WEED RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Botanical name:	Sorbus aucuparia L.	
Common name:	European mountain ash	
Assessors:	Irina Lapina	Matthew L. Carlson, Ph.D.
	Botanist, Alaska Natural Heritage	Assistant Research Professor, Botany
	Program, University of Alaska	Alaska Natural Heritage Program,
	Anchorage, 707 A Street,	University of Alaska Anchorage
	Anchorage, Alaska 99501	707 A Street
	tel: (907) 257-2710; fax (907) 257-2789	Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Reviewers:	Michael Shephard	Jeff Conn, Ph.D.
	Vegetation Ecologist Forest Health	Weed Scientist, USDA Agricultural Research
	Protection State & Private Forestry	Service PO Box 757200 Fairbanks, Alaska
	3301 C Street, Suite 202, Anchorage, AK	99775 tel: (907) 474-7652; fax (907) 474-
	99503 (907) 743-9454; fax 907 743-9479	6184
	Julie Riley	Jamie M. Snyder
	Horticulture Agent, UAF Cooperative	UAF Cooperative Extension Service
	Extension Service 2221 E. Northern	2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. #118
	Lights Blvd. #118 Anchorage, AK	Anchorage, AK 99508-4143
	99508-4143 tel: (907) 786-6306	tel: (907) 786-6310 alt.tel: (907) 743-9448
	Page Spencer, Ph.D.	
	Ecologist, National Park Service, Alaska	
	Region - Biological Resources Team, 240	
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	tel: (907) 644-3448	

Outcome score:

A.	Climatic Comparison		
	This species is present or may potentially establish in the following		
	eco-geographic regions:		
1	South Coastal	Yes	
2	Interior-Boreal		No
3	Arctic-Alpine		No
	This species is unlikely to establish in any region in Alaska		

В.	Invasiveness Ranking	Total (Total Answered*)	Total
		Possible	
1	Ecological impact	40 (40)	22
2	Biological characteristic and dispersal ability	25 (25)	14
3	Ecological amplitude and distribution	25 (25)	16
4	Feasibility of control	10 (10)	7
	Outcome score	100 (100) ^b	59
	Relative maximum score ⁺		0.59

* For questions answered "unknown" do not include point value for the question in parentheses for "Total Answered Points Possible."

† Calculated as ^a/^b.



Documentation: Has been collected in Juneau, Ketchikan, Craig, Petersburg, and Sitka (Hultén 1968, UAM 2004, Welsh 1974). Widely planted as ornamental in Anchorage and towns in Southeast of Alaska.

Sources of information:

Hultén, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA. 1008 p.

University of Alaska Museum. University of Alaska Fairbanks. 2004.

http://hispida.museum.uaf.edu:8080/home.cfm

Welsh, S.L. 1974. Anderson's flora of Alaska and adjacent parts of Canada. Brigham University Press. 724 pp.

2.1. Is there a 40% or higher similarity (based on CLIMEX climate matching) between climates any where the species currently occurs and

a. Juneau (South Coastal Region)?

Yes – record locations and similarity; proceed to Section B. Invasiveness Ranking

No

No

No

b. Fairbanks (Interior-Boreal)?

Yes – record locations and similarity; proceed to Section B. Invasiveness Ranking

No

c. Nome (Arctic-Alpine)?

Yes – record locations and similarity; proceed to Section B. Invasiveness Ranking

No

- If "No" is answered for all regions, reject species from consideration

Documentation: Range of the species includes Kirov, and Kazan in Russia, and Anchorage, which have 60%, 59%, and 58% climatic match with Fairbanks, respectively. However, it appears to reach its physiological limit around Anchorage as it withstands winter temperatures to -33°F and requires 110 frost free days (USDA 2002). Fairbanks typically has 140 frost free days, but winter temperatures reach -60°F. It is therefore unlikely to establish in the Interior ecogeographic region.

In the Arctic-Alpine ecoregion, there is a high climatic match between Nome and areas where the species is documented such as Arkhangel'sk (76%) and Kirov (66%), Russia, (Hultén 1968). However, minimum temperatures are far too low and the number of frost free days is at the physiological limit of *Sorbus aucuparia*.

