

# NEW YORK NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM

Scientific name: Lobelia chinensis Lour. USDA Plants Code: LOCH4  
 Common names: Chinese lobelia  
 Native distribution: Asia-Pacifica  
 Date assessed: 9 June 2009  
 Assessors: Steve Glenn, Gerry Moore  
 Reviewers: LIISMA SRC  
 Date Approved: 24 June 2009 Form version date: 3 March 2009

**New York Invasiveness Rank:** Insignificant (Relative Maximum Score <40.00)

| <b>Distribution and Invasiveness Rank</b> ( <i>Obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form</i> ) |                      |                         |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Status of this species in each PRISM:  | Current Distribution | PRISM Invasiveness Rank |
| 1 Adirondack Park Invasive Program   | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |
| 2 Capital/Mohawk   | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |
| 3 Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership   | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |
| 4 Finger Lakes   | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |
| 5 Long Island Invasive Species Management Area   | Not Present          | Insignificant           |
| 6 Lower Hudson   | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |
| 7 Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario  | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |
| 8 Western New York   | Not Assessed         | Not Assessed            |

| <b>Invasiveness Ranking Summary</b><br>(see details under appropriate sub-section) |   | Total (Total Answered*)<br>Possible           | Total           |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| 1  | Ecological impact                               | 40 ( <u>20</u> )                              | 6               |
| 2  | Biological characteristic and dispersal ability | 25 ( <u>25</u> )                              | 10              |
| 3  | Ecological amplitude and distribution           | 25 ( <u>25</u> )                              | 09              |
| 4  | Difficulty of control                           | 10 ( <u>3</u> )                               | 2               |
|  | Outcome score                                   | 100 ( <u>73</u> ) <sup>b</sup>                | 27 <sup>a</sup> |
|  | Relative maximum score <sup>†</sup>             |   | 36.99           |
|  | New York Invasiveness Rank <sup>§</sup>         | Insignificant (Relative Maximum Score <40.00) |                 |

\* For questions answered “unknown” do not include point value in “Total Answered Points Possible.” If “Total Answered Points Possible” is less than 70.00 points, then the overall invasive rank should be listed as “Unknown.”  
<sup>†</sup> Calculated as 100(a/b) to two decimal places.

<sup>§</sup> Very High >80.00; High 70.00–80.00; Moderate 50.00–69.99; Low 40.00–49.99; Insignificant <40.00

### A. DISTRIBUTION (KNOWN/POTENTIAL): Summarized from individual PRISM forms

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| A1.1. Has this species been documented to persist without cultivation in NY? (reliable source; voucher not required) |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Yes – continue to A1.2                         |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | No – continue to A2.1                          |  |
| A1.2. In which PRISMs is it known (see inset map)?   |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Adirondack Park Invasive Program               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Capital/Mohawk                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Finger Lakes                                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Long Island Invasive Species Management Area   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Lower Hudson                                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Western New York                               |  |

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**Documentation:**

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009; Weldy & Werier, 2009.

A2.1. What is the likelihood that this species will occur and persist outside of cultivation, given the climate in the following PRISMs? (obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form)

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Not Assessed | Adirondack Park Invasive Program               |
| Not Assessed | Capital/Mohawk                                 |
| Not Assessed | Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership |
| Not Assessed | Finger Lakes                                   |
| Very Likely  | Long Island Invasive Species Management Area   |
| Not Assessed | Lower Hudson                                   |
| Not Assessed | Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario            |
| Not Assessed | Western New York                               |

**Documentation:**

Sources of information (e.g.: distribution models, literature, expert opinions):

***If the species does not occur and is not likely to occur with any of the PRISMs, then stop here as there is no need to assess the species.***

A2.2. What is the current distribution of the species in each PRISM? (obtain rank from PRISM invasiveness ranking forms)

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | Distribution |
| Adirondack Park Invasive Program               | Not Assessed |
| Capital/Mohawk                                 | Not Assessed |
| Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership | Not Assessed |
| Finger Lakes                                   | Not Assessed |
| Long Island Invasive Species Management Area   | Not Present  |
| Lower Hudson                                   | Not Assessed |
| Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario            | Not Assessed |
| Western New York                               | Not Assessed |

**Documentation:**

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009; Weldy & Werier, 2009.

