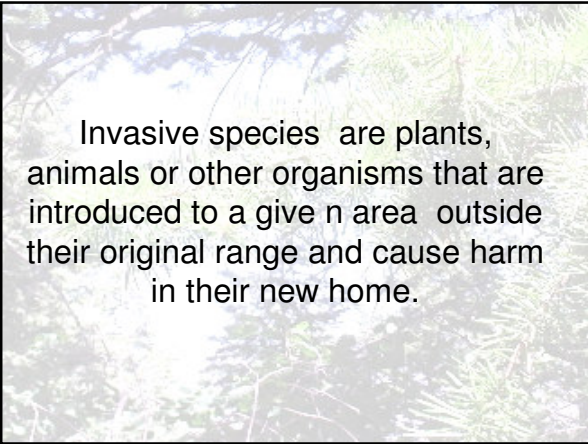
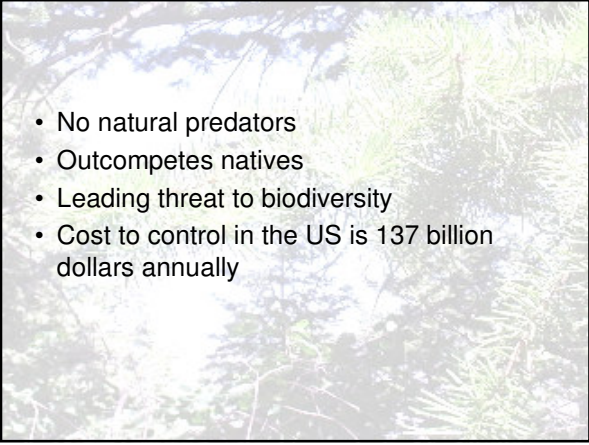


Invasive Ivy

Diana Willie



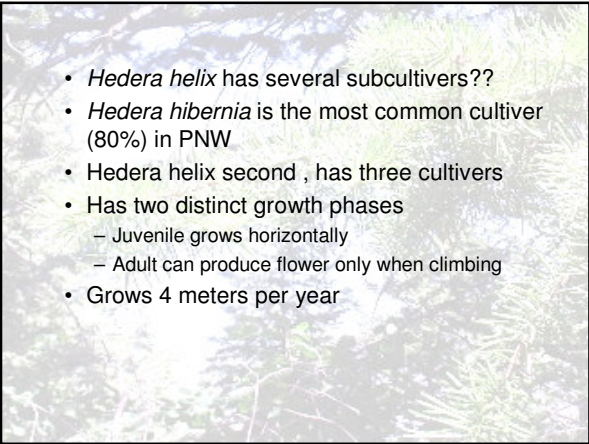
Invasive species are plants, animals or other organisms that are introduced to a given area outside their original range and cause harm in their new home.

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- No natural predators
 - Outcompetes natives
 - Leading threat to biodiversity
 - Cost to control in the US is 137 billion dollars annually



One of the worst is English Ivy

- Native to temperate Europe and Asia
- First documented in North America in 1727
- Infests parks, urban forests and Olympia National Park
- 2100 pounds were pulled from one tree
- Chokes out natives, tree seedlings and smothers large trees
- Provides poorer wildlife habitats than the specie/s it replaces
- Increases erosion on slopes

- 
- *Hedera helix* has several subcultivers??
 - *Hedera hibernica* is the most common cultivar (80%) in PNW
 - *Hedera helix* second, has three cultivars
 - Has two distinct growth phases
 - Juvenile grows horizontally
 - Adult can produce flower only when climbing
 - Grows 4 meters per year



Local Attention

- Article in Seattle PI, November 2005
- Possible ban on ivy proposed
- Noted several Seattle areas that are infected
- Spread by creeping from yards into adjacent urban wooded areas
- Spread by birds that have eaten the seeds
- Most of attention on *Hedera hibernica*

Problems / Opposition to Banning

- Continued to be sold by nurseries and “big box” home improvement stores
- Some argue that it is already here; what good would a ban do?
- Public education and “safe” planting
- Inteference with people’s livelihood and consumers’ right of choice
- There are several of *Hedera* cultivars not viewed by some as a problem.

Survey

- Surveyed 10 local retailers
- 2 do not sell
- 3 did not carry ivy this year
- 1 will special order it
- 1 does not sell *hibernica*
- 3 carried it this year with no warning to consumers

Resources

- Olympia Parks and Recreation
- Thurston County Stream Team
- Thurston Conservation District
- Audubon Society
- UW Center for Urban Horticulture
- King County Noxious Weed Control Board
- WA Invasive Species Coalition