Sources of information: CLIMEX for Windows, Version 1.1a. 1999. CISRO Publishing, Australia. Hultén, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA. 1008 p.

USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

B. INVASIVENESS RANKING

1. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

1.1. Impact on Natural Ecosystem Processes

А.	No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes	0
B.	Influences ecosystem processes to a minor degree (e.g., has a perceivable but mild	3
	influence on soil nutrient availability)	
C.	Significant alteration of ecosystem processes (e.g., increases sedimentation rates along	7
	streams or coastlines, reduces open water that are important to waterfowl)	
D.	Major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes (e.g., the	10
	species alters geomorphology; hydrology; or affects fire frequency, altering	
	community composition; species fixes substantial levels of nitrogen in the soil making	
	soil unlikely to support certain native plants or more likely to favor non-native species)	
U	Unknown	

Documentation:

Score 5

	Identify ecosystem processes impacted: Stands of European mountain ash likely alter light and nutrient availability for other species (Conn – pers. com.). Rational: Sources of information:	
	Conn, J. Weed Scientist, USDA Agricultural Research Service PO Box 757200 Fairbanks, Alaska 99775 tel: (907) 474-7652; fax (907) 474-6184 – Pers. comm.	
1.2. Im	pact on Natural Community Structure	
Α.	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	3 7
D.	an existing layer) Major alteration of structure (e.g., covers canopy, eradicating most or all layers below)	10
U.	Unknown	
	Score	5
	Documentation:	
	Identify type of impact or alteration:	
	European mountain ash is able to integrate into largely undisturbed coastal rainforest	
	communities and dominate, creating moderately dense crown canopy. When	
	established at high densities it likely reduces structural complexity below it in Sitka Historical Park (M. Shaphard, pers. com.)	
	Rational:	
	Sources of information:	
	Gilman, E.F. and D.G. Watson. 1994. Sorbus aucuparia European Mountain-Ash. Fact	
	Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Elorida	
	Shephard, M., Vegetation Ecologist, USDA, Forest Service, Forest Health Protection,	
	State and Private Forestry, 3301 C Street, Suite 202, Anchorage, Alaska	
	99503 Division. Tel: (907) 743-9454 - Pers. com.	
1.3. Im	pact on Natural Community Composition	_
А.	No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations	0
В.	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 paties in the community)	7
D	Causes major alteration in community composition (e.g., results in the extirpation of	10
D.	one or several native species, reducing biodiversity or change the community	10
ΤT	composition towards species exotic to the natural community)	
υ.	Score	5
	Degumentation	5
	Documentation:	
	European mountain ash appears to outcompete red alder along shorelines (M	
	Shephard - pers. comm.). Produces significant reduction in the population size of one	
	or more native species in the community (Jeff Conn pers. comm.). Hybridizes with	
	native <i>Sorbus scopulina</i> and <i>S. sitchensis</i> (Pojar and MacKinnon 1994). Rational:	
	Sources of information:	
	Conn, J., Ph.D., Weed Scientist, USDA Agricultural Research Service, P.O. Box	
	Poiar I and A MacKinnon 1994 Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington	
	Oregon, British Columbia, and Alaska. B.C. Ministry of Forests and Lone	
	Pine Publishing. Redmond, Washington. 527 pp.	

