

EXPERIENCE OF ERADICATION OF INVASIVE *HERACLEUM* SPECIES IN ESTONIA

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Heracleum sosnowskyi and *H.mantegazzianum* are listed in the Estonian „black book“ as invasive species which are threatening native species distribution and communities. An eradication over Estonia started in 2005 and has continued ever since. More than 1300 hectares is covered with *Heracleum* colonies and there are still quite some colonies to map up. Approximately 75% of the colonies are situated on private land.

The best practice used are manual and mechanical extermination with glyphosate based Roundup and manual dig up. After 5 years of eradication measures approximately 50 hectares of colonies have been destroyed but are still under observation.

The management plan will expire in 2010, the new plan will be ready by the end of 2010. The new plan will try to find the solution to some problems that have appeared: how to eradicate the colonies from „tricky“ places such as rocky river-sides, closed territories, border areas and eco-farms; how to rise the motivation and quality of private land owners and contractors.

Outmost purpose is to get Estonia free from these two invasive *Heracleum* species but it can still take up to 10 years to achieve this.

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