



Predicting invasive plant response to climate change: Prioritization and mapping of new potential threats to Alberta's biodiversity
(Chai et al. 2014)

Supplemental Information: Alberta non-native plant invasiveness ranking form
(Adapted from Carlson et al. 2008)

Full report available at <http://www.biodiversityandclimate.abmi.ca>

Scientific name:	<i>Sphaerophysa salsula/Phaca salsula/Swainsona salsula</i>
Common name:	Alkali Swainsonpea/Austrian peaweed
Assessor:	Shauna-Lee Chai
Reviewers:	David Giblin
Date:	October 29, 2013

Outcome score:

A. Climatic Comparison

This species is present or may potentially establish in the following natural regions:

	Collected in Alberta regions	CLIMEX similarity in 1975	CLIMEX similarity in 2050
Boreal	No	0.741	0.743
Parkland	No	0.749	0.776
Foothills	No	0.721	0.724
Grassland	No	0.821	0.825
Rocky Mountains	No	0.640	0.621
Shield	No	0.701	0.731

B. Invasiveness Ranking

	Total (Total answered ¹ points possible)	Total score
1. Ecological impact	40(40)	28
2. Biological characteristic and dispersal ability	25(25)	18
3. Ecological amplitude and distribution	25(25)	19
4. Feasibility of control	10(10)	9
Outcome score	100(100) ^b	^a 74
Relative maximum score ²	74	<i>Highly Invasive</i>

¹For questions answered "unknown" do not include point value for the question in parentheses for "Total answered points possible."

²Calculated as a/b x 100.

A. Climatic Comparison:

1.1 Has this species ever been collected or documented in Alberta?

Yes – continue to 1.2

No – continue to 2.1

1.2 Which natural region has it been collected or documented? Proceed to section B. Invasiveness

Ranking.

Boreal

Rockies

Grassland

Foothills

Parkland

Shield

Documentation:

Sources of information: ANPC Rogues gallery, ACIMS, PLANTS database, GBIF

2.1 Is there a 70 percent or higher similarity (based on CLIMEX climate matching) between climates anywhere the species currently occurs and

a. Boreal - Yes

b. Rockies - No

c. Grassland - Yes

d. Foothills - Yes

e. Parkland - Yes

f. Shield - Yes

-If “no” is answered for all regions, reject species from consideration

Documentation:

Sources of information:

B. Invasiveness Ranking

1. Ecological Impact

1.1 Impact on Natural Ecosystem Processes

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes | 0 |
| b. Has the potential to influence ecosystem processes to a minor degree (e.g., has a perceivable but mild influence on soil nutrient availability) | 3 |
| c. Has the potential to cause significant alteration of ecosystem processes (e.g., increases sedimentation rates along streams or coastlines, reduces open water that are important to waterfowl) | 7 |
| d. May cause major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes (e.g., the species alters geomorphology; hydrology; or affects fire frequency, altering community composition; species 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:7

Documentation: Can impact nutrient cycling. Invades wetlands, dominates vegetation and reduces food available for game birds, and is unpalatable to wildlife and livestock (Robocker et al. 1964)

Identify ecosystem processes impacted:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

1.2 Impact on Natural Community Structure

- a. No perceived impact; establishes in an existing layer without influencing its structure 0
- b. Has the potential to influence structure in one layer (e.g., changes the density of one layer) 3
- c. Has the potential to cause significant impact in at least one layer (e.g., creation of a new layer or elimination of an existing layer) 7
- d. Likely to cause major alteration of structure (e.g., covers canopy, eradicating most or all layers below) 10
- u. Unknown

Score:7

Documentation: Grows to 1.5 m tall in south of range, but about 80 cm in northern range and is aggressive and excludes other vegetation (Robocker et al. 1964)

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

1.3 Impact on Natural Community Composition

- a. No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations 0
- b. Has the potential to influence community composition (e.g., reduces the number of individuals in one or more native species in the community) 3
- c. Has the potential to 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. Likely to cause 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
- u. Unknown

Score:7

Documentation: Dominates areas it invades with extremely dense cover (Robocker et al. 1964)

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

- 1.4 Impact on higher trophic levels (cumulative impact of this species on the animals, fungi, microbes, and other organisms in the community it invades)
- a. Negligible perceived impact 0
 - b. Has the potential to cause minor alteration 3
 - c. Has the potential to cause moderate alteration (minor reduction in nesting/foraging sites, reduction in habitat connectivity, interference with native pollinators, injurious components such as spines, toxins) 7
 - d. Likely to cause severe alteration of higher trophic populations (extirpation or endangerment of an existing native species/population, or significant reduction in nesting or foraging sites) 10
 - u. Unknown

Score:7

Documentation: unpalatable legume-the value of swainsonpea as a forage plant apparently is nil. In a grazing test on the McNary Wildlife Refuge in 1959, an area of swainsonpea was fenced and stocked with cattle. The animals refused to eat it, even after other forage was grazed to the ground. In sprinkler and sub-irrigated fields where crops are grown for bird feed, swainsonpea sharply reduces the production of grain and interferes with the feeding of game birds (Robocker et al. 1964).