	Shephard, M., Vegetation Ecologist, USDA, Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, State and Private Forestry, 3301 C Street, Suite 202, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Division. Tel: (907) 743-9454 - Pers. com.	
1.4. Imj	pact on higher trophic levels (cumulative impact of this species on the	
animals	s, fungi, microbes, and other organisms in the community it invades)	
А.	Negligible perceived impact	0
В.	Minor alteration	3
C.	Moderate alteration (minor reduction in nesting/foraging sites, reduction in habitat connectivity, interference with native pollinators, injurious components such as spines, toxins)	7
D.	Severe alteration of higher trophic populations (extirpation or endangerment of an existing native species/population, or significant reduction in nesting or foraging sites)	10
U.	Unknown Score	7
	 Documentation: Identify type of impact or alteration: Fruits of European mountain ash are highly desirable to birds, so there is a potential for alterations in abundance and composition of avian fauna. There is also the possibility for competition with native plants for fruit dispersal. Rational: Sources of information: Carlson M.L., Ph.D., Assistant Research Professor – Botany, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, University of Alaska Anchorage, 707 A Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Tel: (907) 257-2790 – Pers. obs. Gilman, E.F. and D.G. Watson. 1994. Sorbus aucuparia European Mountain-Ash. Fact Sheet ST-599, Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Lapina I., Botanist, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, University of Alaska Anchorage, 707 A Street, Anchorage Alaska, Tel: (907) 257, 2710) Pars 	
	Anchorage, 707 A Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Tel: (907) 257-2710) – Pers. obs.	
	Total Possible Total	40 22
2. Bi	IOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISPERSAL ABILITY	
2.1. Mo	ode of reproduction	
А.	Not aggressive reproduction (few [0-10] seeds per plant and no vegetative reproduction)	0
В.	Somewhat aggressive (reproduces only by seeds (11-1,000/m ²)	1
C.	Moderately aggressive (reproduces vegetatively and/or by a moderate amount of seed, $<1,000/m^2$)	2
D.	Highly aggressive reproduction (extensive vegetative spread and/or many seeded, >1,000/m ²)	3
U.	Unknown	2
	Scole	3
	Documentation: Describe key reproductive characteristics (including seeds per plant): Seeds of European mountain ash are numerous and small (125,000/lbs), with many thousands of seeds produced per plant per year (Granström 1987, USDA, NRCS 2002). Rational:	
	 Sources of information: Granström, A. 1987. Seed viability of fourteen species during five years of storage in a forest soil. Journal of Ecology, 75, p.321-331. USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource) 	

	(http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 7	0874-		
2 2 T	4490 USA.			
2.2. Inn buovant	fruits, wind-dispersal)	l hair,		
A.	Does not occur (no long-distance dispersal mechanisms)			0
В.	Infrequent or inefficient long-distance dispersal (occurs occasionally despite lack	c of		2
C.	Numerous opportunities for long-distance dispersal (species has adaptations such	n as		3
U.	pappus, hooked truit-coats, etc.) Unknown			
		Score	3	
	Documentation: Identify dispersal mechanisms: Fruits of European mountain ash spread by birds, especially waxwings and thrush (Gilman and Watson 1994, Dickinson and Campbell 1991). Rational:	hes		
	 Sources of information: Dickinson, T.A. and C.S. Campbell. 1991. Population structure and reproductive ecology in the Maloideae (Rosaceae). Systematic Botany, 16 (2): 350-36 Gilman, E.F. and D.G. Watson. 1994. Sorbus aucuparia European Mountain-Ash Sheet ST-599, Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Coopera Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Universit Florida. 	62. h. Fact ative ity of		
2.3. Pot	ential to be spread by human activities (both directly and indirectly -	-		
possible	mechanisms include: commercial sales, use as forage/revegetation,			
A.	Does not occur			0
B.	Low (human dispersal is infrequent or inefficient)			1
C.	Moderate (human dispersal occurs)			2
D.	High (there are numerous opportunities for dispersal to new areas)			3
U.	Unknown	Score	3	
	Documentation:	beore	5	
	Identify dispersal mechanisms: European mountain ash is widely planted as an ornamental in southern and southeastern Alaska, where it has escaped (Hultén 1968, Welsh 1974). It has been reported to be spread as contaminant of horticultural stock (Hodkinson and Thom 1997). Rational:	n 1pson		
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2.4. All A. B.	Identify dispersal mechanisms: European mountain ash is widely planted as an ornamental in southern and southeastern Alaska, where it has escaped (Hultén 1968, Welsh 1974). It has beer reported to be spread as contaminant of horticultural stock (Hodkinson and Thom 1997). Rational: Sources of information: Hodkinson, D., K. Thompson. 1997. Plant dispersal: the role of man. Journal of Applied Ecology, 34: 1484-1496. Hultén, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford Universit Press, Stanford, CA. 1008 p. Welsh, S. L. 1974. Anderson's flora of Alaska and adjacent parts of Canada. Brig University Press. 724 pp. Plopathic No Yes	n ıpson :y gham		0 2
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	This species is not listed as an allelopathic (USDA, NRCS 2002). Rational:			
	Sources of information: USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70 4490 USA.)874-		
2.5. Co	ompetitive ability			
A.	Poor competitor for limiting factors			0
В.	Moderately competitive for limiting factors			1
C.	Highly competitive for limiting factors and/or nitrogen fixing ability			3
U.	Unknown	F		
		Score	1	
	Documentation: Evidence of competitive ability: European mountain ash is able to compete with native species in undisturbed fores communities (Wisconsin DNR 2003). Rational:	st		
	Sources of information: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: abstract. Non-native plants. 2003. <u>http://www.dnr.state.wi.us</u>			
2.6. Fo	rms dense thickets, climbing or smothering growth habit, or otherwise	•		
taller t	han the surrounding vegetation			
A.				0
B.	Forms dense thickets			1
C.	vegetation			2
U.	Unknown			
	2	Score	2	
	Documentation:			
	Describe grow form:			
	European mountain ash tree can grow 25 – 40 feet high and form rounded open croshading out other vegetation (USDA, NRCS 2002, Gilman and Watson 1994, Wel 1974). Rational:	own lsh		
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Describe germination requirements: Seeds of European mountain ash germinated well in experimental conditions of multiple years in moist soil (2 cm in soil, under moss/litter layer) in central Sweden then full light and 20° C (Granström 1987). Cold-stratification is necessary for germination (USDA 2002). Rational: Sources of information: Granström, A. 1987. Seed viability of fourteen species during five years of storage in a forest soil. Journal of Ecology 75: 321-331. 2.8. Other species in the genus invasive in Alaska or elsewhere No A. 0 Yes 3 B. Unknown U. Score () Documentation: Species: No other weedy Sorbus species are present. Sources of information: USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. 2.9. Aquatic or wetland species A. Not invasive in wetland communities 0 Invasive in riparian communities B. 1 Invasive in wetland communities 3 C. Unknown U. Score () Documentation: Describe type of habitat: European mountain ash is a species of forests and suburban habitats. Rational: Sources of information: Gilman, E.F. and D.G. Watson. 1994. Sorbus aucuparia European Mountain-Ash. Fact Sheet ST-599, Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: abstract. Non-native plants. 2003. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us **Total Possible** 25 Total 14 **3. DISTRIBUTION** 3.1. Is the species highly domesticated or a weed of agriculture 0 A. No B. Is occasionally an agricultural pest 2 Has been grown deliberately, bred, or is known as a significant agricultural pest C. 4

