

## THE INVASIVE FLORA OF THE NORTH-WEST OF RUSSIA

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The aim of our work was to create the first list of invasive and potentially invasive vascular plant species of the North-West of European Russia (Leningrad Region, Pskov Region, Novgorod Region and St. Petersburg). When compiling the dataset, we relied on the literature, herbarium collections, online sources and our field surveys (2018–2024). We sampled field data in all administrative regions, focusing on disturbed (i.e. urban areas, parks, roadsides and railways, etc.) and natural or semi-natural (i.e. woodlands, grasslands, coastal areas, etc.) habitats. We assessed the invasive status of the species, identified their habitats, characterized them by region of origin, and provided information about their first record in the wild. The blacklist of vascular flora of the North-West of Russia included 28 invasive and 23 potentially invasive species. Among the invasive species, there are 10 transformer species that cause the most significant damage to ecosystems. Most of the invasive species (15) are of North American origin, 21 species were introduced to the study area through cultivation. All 28 invasive species can be found in urban areas. At least 19 species have naturalized in watersides, 17 invasive species invade woodlands. Resulted species list showed both significant similarities and important differences with comparable previous assessments. Invasive species of the North-West of Russia made up ca. 5% of all invasive flora of the country.

**Keywords:** alien plants; boreal region; European Russia; inventory; plant invasions.

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