EASTERN UP INVASIVE: Scotch Pine

Pinus sylvestris

WHY THE CONCERN?

Scotch Pine (Pinus sylvestris) is a non-native tree that flourishes on sandy soils and spreads aggressively. It reproduces so quickly that it covers the ground with a mat of seedlings, pushing-out other species. Originally planted around Bay Mills for shade and windbreaks, Scotch Pine has aggressively spread into the sand dunes, crowding out native plants like beachgrass.

FEATURES OF SCOTCH PINE

Scotch Pine bark is bright orange and flakey on the upper part of the trunk and gray on the lower half of the trunk. The needles grow in pairs and the pine cones tend to grow perpendicular to the branch or curve back toward the base of the trunk. If you have this tree on your property, consider replacing it with a native tree like Red, White, or Jack Pine. For additional advice about identifying or controlling this invasive species, please contact Biological Services at (906) 248-8652.

CONTROL METHOD

Mechanical treatment by cutting is most effective on large Scotch Pine. Seedlings may be pulled out by hand.