Biological Control of *Asparagus asparagoides* in Western Australia

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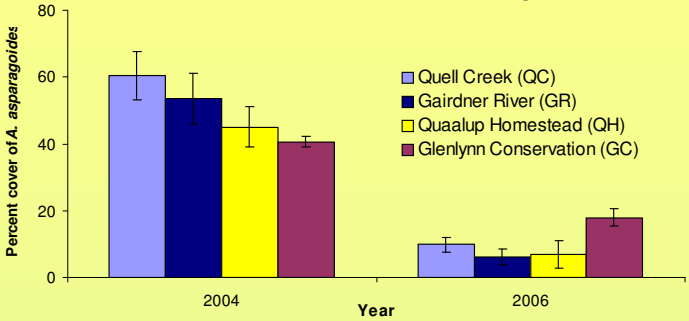
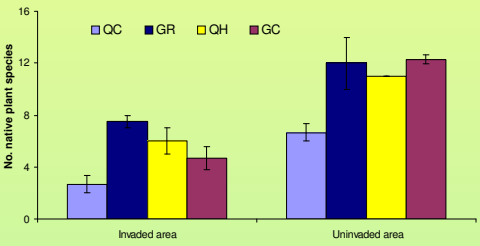
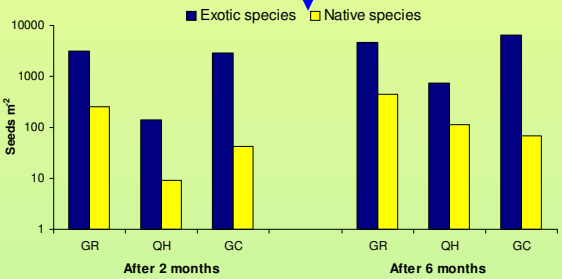


Cover of *A. asparagoides*, before & after the release of *Puccinia myrsiphylli* at 4 sites in Western Australia

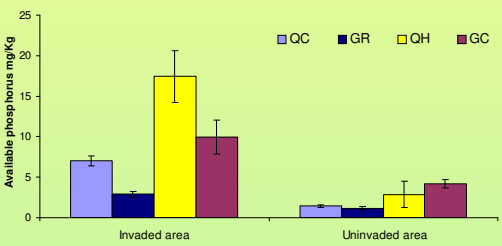
Without additional restoration



Before control, invaded areas had lower species richness and are therefore vulnerable to further weed invasions

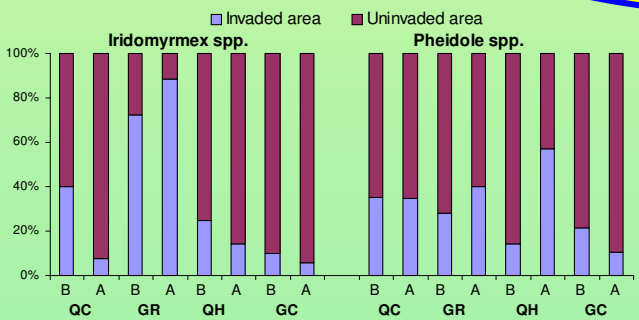


Exotic seedlings germinated faster and at a greater number than native species from soil collected from invaded sites (Quell Creek not sampled)

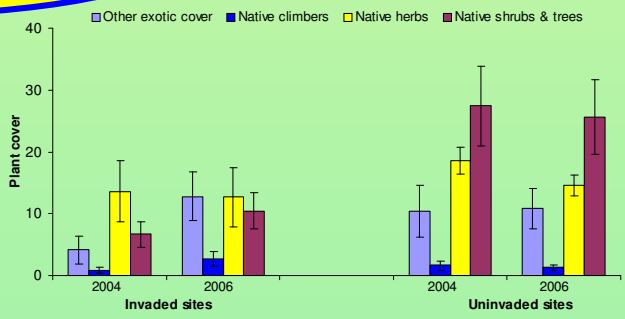


Invaded areas had higher soil nutrients, which in Australia favours weed invasion and reduces native species richness

Biocontrol could lead to weed substitution



In Australia, ants are used as bioindicators and are important native seed dispersers. Changes in proportion of 2 ant genera before (B) biocontrol in 2004 and after (A) in 2006 show little change



Following the biological control of sites invaded by *A. asparagoides*, there was a partial increase in native plant cover, but also an increase in the cover of other exotic species

Allowing only partial recovery of the native biodiversity

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