U. Unknown

Score 4

Documentation: Identify reason for selection, or evidence of weedy history: European mountain ash is planted as an ornamental and tree of residential streets. Rational: Flowers, fruits, and fall leaves are showy. Successfully grown in urban areas where air

	 pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and drought are common. Sources of information: Gilman, E.F. and D.G. Watson. 1994. <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> European Mountain-Ash. Fact Sheet ST-599, Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Hultén, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA. 1008 p. Welsh, S.L. 1974. Anderson's flora of Alaska and adjacent parts of Canada. Brigham University Press. 724 pp. 	
3.2. Kn	own level of impact in natural areas	
A.	Not known to cause impact in any other natural area	0
В.	Known to cause impacts in natural areas, but in dissimilar habitats and climate zones than exist in regions of Alaska	1
C.	Known to cause low impact in natural areas in similar habitats and climate zones to those present in Alaska	3
D.	Known to cause moderate impact in natural areas in similar habitat and climate zones	4
E.	Known to cause high impact in natural areas in similar habitat and climate zones	6
U.	Unknown Score	3
	 Documentation: Identify type of habitat and states or provinces where it occurs: European mountain ash invades forest communities in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 2003). It has spread from Wrangell Island to Kadin Island and invades undisturbed coastal rainforest in Sitka Natural Historical Park, Alaska (M. Shephard, R. Lipkin - pers com.). Sources of information: Lipkin, R., Botanist, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, University of Alaska Anchorage, 707 A Street, Anchorage, Alaska. Tel: (907) 257-2785 – Pers. obs. Shephard, M., Vegetation Ecologist, USDA, Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, State and Private Forestry, 3301 C Street, Suite 522, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Division. Tel: (907) 743-9454 - Pers. com. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: abstract. Non-native plants. 2003. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us 	
3.3. Ro	le of anthropogenic and natural disturbance in establishment	0
A.	Requires anthropogenic disturbances to establish	0
В.	natural disturbances	3
C.	Unknown	5
0.	Score	2
	Documentation: Identify type of disturbance: European mountain ash may occasionally establish in undisturbed areas. Cutting promotes resprouting and establishment. This species has intermediate shade tolerance (USDA 2002), so it is unlikely it will establish in late successional coastal rainforest communities without disturbance. Rational: Sources of information:	2
	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: abstract. Non-native plants. 2003. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us	
3.4. Cu	rrent global distribution	
А.	Occurs in one or two continents or regions (e.g., Mediterranean region)	0
В.	Extends over three or more continents	3
C.	Extends over three or more continents, including successful introductions in arctic or subarctic regions	5
	2	

