

Indicator 10: Ecologically harmful species

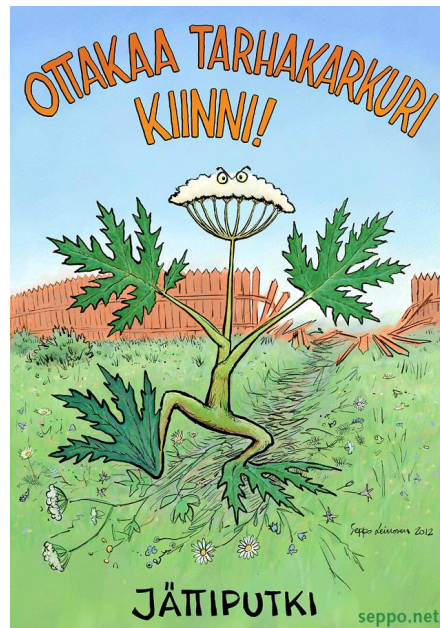


Figure: Capture the garden escapee! Information about the harmfulness of garden escapee plants has been disseminated actively also to the public. In Helsinki public campaigns have been organized against such species as Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam from the city's nature areas. (Figure: Seppo Leinonen 2012)

Status:

The taxa selected for this indicator are vascular plants, mammals and amphibians and reptiles. The basis of their selection was the availability of data. In addition, the taxa of vascular plants and mammals are known to include species that are categorized as harmful. Harmful species are controlled via interdepartmental cooperation. For instance the control of harmful plants has also been undertaken via cooperation with residents. According to the introduced species list of the Civil Works Department, 58 vascular plant species that have been categorized as harmful in the national alien species strategy. Of these, four have not as yet proved to be harmful in Helsinki but they have been included in the calculations for this indicator.

Taxon:	Total number of species:	Number of harmful introduced species:	Percentage proportion of harmful introduced species:
Vascular plants	1 108 ¹	58	5%
Mammals	46	6	13%
Amphibians and reptiles	8	0	0%
Total:	1162	64	5.5%

¹ Kurtto, A., Hahkala, V. and Helynranta, L. 2002: Helsingin kasviston historialliset ainekset, uhanalaisuus ja elinympäristöt. (In English: The Historical Background, Threatenedness and Habitats of the Flora of Helsinki) Thematic maps. 246 maps with explanations + 37 Tables, Helsinki City Environment Centre, Helsinki.

Score:

0 points: > 30.0%

1 point: 20.1% - 30.0%

2 points: 11.1% - 20.0%

3 points: 1.0% - 11.0%

4 points: < 1.0%

Monitoring:

Helsinki's alien species strategy will be prepared for 2015. In conjunction with the strategy a GIS-based alien species database has been developed particularly for the monitoring of plant species. The database is updated annually according to observations of introduced species and actions to control them. The list of introduced plant species is updated in conjunction with the local planning of the Civil Works Department. The information on vascular plants for this indicator will be obtained from the alien species database. The monitoring of introduced mammal species is not as regular, though changes in this taxon also occur more slowly.

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