

# CITIZEN SCIENCE IN THE GORGE

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

## GENERAL MONITORING

Monitoring non-native invasive plants can happen anywhere! Check your own property, public property, or your friends’ or family’s properties and record the information below:

### SPECIES

It is important to record the *scientific name* of the species; many species have several different common names that can be very similar to other species’ common names. Check out our scientific name and common name chart at

<http://wachng.org/Citizenscience/InvasivesProgram.shtml>

### COORDINATES

Record the latitude & longitude of the location where you observed the non-native invasive plant. We will use this data to create a map of the area showing non-native invasives. See the list below for methods for getting coordinates:

- Use our free app for android! Search for HNG Citizen Science in the app store & download to your smartphone or tablet
- Turn on geocoordinate tagging for pictures on your smart phone
  - For iPhones: Go to settings > privacy > location services > camera > select “while using the app”
  - For android: Go to camera settings and turn on location tags
- GPS if you own one
- Apple maps: Click on the blue icon that shows your location to get your coordinates
- Compass App on smartphones or tablets often gives you coordinates of your location
- If you need to, you can use Google Maps later on to drop a pin to check what the coordinates were of the non-native invasive observation

### PATCH TYPE

Non-native invasive plants can have different growth patterns, and many were planted as living fences or ornamentals. It is important to record the type of patch to help us understand why it was planted and the best strategies for controlling it. Plants can grow as a **single plant, in a straight line (linearly scattered)**, as a small **clump**, as **scattered plants**, or in **dense monoculture** patches. Record the patch type that most closely resembles your observation. See patch type guide at

<http://wachng.org/Citizenscience/InvasivesProgram.shtml>

### PATCH SIZE

Estimate how large your patch is in feet squared. For example, if it is about a 5ft by 3ft patch, record 15ft<sup>2</sup>.

### **%** PERCENT COVER

Estimate what percentage of the patch size is covered by the non-native invasive plant’s leaves, stems, branches, and flowers. For example, in the 15ft<sup>2</sup> patch, what percentage of that patch is covered by the entire non-native invasive plant?

### DON’T FORGET TO TAKE A PICTURE!

This is important for verification of your observation! Take a picture of the patch as a whole, a close-up picture of the leaves and stem, and a picture of the flower if present. Give each picture a unique file name and record that file name with each observation!

### SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION

**Send all information that you recorded to [wachng@gmail.com](mailto:wachng@gmail.com)!**