A2.3. Describe the potential or known suitable habitats within New York. Natural habitats include all habitats not under active human management. Managed habitats are indicated with an asterisk.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Aquatic Habitats</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish waters</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freshwater tidal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rivers/streams</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural lakes and ponds</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal pools</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reservoirs/impoundments*</p> | <p><b>Wetland Habitats</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish marshes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Freshwater marshes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peatlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shrub swamps</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forested wetlands/riparian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ditches*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beaches and/or coastal dunes</p> | <p><b>Upland Habitats</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grasslands/old fields</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shrublands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forests/woodlands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alpine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Roadsides*</p> |
|--|---|--|

Other potential or known suitable habitats within New York:

Tidal river banks, paddy fields.

**Documentation:**

Sources of information:

Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Rhoads & Block, 2000; Oliver, 2004; Flora of Korea Editorial Committee, 2007.

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**B. INVASIVENESS RANKING**

Questions apply to areas similar in climate and habitats to New York unless specified otherwise.

*1. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT*

1.1. Impact on Natural Ecosystem Processes and System-Wide Parameters (e.g. fire regime, geomorphological changes (erosion, sedimentation rates), hydrologic regime, nutrient and mineral dynamics, light availability, salinity, pH)

- A. No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes based on research studies, or the absence of impact information if a species is widespread (>10 occurrences in minimally managed areas), has been well-studied (>10 reports/publications), and has been present in the northeast for >100 years. 0
- B. Influences ecosystem processes to a minor degree (e.g., has a perceivable but mild influence on soil nutrient availability) 3
- C. Significant alteration of ecosystem processes (e.g., increases sedimentation rates along streams or coastlines, reduces open water that are important to waterfowl) 7
- D. Major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes (e.g., the species alters geomorphology and/or hydrology, affects fire frequency, alters soil pH, or 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 

|   |
|---|
| U |
|---|

**Documentation:**  
 Identify ecosystem processes impacted (or if applicable, justify choosing answer A in the absence of impact information)  
 No studies on the impact to ecological processes located.  
**Sources of information:**  
 Oliver, 2004.

1.2. Impact on Natural Community Structure

- A. No perceived impact; establishes in an existing layer without influencing its structure 0
- B. Influences structure in one layer (e.g., changes the density of one layer) 3
- C. Significant impact in at least one layer (e.g., creation of a new layer or elimination of an existing layer) 7
- D. Major alteration of structure (e.g., covers canopy, eradicating most or all layers below) 10
- U. Unknown

Score 

|   |
|---|
| 3 |
|---|

**Documentation:**  
 Identify type of impact or alteration:  
 This species can increase the density in the herb layer. Based on observations in PA and NJ, there is no evidence that it is significantly impacting a layer (e.g., creating or eliminating a layer) or causing major alteration of structure.  
**Sources of information:**  
 Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Rhoads & Block, 2000; Oliver, 2004; author's (Moore's) pers. obs.

1.3. Impact on Natural Community Composition

- A. No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations 0
- B. Influences community composition (e.g., reduces the number of individuals in one or more native species in the community) 3
- C. 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. Causes 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

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U. Unknown

Score 

|   |
|---|
| 3 |
|---|

**Documentation:**

Identify type of impact or alteration:

This species is reported to form colonies reducing the numbers of native individuals in the community. No evidence of significant or major alteration of structure.

Sources of information:

Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Rhoads & lock, 2000; Oliver, 2004; author's (Moore's) pers. obs.

1.4. Impact on other species or species groups (cumulative impact of this species on the animals, fungi, microbes, and other organisms in the community it invades.

Examples include reduction in nesting/foraging sites; reduction in habitat connectivity; injurious components such as spines, thorns, burrs, toxins; suppresses soil/sediment microflora; interferes with native pollinators and/or pollination of a native species; hybridizes with a native species; hosts a non-native disease which impacts a native species)

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| A. | Negligible perceived impact                      | 0  |
| B. | Minor impact                                     | 3  |
| C. | Moderate impact                                  | 7  |
| D. | Severe impact on other species or species groups | 10 |
| U. | Unknown  |    |

Score 

|   |
|---|
| U |
|---|

**Documentation:**

Identify type of impact or alteration:

No studies on the impact to other species located.