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

Total Possible:40

Total:28

2. Biological Characteristics and Dispersal Ability

2.1 Mode of reproduction

- a. Not aggressive reproduction (few [0-10] seeds per plant and no vegetative reproduction) 0
- b. Somewhat aggressive (reproduces only by seeds (11-1,000/m²)) 1
- c. Moderately aggressive (reproduces vegetatively and/or by a moderate amount of seed, <1,000/m²) 2
- d. Highly aggressive reproduction (extensive vegetative spread and/or many seeded, >1,000/m²) 3
- u. Unknown

Score:3

Documentation: Reproduction by aggressive creeping roots and seed (CDFA, Robocker et al. 1964).

Describe key reproductive characteristics (including seeds per plant):

Rationale:

Sources of information:

2.2 Innate potential for long-distance dispersal (bird dispersal, sticks to animal hair, buoyant fruits, 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) 2
- c. Numerous opportunities for long-distance dispersal (species has adaptations such as pappus, hooked fruit-coats, etc.) 3
- u. Unknown

Score: 2

Documentation: pers. comm. (Giblin 2014)

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

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, contamination, etc.)

- a. Does not occur 0
- b. Low (human dispersal is infrequent or inefficient) 1
- c. Moderate (human dispersal occurs) 2
- d. High (there are numerous opportunities for dispersal to new areas) 3
- u. Unknown

Score:3

Documentation: grows with alfalfa, where alfalfa is grown for seed (CDFA)

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

2.4 Allelopathic

- a. no 0
- b. yes 2
- u. unknown

Score:0

Documentation:

Describe effect on adjacent plants:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

2.5 Competitive ability

- a. Poor competitor for limiting factors 0
- b. Moderately competitive for limiting factors 1
- c. Highly competitive for limiting factors and/or nitrogen fixing ability 3
- u. Unknown

Score:3

Documentation: Highly competitive and fixes nitrogen (Nevada, CDFA)

Evidence of competitive ability:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

2.6 Forms dense thickets, climbing or smothering growth habit, or otherwise taller than the surrounding vegetation

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. No | 0 |
| b. Forms dense thickets | 1 |
| c. Has climbing or smothering growth habit, or otherwise taller than the surrounding vegetation | 2 |
| u. Unknown | |

Score:2

Documentation: Grows to 1.5 m tall, has extremely dense cover (Robocker et al. 1964)

Describe growth form:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

2.7 Germination requirements

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Requires open soil and disturbance to germinate | 0 |
| b. Can germinate in vegetated areas but in a narrow range or in special conditions | 2 |
| c. Can germinate in existing vegetation in a wide range of conditions | 3 |
| u. Unknown | |

Score:2

Documentation: Grows in disturbed, moist areas-narrow range of germination (Giblin pers. comm.).

Average germination of scarified seed was 84 per cent at the end of 98 days. Varying conditions of light and temperature caused no significant difference in germination (Robocker et al. 1964).

Describe germination requirements:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

2.8 Other species in the genus invasive in Alberta or elsewhere

- | | |
|------------|---|
| a. No | 0 |
| b. Yes | 3 |
| u. Unknown | |

Score:0

Documentation: *Sphaerophysa kotschyana*-not invasive

Species:

Sources of information:

2.9 Aquatic, wetland, or riparian species

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Not invasive in wetland communities | 0 |
|--|---|

- b. Invasive in riparian communities 1
- c. Invasive in wetland communities 3
- u. Unknown

Score:3

Documentation: High potential for establishment along stream banks, irrigation canals, wasteways, pastures, and meadows with high water tables and other poorly drained areas (Robocker et al. 1964)

Describe type of habitat: *S. salsula* is a perennial herb which grows in disturbed sites, along roadsides, irrigation ditches and cultivation crops. It thrives in saline soils (Robocker et al. 1964) .

