

# COMMON NON-NATIVE TREES IN THE ALPINE SPACE



*Tree of heaven*  
*Ailanthus altissima*



THE TREE OF HEAVEN USED TO BE POPULAR AS AN ORNAMENTAL TREE IN GARDENS AND FOR AFFORESTATION OF DEGRADED AREAS. TODAY, IT IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL SPECIES AND INVASIVE ON ALL CONTINENTS EXCEPT ANTARCTICA.

*Northern red oak*  
*Quercus rubra*



IN FOREST MANAGEMENT, THE NORTHERN RED OAK IS VALUED FOR ITS HIGH GROWTH RATE AND DROUGHT RESISTANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS THOUGHT TO HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON INDIGENOUS BIODIVERSITY.

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- NON-NATIVE TREE SPECIES (NNTS), ALSO KNOWN AS “NON-INDIGENOUS”, “ALIEN”, “INTRODUCED”, “ALLOCHTHONOUS” OR “EXOTIC” TREES, ARE TREE SPECIES, BREEDS OR HYBRIDS IN THE ALPINE SPACE REGION WHOSE PRESENCE THERE IS THE RESULT OF INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTAL INTRODUCTION BY HUMANS.
- NNTS CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADAPTATION OF EUROPEAN FORESTS AND URBAN AREAS TO CHANGES IN CLIMATE, AT THE SAME TIME, THEY POSE A RISK TO BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.
- THERE IS CURRENTLY NO GENERALLY ORIENTED STRATEGY FOR MANAGING THESE SPECIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, THE ALPTREES PROJECT THEREFORE AIMS TO DEVELOP AND INTRODUCE SUCH A STRATEGY.
- THE ALPTREES PROJECT INVESTIGATES 48 REGIONS IN FIVE COUNTRIES (AUSTRIA, SLOVENIA, ITALY, FRANCE AND GERMANY), AND OUR RESEARCH HAS DETERMINED THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN 110 NATIVE AND 530 NON-NATIVE TREE SPECIES IN THESE REGIONS.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO MONITOR THE OCCURRENCE OF NNTS, SINCE THERE ARE INVASIVE TREE SPECIES AMONG THEM. MANY ARE OVERLOOKED, AS THEY ARE LOCATED ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND OR IN URBAN SETTINGS. WE RECOMMEND USING THE iNATURALIST APPLICATION FOR DETECTING AND RECORDING NNTS.



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