

DETECTING CHANGE IN INVASIVE PLANT POPULATIONS FOR PRIORITIZATION OF MANAGEMENT^{MAS}

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Notoriously invasive plant species may not be increasing in population size in all environments. Therefore, it is crucial to develop methods that will allow quantification of invasiveness so that populations can be prioritized for management. Simulation models were used to identify efficient methods for detecting change in density and spatial extent of plant metapopulations. In addition, models allowed exploration of the relative importance of specific processes on population growth. Efficient methods for change detection may rely on species-specific knowledge of the dominant processes influencing population growth. Seed dispersal as well as response to intra- and interspecific density may be important properties to assess in order to select the best methods to detect change.