Sources of information:

Oliver, 2004.

|    |                   |  |    |
|----|-------------------|--|----|
|    | Total Possible    | <table border="1"><tr><td style="text-align: center;">20</td></tr></table> | 20 |
| 20 |                   |  |    |
|    | Section One Total | <table border="1"><tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr></table>  | 6  |
| 6  |                   |  |    |

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**2. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISPERSAL ABILITY**

2.1. Mode and rate of reproduction (provisional thresholds, more investigation needed)

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| A. | No reproduction by seeds or vegetative propagules (i.e. plant sterile with no sexual or asexual reproduction).  | 0 |
| B. | Limited reproduction (fewer than 10 viable seeds per plant AND no vegetative reproduction; if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 100 seeds per plant and no vegetative reproduction)   | 1 |
| C. | Moderate reproduction (fewer than 100 viable seeds per plant - if viability is not known, then maximum seed production is less than 1000 seeds per plant - OR limited successful vegetative spread documented)  | 2 |
| D. | Abundant reproduction with vegetative asexual spread documented as one of the plants prime reproductive means OR more than 100 viable seeds per plant (if viability is not known, then maximum seed production reported to be greater than 1000 seeds per plant.) | 4 |
| U. | Unknown   |   |

Score 

|   |
|---|
| 2 |
|---|

**Documentation:**

Describe key reproductive characteristics (including seeds per plant):

Species is rhizomatous with each stems producing a few flowers, each one developing into a two-valved capsule, each valve few to many (up to dozens) seeded. Based on field and herbarium observations of material individual exhibit moderate reproductive ability (i.e., fewer than 1000 seeds per individual even when all stems connected by rhizomes are

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considered). These findings are consistent with that of Farmer & Spence (1987) on *Lobelia dortmanna*, which is also few-flowered. While the species is rhizomatous it is a weak herb and it is questionable if the plant establishes new populations through asexual means (e.g., pieces of rhizomes being transported to new areas).

Sources of information:

Farmer & Spence, 1987; Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Oliver, 2004; author's (Moore's) pers. obs.

2.2. Innate potential for long-distance dispersal (e.g. bird dispersal, sticks to animal hair, buoyant fruits, pappus for 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)  | 1 |
| C. Moderate opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal, but studies report that 95% of seeds land within 100 meters of the parent plant)    | 2 |
| D. Numerous opportunities for long-distance dispersal (adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal and evidence that many seeds disperse greater than 100 meters from the parent plant) | 4 |
| U. Unknown  |   |

Score 1

**Documentation:**

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Transport by water obviously possible, but perhaps hampered by the seeds probably not being buoyant. Seeds taken from an herbarium specimen sank immediately when placed in water (Moore's pers. obs). Farmer & Spence (1987) reported the same for *Lobelia dortmanna* (and that seeds usually sank into the sediment to depths of 5-10 mm.). Farmer and Spence (1987) concluded that this may limit their distribution; they also noted that seeds will germinate in areas that cannot support establishment (e.g., too great a depth in the littoral zone, areas with significant exposure or sedimentation).

Sources of information:

Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Oliver, 2004; Flora of Korea Editorial Committee, 2007; author's (Moore's) pers. obs. .

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, contaminated compost, land and vegetation management equipment such as mowers and excavators, etc.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Does not occur  | 0 |
| B. Low (human dispersal to new areas occurs almost exclusively by direct means and is infrequent or inefficient)             | 1 |
| C. Moderate (human dispersal to new areas occurs by direct and indirect means to a moderate extent)                          | 2 |
| D. High (opportunities for human dispersal to new areas by direct and indirect means are numerous, frequent, and successful) | 3 |
| U. Unknown   |   |

Score 1

**Documentation:**

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Sold commercially in the United States on various web site; it is important in Chinese herbology. Means for indirect dispersal by humans not known.

Sources of information:

Oliver, 2004; authors' personal observations

2.4. Characteristics that increase competitive advantage, such as shade tolerance, ability to grow on infertile soils, perennial habit, fast growth, nitrogen fixation, allelopathy, etc.

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- A. Possesses no characteristics that increase competitive advantage 0
- B. Possesses one characteristic that increases competitive advantage 3
- C. Possesses two or more characteristics that increase competitive advantage 6
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**  
 Evidence of competitive ability:  
 Perennial, no other characteristics reported.  
 Sources of information:  
 Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Oliver, 2004; Flora of Korea Editorial Committee, 2007.

**2.5. Growth vigor**

- A. Does not form thickets or have a climbing or smothering growth habit 0
- B. Has climbing or smothering growth habit, forms a dense layer above shorter vegetation, forms dense thickets, or forms a dense floating mat in aquatic systems where it smothers other vegetation or organisms 2
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**  
 Describe growth form:  
 Reported to form colonies, but not known to form thickets or have a smothering or climbing habit.  
 Sources of information:  
 Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Oliver, 2004.

