Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Plantago lanceolata (English Plantain)

Assessed by
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Ecological Impact Rank: **Insignificant** (29) Confidence: **High** (83)

Management Difficulty Rank: Insignificant (0)	Confidence: High (100)
Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: Low (46)	Confidence: High (67)
Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Moderate (56)	Confidence: High (80)

Photo Credit: Therese Philips 2024, used under Creative Commons license (iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

Legal Listings

Washington State Weed Board: No

Washington Invasive Species Council: No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

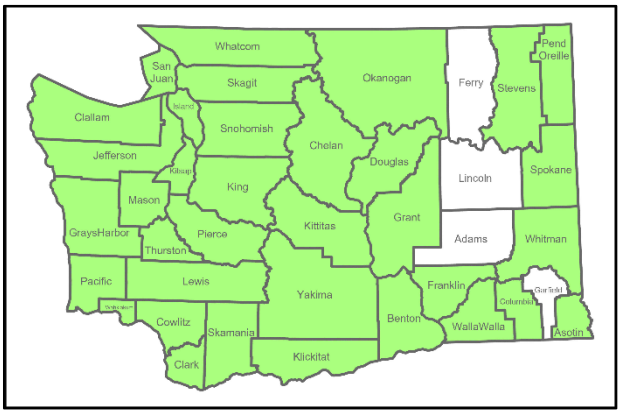

Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Plantago lanceolata* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Plantago lanceolata is found in 90% of counties in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Herbarium records and other observations

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded

Ecosystem types: Forest & Woodland, Grassland & Shrubland

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: No

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Restoration professionals are considering planting this species as a host plant for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

Source: Professional expertise

Q9: Allelopathy

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: No

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q14: Shade Tolerance

Rating: Low/Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q15: Disturbance Tolerance

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q17: Palatability

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Plantago lanceolata has a positive effect on some native species—it is currently the main larval host for the federally listed Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly. Some land managers plant this species just for the butterfly, as its host range is extremely limited.

Source: Professional expertise

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

This species is fairly disturbance dependent, and it seems to persist best in compacted soil along trails and roadsides.

Source: Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

This plant is not usually managed.

Source: Professional expertise

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria (CPNWH). 2024. Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria Specimen Database. https://www.pnwherbaria.org/data/search.php. Accessed: December 20, 2024.

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iNaturalist Community. 2024. Research grade observations from Washington State. https://www.inaturalist.org/. Accessed: December 24, 2024.