

Bulldozing the Buckthorn - A Problem Solved or Compounded?

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Abstract

Observations have been made to assess the rate of spread of the shrub Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophäe rhamnoides* L.) and the environmental effects it can have on vegetation in coastal dune systems in the UK, with particular reference to plants of high conservation value. Methods to eliminate or contain the spread of Buckthorn are examined and constraints in their application are reviewed. New approaches are considered and their merits and demerits evaluated. Issues which need to be addressed in future include the time for nutrient levels to approach those of dunes and stacks never colonized by Buckthorn, comparison of nutrient levels under different treatment regimes, depth of penetration by nutrient-rich water and the possibilities of harvesting ruderals or introducing grazing.