial invasive invertebrates, plants, and plant pathogens and created the document, "*Minnesota's Top 124 Terrestrial Invasive Plants and Pests: Priorities for Research*," which has provided guidance on funding MITPPC research projects in subsequent years. Since its publication, many terrestrial invasive species (TIS) have been suggested for further review by stakeholders. The movement of TIS into Minnesota and their potential harms calls for a thorough review of suggested species.

Following methodology developed in the 2017 document, this MITPPC project evaluated 77 plant, invertebrate, and plant pathogen species submitted for review by stakeholders. The results of each evaluation are incorporated into the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) model used by MITPPC to rank and prioritize the TIS that threaten Minnesota's terrestrial ecosystems. AHP is a form of multi-criteria decision analysis that makes the process of selecting the highest priority threats consistent and transparent. AHP has been used by many agencies and organizations to facilitate complex decision making. This project provided an update to the research priorities for the MITPPC 2020 call for proposals, which included ~45 new or re-reviewed species. Evaluations completed after the 2020 update will contribute to an anticipated 2022 prioritization update.

The project also enhanced and updated the evaluation of species such that multi-page documents are produced for each species to clearly outline the information used for characterizing the potential threat posed to Minnesota. Evaluation documents will be made available for stakeholder feedback. These changes allow MITPPC to continue to be dynamic and transparent in how it responds to emerging TIS threats and stakeholder concerns.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

During this project, evaluations of 77 species were conducted. Results from approximately 45 of these evaluations were analyzed and included in the 2020 updated prioritization, a summary of which can be found in the document "*Minnesota's Top Terrestrial Invasive Plants & Pests for Research: An Expanded Prioritization*" (<https://mitppc.umn.edu/invasive-species-prioritization>). The remaining evaluations will contribute to an anticipated update to the research priorities in 2022. Evaluation documents are in the process of becoming

publically available for feedback from MITPPC stakeholders on the MITPPC website (<https://mitppc.umn.edu/invasive-species-prioritization>).