Rationale:

Sources of information:

Total Possible:25

Total:18

3. Distribution

- 3.1 Is the species highly domesticated or a weed of agriculture
 - a. No 0
 - b. Is occasionally an agricultural pest 2
 - c. Has been grown deliberately, bred, or is known as a significant agricultural pest 4
 - u. Unknown

Score:4

Documentation: Introduced for soil stabilisation and threatens alfalfa seed producers. It is commonly seen in areas where alfalfa is grown, because the seeds of the two species look similar and the weed seed is easily imported with the crop seed (CDFA). In sprinkler and sub-irrigated fields where crops are grown for bird feed, swainsonpea sharply reduces the production of grain and interferes with the feeding of game birds (Robocker et al. 1964).

Identify reason for selection, or evidence of weedy history:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

- 3.2 Known level of ecological impact in natural areas
 - a. Not known to cause impact in any other natural area 0
 - b. Known to cause impacts in natural areas, but in dissimilar habitats and climate zones than exist in regions of Alberta 1
 - c. Known to cause low impact in natural areas in similar habitats and climate zones to those present in Alberta 3
 - d. Known to cause moderate impact in natural areas in similar habitat and climate zones 4
 - e. Known to cause high impact in natural areas in similar habitat and climate zones 6
 - u. Unknown

Score:4

Documentation: Example, in the McNary Wildlife Refuge at Burbank, Washington, much of the margin of an oxbow lake is infested with a dense growth of swainsonpea. The infestation extends from the shore line for a considerable distance into relatively barren sand (Robocker et al. 1964).

Identify type of habitat and states or provinces where it occurs: Disturbed sites, roadsides, irrigation ditches, cultivated crops (CDFA)

Sources of information:

3.3 Role of anthropogenic and natural 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 disturbances 3
- c. Can establish independent of any known natural or anthropogenic disturbances 5
- u. Unknown

Score:3

Documentation:

Identify type of disturbance:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

3.4 Current global distribution

- a. Occurs in one or two continents or regions (e.g., Mediterranean region) 0
- b. Extends over three or more continents 3
- c. Extends over three or more continents, including successful introductions in arctic or subarctic regions 5
- u. Unknown

Score:3

Documentation: Asia, Europe, USA

Describe distribution:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

3.5 Extent of the species Canada range and/or occurrence of formal state or provincial listing

- a. 0-5 percent of the states/provinces 0
- b. 6-20 percent of the states/provinces 2
- c. 21-50 percent, and/or state/province listed as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious,” or “Invasive”) in 1 state or Canadian province 4
- d. Greater than 50 percent, and/or identified as “Noxious” in 2 or more states or Canadian provinces 5
- u. Unknown

Score:5

Documentation: Noxious in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington (USDA Plants)

Identify provinces invaded:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

Total possible:25

Total:19

4. Feasibility of Control

4.1 Seed banks

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Seeds remain viable in the soil for less than 3 years | 0 |
| b. Seeds remain viable in the soil for between 3 and 5 years | 2 |
| c. Seeds remain viable in the soil for 5 years and more | 3 |
| u. Unknown | |

Score:3

Documentation: Like many other legumes, the seeds are extremely hard and may be viable in the soil for many years (CDFA)

Identify longevity of seed bank

Rationale:

Sources of information:

4.2 Vegetative regeneration

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. No resprouting following removal of aboveground growth | 0 |
| b. Resprouting from ground-level meristems | 1 |
| c. Resprouting from extensive underground system | 2 |
| d. Any plant part is a viable propagule | 3 |
| u. Unknown | |

Score:2

Documentation: resprouts from roots (CDFA)

Describe vegetative response:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

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; requires a minor investment in human and financial resources | 2 |
| c. Management requires a major short-term investment of human and financial resources, or a moderate long-term investment | 3 |
| d. Management requires a major, long-term investment of human and financial resources | 4 |
| u. Unknown | |

Score:4

Documentation: There is little information regarding control of swainsonpea. Tillage may be ineffective due to an extensive creeping root system that sends up numerous shoots, and may spread

severed rootstocks to new areas. Tillage equipment should be thoroughly cleaned after working in infested areas.

Mowing or grazing may reduce seed production, but will be ineffective for complete control. Cattle likely prefer the seed pods of swainsonpea, and seed viability probably remains high after passing through animals. Therefore, cattle should be removed from areas after seed production. Like many other legumes, the seeds are extremely hard and may be viable in the soil for many years.