**2.6. Germination/Regeneration**

- A. Requires open soil or water and disturbance for seed germination, or regeneration from vegetative propagules. 0
- B. Can germinate/regenerate in vegetated areas but in a narrow range or in special conditions 2
- C. Can germinate/regenerate in existing vegetation in a wide range of conditions 3
- U. Unknown (No studies have been completed)

Score

**Documentation:**  
 Describe germination requirements:  
 Germinates in a wide range of conditions even in areas that are not conducive to survival of adult plants .  
 Sources of information:  
 Farmer and Spence, 1987.

**2.7. Other species in the genus invasive in New York or elsewhere**

- A. No 0
- B. Yes 3
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**  
 Species:  
 Lobelia erinus reported naturalizing in PA and MI but not recognized as invasive.  
 U.S.D.A., 2009.

Total Possible   
 Section Two Total

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**3. ECOLOGICAL AMPLITUDE AND DISTRIBUTION**

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3.1. Density of stands in natural areas in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (use same definition as Gleason & Cronquist which is: “The part of the United States covered extends from the Atlantic Ocean west to the western boundaries of Minnesota, Iowa, northern Missouri, and southern Illinois, south to the southern boundaries of Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois, and south to the Missouri River in Missouri. In Canada the area covered includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and parts of Quebec and Ontario lying south of the 47th parallel of latitude”)

- A. No large stands (no areas greater than 1/4 acre or 1000 square meters) 0
- B. Large dense stands present in areas with numerous invasive species already present or disturbed landscapes 2
- C. Large dense stands present in areas with few other invasive species present (i.e. ability to invade relatively pristine natural areas) 4
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify reason for selection, or evidence of weedy history:  
No large stands greater than 0.25 acres reported or observed in the Northeast.  
Sources of information:  
Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009; Weldy & Werier, 2009; auhtor's (Moore's) pers. obs.

3.2. Number of habitats the species may invade

- A. Not known to invade any natural habitats given at A2.3 0
- B. Known to occur in two or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least one a natural habitat. 1
- C. Known to occur in three or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least two a natural habitat. 2
- D. Known to occur in four or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least three a natural habitat. 4
- E. Known to occur in more than four of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least four a natural habitat. 6
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify type of habitats where it occurs and degree/type of impacts:  
See A2.3.  
Sources of information:  
Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Oliver, 2004; Flora of Korea Editorial Committee, 2007.

3.3. Role of 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 or anthropogenic disturbances. 2
- C. Can establish independent of any known natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 4
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify type of disturbance:  
No detailed studies located, its appearance along river banks (which are inherently disturbed) suggests that it is capable of establishing in disturbed habitats. No evidence that it requires anthropogenic disturbance or that it can establish in habitats lacking any disturbance.  
Sources of information:

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Oliver, 2004; author's (Moore's) pers. obs.

**3.4. Climate in native range**

- A. Native range does not include climates similar to New York 0
- B. Native range possibly includes climates similar to at least part of New York. 1
- C. Native range includes climates similar to those in New York 3
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Describe what part of the native range is similar in climate to New York:

Japan-Hokkaido Province; Korea-Gwangwon-do Province.

Sources of information:

Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Flora of Korea Editorial Committee, 2007.

**3.5. Current introduced distribution in the northeastern USA and eastern Canada (see question 3.1 for definition of geographic scope )**

- A. Not known from the northeastern US and adjacent Canada 0
- B. Present as a non-native in one northeastern USA state and/or eastern Canadian province. 1
- C. Present as a non-native in 2 or 3 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces. 2
- D. Present as a non-native in 4–8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 1 northeastern state or eastern Canadian province. 3
- E. Present as a non-native in >8 northeastern USA states and/or eastern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem weed (e.g., “Noxious” or “Invasive”) in 2 northeastern states or eastern Canadian provinces. 4
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Identify states and provinces invaded:

NJ, PA.

Sources of information: See known introduced range in plants.usda.gov, and update with information from states and Canadian provinces.

U.S.D.A., 2009.

**3.6. Current introduced distribution of the species in natural areas in the eight New York State PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)**

- A. Present in none of the PRISMs 0
- B. Present in 1 PRISM 1
- C. Present in 2 PRISMs 2
- D. Present in 3 PRISMs 3
- E. Present in more than 3 PRISMs or on the Federal noxious weed lists 4
- U. Unknown

Score

**Documentation:**

Describe distribution:

See A1.1.

Sources of information:

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2009; Weldy & Werier, 2009.