U. Unknown

Score 3

		Score	3	
3.5. Ext	 Documentation: Describe distribution: European mountain ash is native of Europe (Spain to Balkans, north to British Isles/Nordic countries, and east to Ural Mountains), northern Africa, and western It has naturalized in 27 northern states, in many climatic areas, throughout moist regions of North America. Rational: Sources of information: Hultén, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford Universit Press, Stanford, CA. 1008 p. USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 7 4490 USA. 	Asia. cool y 0874-		
provinc	ial listing			0
A.	0-5% of the states			0
В. С.	6-20% of the states 21-50%, and/or state listed as a problem weed (e.g., "Noxious," or "Invasive") in	1 1		2 4
D.	state or Canadian province Greater than 50%, and/or identified as "Noxious" in 2 or more states or Canadian	1		5
U.	provinces Unknown			-
0.		Score	4	
	 Documentation: Identify states invaded: European mountain ash has naturalized in 27 northern states, in many climatic are throughout moist cool regions of North America. Species is not considered noxio North America (Invaders Database System 2003, USDA, NRCS 2002). Rational: Sources of information: Invaders Database System. The University of Montana. 2003. Montana Noxious Trust Fund. Department of Agriculture. <u>http://invader.dbs.umt.edu/</u> USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 7 4490 USA. Total Be	eas, us in Weed '0874-		25
	Total Po	Total		25 16
			L	
4. FE	CASIBILITY OF CONTROL			
4.1. See	ed banks			
A.	Seeds remain viable in the soil for less than 3 years			0
В.	Seeds remain viable in the soil for between 3 and 5 years			2
C.	Seeds remain viable in the soil for 5 years and more			3
U.	Unknown			
		Score	3	
	Documentation: Identify longevity of seed bank: The seeds remain viable in the soil for five years or more (Granström 1987). Rational:			

	Sources of information: Granström, A. 1987. Seed viability of fourteen species during five years of storage in a forest soil. Journal of Ecology 75: 321-331.		
4.2 Ve	getative regeneration		
Δ	No resprouting following removal of aboveground growth		0
R	Resprouting from ground-level meristems		1
D. C	Resprouting from extensive underground system		2
D.	Any plant part is a viable propagule		3
D. U	Unknown		5
0.	Score	2	
	Documentation:		
	Describe vegetative response:		
	European mountain ash resprouts after cutting (USDA, NRCS 2002). Rational:		
	Sources of information:		
	USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service). 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874- 4490 USA		
4.3. Lev	vel of effort required		
A.	Management is not required (e.g., species does not persist without repeated		0
	anthropogenic disturbance)		Ũ
В.	Management is relatively easy and inexpensive; requires a minor investment in human and financial resources		2
C.	Management requires a major short-term investment of human and financial resources, or a moderate long-term investment		3
D.	Management requires a major, long-term investment of human and financial resources		4
U.	Unknown		
	Score	2	
	Documentation: Identify types of control methods and time-term required: Control measures for European mountain ash are largely untested. Management requires a major short-term investment, or moderate long-term investment (Jeff Conn – pers. com.). Rational:		
	Sources of information: Conn, J., Ph.D., Weed Scientist, USDA Agricultural Research Service, P.O. Box 757200, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7200. Tel: (907) 474 2423. – Pers. com.		
	Total Possible		10
	Total		7
	Total for 4 sections Possible	1	00
	Total for 4 sections		59

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