

## Time for action

In the coming years, LIFE DUNIAS will fight the undesired invasive plants. Our aim is to restore the dunes to their natural state. But this will not happen without a struggle. To bring such an ambitious project to a successful end, major resources are required. Excavators, for example, that can scoop up the invasive plants, root and all. It looks radical, but it is the only way to free the dunes from these troublemakers.

After the works, nature recovers. The Flemish plants and animals find their place again and a typical Flemish dune landscape reappears.

The Flemish dune landscape is part of the Natura 2000 network, which restores and protects European top quality nature.

## Can you do something yourself?



Do not plant invasive alien plants in your garden.



Avoid garden waste ending up in the wild.



Look for invasive plants in the dunes and register them via [observation.org](http://observation.org) or [ObsIdentify](http://ObsIdentify). LIFE DUNIAS keeps an eye on both platforms.



Take pictures of the invasive plants and post them on social media with #woekerplant. This way, others will also learn about the problem.

More information on LIFE DUNIAS is available at: [www.natuurenbos.be/lifedunias](http://www.natuurenbos.be/lifedunias)



## Invasive alien plants threaten the Flemish coastal dunes

Our dunes... loved by walkers and those looking for peace and quiet. But also a match for children, nature lovers, animals and plants. Great! Except... Some alien plants enjoy life in our dunes so much that they reproduce at lightning speed. Such plants are invasive plants. They occupy an ever larger part of our coastal dunes and are pushing out local species such as the dune pansy, the grayling, the sea holly or the natterjack toad.



# The love is not mutual

What is the secret behind the great success of invasive alien plants?

- They have strong roots and an enormous growth potential.
- They have few or no natural enemies such as insects or fungi in Flanders.

The Japanese rose and the Oregon grape are good examples of invasive alien plants. They bring no added value to the Flemish nature. Quite the contrary, in fact. They often do not provide suitable food for the indigenous animals and their foliage suffocates the plants growing beneath. Two losses.

## THE JAPANESE ROSE AND THE OREGON GRAPE



# Dunes are not gardens

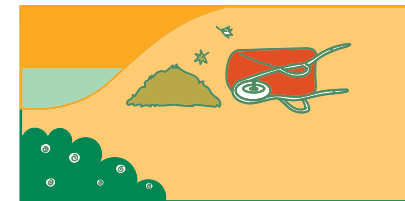
Everyone likes an eye-catcher in the garden or the park. Exotic plants are therefore popular purchases on the web or in garden centers.

In itself, this is not a problem, as long as these plants remain in their place. In your garden, in a flower pot or in the park. But they do not always do that. And while they look lovely in gardens and parks, they turn into real troublemakers once they settle down in the wild.

Below are some of the many invasive plants found on our coast.



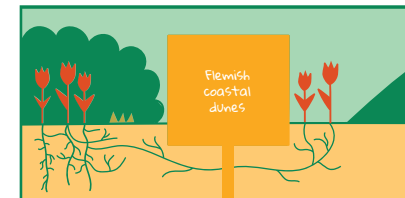
# How do invasive plants end up in the coastal dunes?



Plants escape through garden waste.



The wind scatters seeds.



Plants escape directly from gardens and parks.



Birds scatter seeds.