

Using what we know  
about invasive species,  
To beat them at their game...



# Invasive species are opportunistic pioneers

- Produce numerous flowers
- High percentage of fertile seed
- Persistency in seed bank
- Tolerate a wide range of conditions
- Few native insects eat them
- Colonize disturbed areas



# Invasive species follow our footsteps



Colonizing pathways, roadsides, and field edges

and move around the landscape; in time, becoming rooted where soil and plant cover has been disturbed

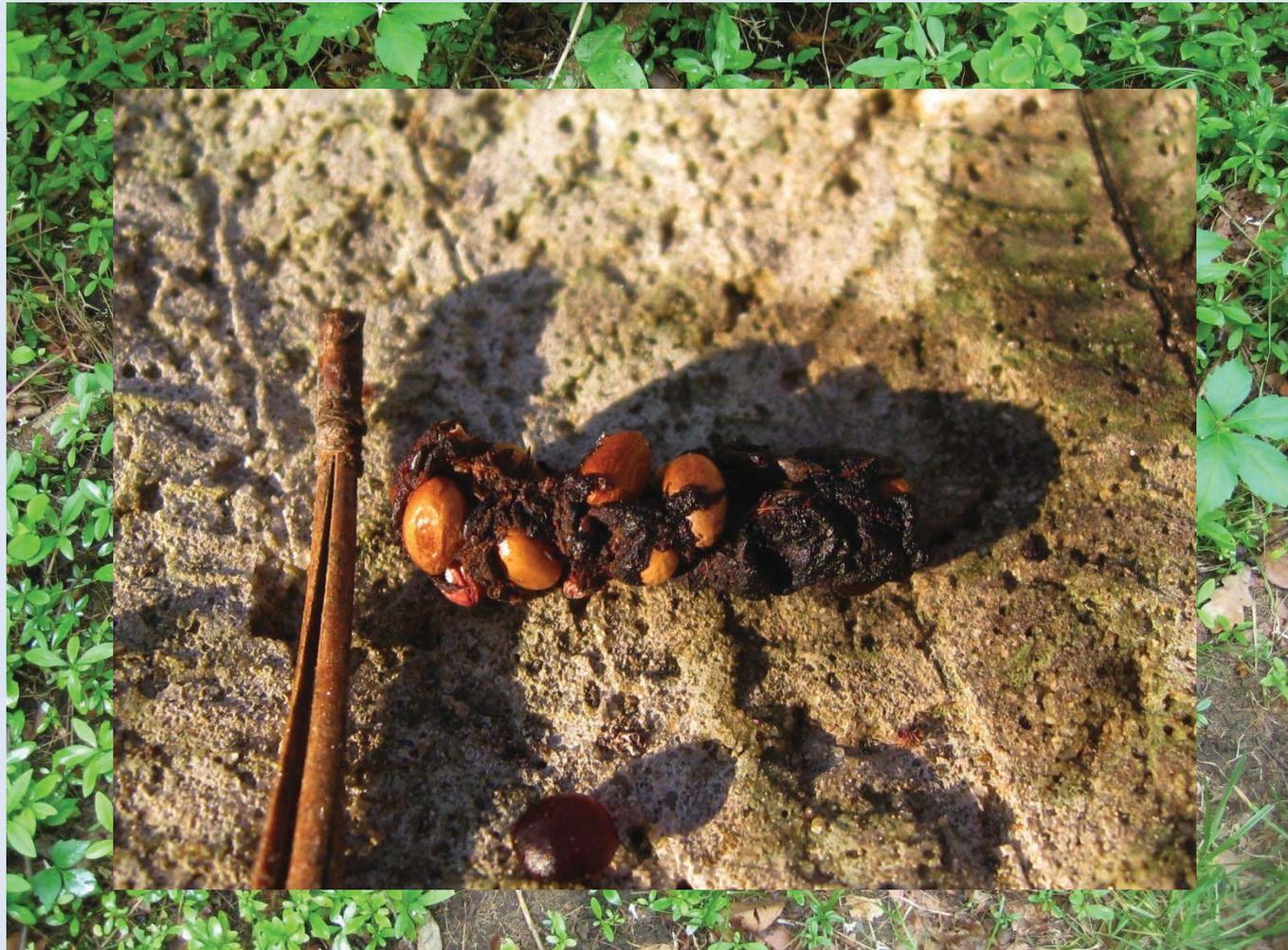
Seeds are transported by birds, mammals, wind, and water



Invasive species often outcompete native species, occupying all levels of the growing space; resulting in poor conditions for native species



When the cover of invasive species is removed, seeds in the soil are stimulated to germinate.  
Exposed soil becomes accessible to traveling seed.