Total Possible

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Section Three Total 

|   |
|---|
| 9 |
|---|

**4. DIFFICULTY OF CONTROL**

**4.1. Seed banks**

- A. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for less than 1 year, or does not make viable seeds or persistent propagules. 0
- B. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for at least 1 to 10 years 2
- C. Seeds (or vegetative propagules) remain viable in soil for more than 10 years 3
- U. Unknown

Score 

|   |
|---|
| U |
|---|

**Documentation:**  
 Identify longevity of seed bank:  
 No seed-banking studies located.  
 Sources of information:  
 Oliver, 2004; authors' pers. comm.

**4.2. Vegetative regeneration**

- A. No regrowth following removal of aboveground growth 0
- B. Regrowth from ground-level meristems 1
- C. Regrowth from extensive underground system 2
- D. Any plant part is a viable propagule 3
- U. Unknown

Score 

|   |
|---|
| 2 |
|---|

**Documentation:**  
 Describe vegetative response:  
 Rhizomatous perennial.  
 Sources of information:  
 Iwatsuki et al., 1993; Oliver, 2004.

**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: e.g. 10 or fewer person-hours of manual effort (pulling, cutting and/or digging) can eradicate a 1 acre infestation in 1 year (infestation averages 50% cover or 1 plant/100 ft<sup>2</sup>). 2
- C. Management requires a major short-term investment: e.g. 100 or fewer person-hours/year of manual effort, or up to 10 person-hours/year using mechanical equipment (chain saws, mowers, etc.) for 2-5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication is difficult, but possible (infestation as above). 3
- D. Management requires a major investment: e.g. more than 100 person-hours/year of manual effort, or more than 10 person hours/year using mechanical equipment, or the use of herbicide, grazing animals, fire, etc. for more than 5 years to suppress a 1 acre infestation. Eradication may be impossible (infestation as above). 4
- U. Unknown

Score 

|   |
|---|
| U |
|---|

**Documentation:**  
 Identify types of control methods and time-term required:  
 No management studies located.  
 Sources of information:  
 Oliver, 2004.

Total Possible 

|   |
|---|
| 3 |
|---|

  
 Section Four Total 

|   |
|---|
| 2 |
|---|

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|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Total for 4 sections Possible</b> | 73 |
| <b>Total for 4 sections</b>          | 27 |

**C. STATUS OF CULTIVARS AND HYBRIDS:**

At the present time (May 2008) there is no protocol or criteria for assessing the invasiveness of cultivars independent of the species to which they belong. Such a protocol is needed, and individuals with the appropriate expertise should address this issue in the future. Such a protocol will likely require data on cultivar fertility and identification in both experimental and natural settings.

Hybrids (crosses between different parent species) should be assessed individually and separately from the parent species wherever taxonomically possible, since their invasiveness may differ from that of the parent species. An exception should be made if the taxonomy of the species and hybrids are uncertain, and species and hybrids can not be clearly distinguished in the field. In such cases it is not feasible to distinguish species and hybrids, and they can only be assessed as a single unit.

Some cultivars of the species known to be available:

**References for species assessment:**

Anderson, K. 1996. Hiking Hawk Island, Plant List. Hawk Island Delanco Township, Burlington Co., New Jersey. <nynjcbotany.org/njipofc/hawkis.html> [Accessed 9 June 2009].

Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 2009. AILANTHUS database. [Accessed on 9 June 2009.]

Farmer, A. M. and D. H. N. Spence. 1987. Flowering, Germination and Zonation of the Submerged Aquatic Plant *Lobelia Dortmanna* L. *Ecology* 75(4): 1065-1076.

Flora of Korea Editorial Committee. 2007. The genera of vascular plants of Korea. Academy Publ. Co., Seoul, Korea. 1482 pp.

Iwatsuki, K., T. Yamazaki, D. E. Boufford, & H. Ohba (eds.). 1993. *Flora of Japan*. Vol. IIIa. Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. 482 pp.

Oliver, L. 2004. *Lobelia chinensis*. U.S. Invasive Species Impact Rank (I-Rank). NatureServe Explorer. <www.natureserve.org>. [Accessed on 9 June 2009.]

Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2000. *The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual*. University of Pennsylvania Press: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 1061 pp.

United States Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service. 2009. The PLANTS Database. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana [Accessed on 9 June 2009].

Weldy, T. & D. Werier. 2009. *New York Flora Atlas*. [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (original application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research. University of South Florida]. New York Flora Association, Albany, New York. [Accessed on 9 June 2009.]

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