

# *Invasive species in forests*

Erasmus +  
seeds without borders  
Forests as european heritage



# Introduction

In this presentation we are going to talk about the different *invasive species in the Italian territory*:

- Acacia
- Ambrosia
- Ivy
- Nettles



acacia



ambrosia



ivy



nettle





# *Acacia Saligna*



# Characteristics

The *Acacia saligna* is an evergreen woody species with a shrubby habit; belongs to the fabaceae family, and is considered invasive in Italy and in some European states such as France, Spain, Cyprus and Croatia. *Acacia saligna* also called mimosa with narrow leaves is widespread in southern Italy. Its habitat is arid and humid with sandy soils. The climates most suitable for its growth are the Mediterranean ones .

*Acacia Saligna* grows as a small, dense spreading tree with a short trunk and a weeping habit.



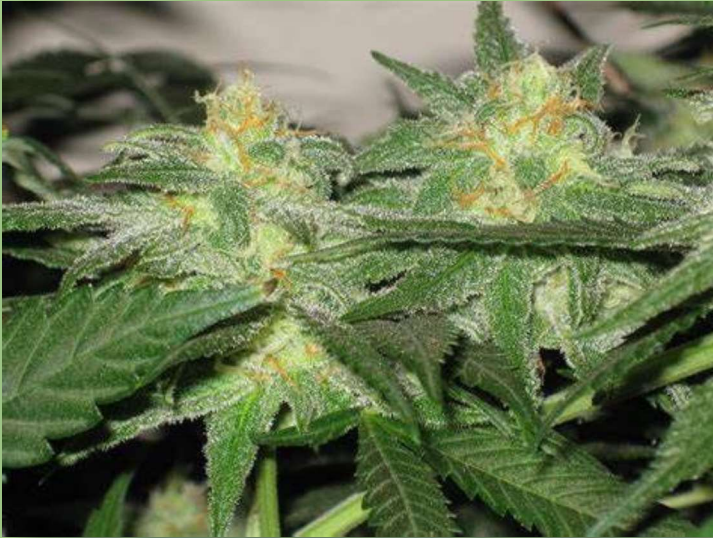


# *The growth*

In different parts of the world, it has become an invasive species, due to rapid growth on soils with low levels of nutrients, early reproductive maturity, large quantity of seeds capable of surviving fire and the ability to grow again after cutting.



# *Ambrosia*





**Ambrosia is an invasive species also present in Italy** ; it's a genus of dicotyledonous spermatophytic plants belonging to the Asteraceae family, with the appearance of small annual or perennial herbaceous plants with a typical raceme inflorescence.



They are considered weeds, and there are more than thirty species of them around the world. They have a very ordinary appearance and despite being widespread.



It is an annual herbaceous species that when adult has a bushy appearance and can reach heights of about two meters. The stem is erect, covered with bristly hairs and branched towards the top. The leaves are 3 to 10 cm long.

It is also used in homeopathic remedies but is famous because it is often responsible for allergies such as hay fever and severe forms related to its pollen. There is immunotherapy and with the appropriate dosage of ragweed pollen extract, you can theoretically reduce the symptoms of hay fever and asthma.



# IVY

INVASIVE SPECIES IN FORESTS





## Some information about ivy:

IVY IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON **CLIMBING PLANTS** AND IT IS KNOWN ABOVE ALL AS A WEED. ITS PRESENCE, ESPECIALLY NEAR VEGETABLE GARDENS OR OTHER VARIETIES, CAN ALSO BE HARMFUL. IT CAN IN FACT SURVIVE WITHOUT MAJOR HITCHES EVEN IN PERIODS OF DROUGHT AND, MOREOVER, IT CAN ADAPT TO THE MOST VARIED TYPES OF TERRAIN.



# Is common ivy poisonous to humans?

THE LEAVES AND FRUITS OF THE COMMON IVY (*HEDERA HELIX*) CONTAIN ACTIVE INGREDIENTS THAT CAN CAUSE DIFFERENT REACTIONS IF INGESTED OR IN CONTACT WITH THE SKIN. POISONOUS SUBSTANCES FOUND IN COMMON IVY INCLUDE TRITERPENE SAPONINS AND POLYICITHELIAL COMPOUNDS, AMONG OTHER THINGS. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS FOR CHILDREN AND PEOPLE WITH REDUCED IMMUNITY.



# NETTLES



# NETTLES

Among the plants, the nettle is one of the most famous. Not only for its irritating capacity in contact with the skin above all, but also and because it is used for numerous beneficial remedies.

Nettles are dicotyledonous weeds that signal an excess of nitrogen in the soil and therefore more easily at the edges of the lawn or vegetable garden, where damp soil remains and in the points where fertilizer is too supplied.



# HOW TO REMOVE NETTLES

The simplest method to eliminate the nettle is the mechanical one: with a scythe the stems are removed and, after having collected the cut portions with the help of a rake.



If the entire root system is properly extracted from the ground, the chances of regrowth will be significantly reduced. A natural remedy is, for example, inserting coarse salt in holes near the plant can facilitate the death of the plant, while others resort to a spray solution of vinegar and salt.





# Thank you for your attention



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