It is the ecological role of opportunistic pioneers to colonize bare soil over time



The goal of restoration, through the removal of invasive species, is to tip the balance in favor of native species.

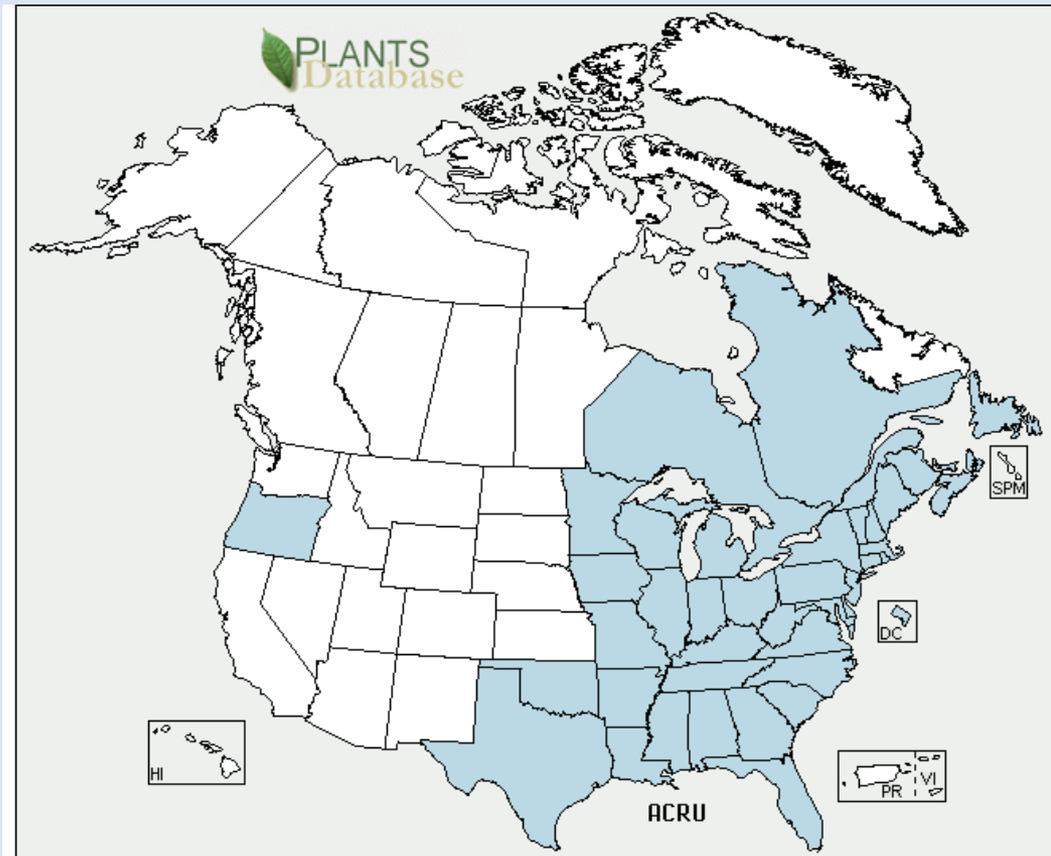


- Tamp down loosened soil
- Cover exposed soil with leaf mulch
- Plant native species to provide cover for exposed soil and occupy the root zone



Rhode Island's State tree  
red maple, *Acer rubrum*

Native plants are  
largely sourced  
from out of state  
and outside of  
Southern New  
England



# Sources of Native Species for restoration

## What is an Ecotype?

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- **Ecotype:** One or more genetically distinct populations within a species, resulting from adaptation to local environmental conditions.



[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/fish\\_\\_wildlife\\_and/plants/pca/meetings/mar2007/havens.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/fish__wildlife_and/plants/pca/meetings/mar2007/havens.html)



Rhody Native,  
a program of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey





Rhody Native supports Rhode Island's native plant communities, wildlife, and pollinators through the production of genetically diverse, native plants sourced from local ecotypes

# Collecting and cleaning Rhode Island's native plant seed, since 2010



Working with growers,  
and garden centers  
to propagate and sell  
local ecotypes



Growing our  
own in 2014



Plant sales directly support the continued effort to propagate local ecotypes of Rhode Island's plants to support the health of Rhode Island's natural communities

# Native plants can be used with succession in mind

Blackstone Park, April 2012



# Blackstone Park, 2010



# Blackstone Park, 2010 - 2011





# Blackstone Park, fall 2012



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