There is no information regarding chemical control of swainsonpea. Herbicides such as glyphosate, clopyralid, triclopyr, dicamba, 2,4-D, and picloram may be effective in noncrop areas. Control in alfalfa may be difficult, but glyphosate applied with a rope-wick applicator may be effective. However, regrowth is likely with any of these treatments and reapplication may be necessary. Optimal time for treatment is unknown, but other perennial weeds may be most susceptible either at early bloom or during the fall when translocation of carbohydrates to the roots is maximized (CDFA).

Identify types of control methods and time-term required:

Rationale:

Sources of information:

Total Possible: 10

Total:9

Total for 4 sections Possible:100

Total for 4 sections: 74

References:

Carlson, M. 2008. Invasiveness Ranking System for Non-Native Plants of Alaska. USDA. Available at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2_037575.pdf

CDFCA (California Dept of Food and Agriculture)

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/weedinfo/sphaerophysa-salsula.htm>

Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria database:

<http://www.pnwherbaria.org>.

DiTomaso, J.M., G.B. Kyser et al. 2013. Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States. Weed Research and Information Center, University of California. 544 pp.

(http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_S/Sphaerophysa.pdf).

Robocker, A.W.C., Kerr, H. and Bruns, V. 1964. Characteristics and Control of Swainsonpea. Weed Science Society of America, 12: 189–191.

USDA PLANTS database

Nevada http://agri.nv.gov/Noxious_Weed-Swainsonpea/

Notes

legume

Often infests roadsides, fencerows and irrigation ditches, stabilised dune areas with high water table.
Perennial; reproduces by seed and creeping roots
Potential contaminant of alfalfa seed due to similar size, shape and weight
eradicated from California

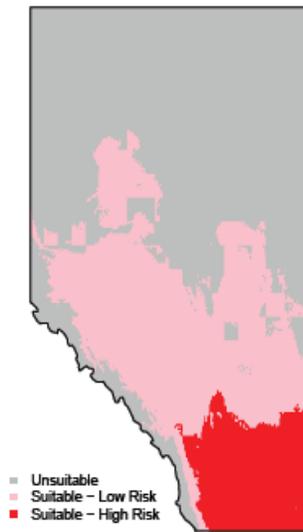
Score Interpretation

While different users will have different concepts of what constitutes various levels of invasiveness (e.g., what is “highly invasive” vs. “moderately invasive” may differ among management agencies), we divided the ranks into six blocks in Appendix A. We consider species with scores ≥ 80 as “Extremely Invasive” and species with scores 70–79 as “Highly Invasive;” both of these groups are composed of species estimated to be very threatening to Alberta. Species with scores of 60–69 as “Moderately Invasive” and scores of 50–59 represent “Modestly Invasive” species; both of these groups still pose significant risks to ecosystems. Species with scores of 40–49 are “Weakly Invasive”, and <40 are considered “Very Weakly Invasive.” These last two groups generally have not been shown to significantly alter ecosystem processes and communities elsewhere and probably do not require as much attention as the other species.

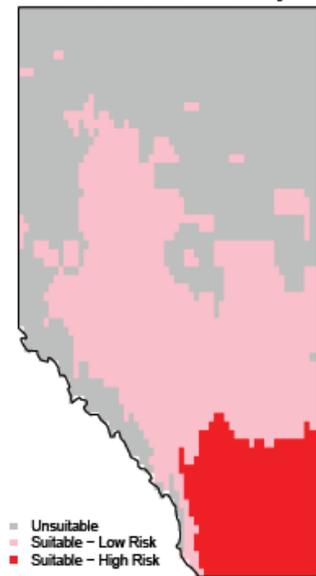
Species Distribution Models

Current=1975, future=2050

Current Climate — Binary

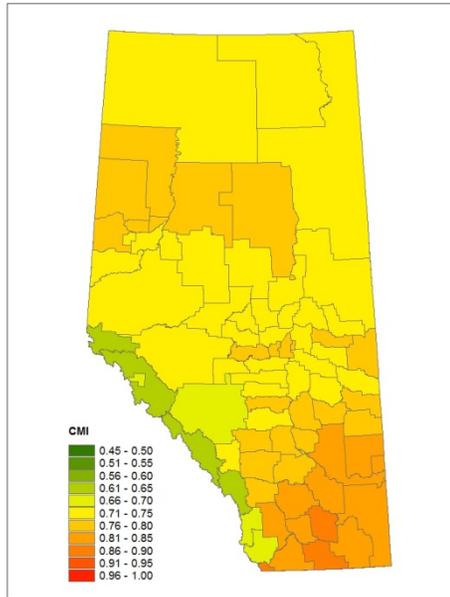


Future Climate — Binary



CLIMEX climate match

1975



2050

