Species Dataform and Scoresheet for Evergreen azaleas

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Native range: Asia Date evaluated: March 9, 2009 Name	Species Dataform and Scoresheet				
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Introductory Questions I. Current federal and state regulations Comments: 2. Occurrence in the horticultural trade Y/N Comments: Popular ornamental plant. The estimated annual wholesale value attributed to evergreen azaleas in North Carolina is approximately \$29,058,200. 3. North Carolina nativity Y/N Comments: Most evergreen azaleas originated in Japan (Reily 2001). 4. Presence in natural areas Y/N Comments: Not known to invade natural areas. 5. Non-invasive cultivars Y/N Comments: Assessment indicates that evergreen azaleas are noninvasive in North Carolina. Maximum Point Value Section 1. Ecological Impact 1a. Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes 1b. Impact on plant community structure 1c. Impact on species of special concern Comments: No known impact on plant community structure. 1c. Impact on species of special concern Comments: No known impact on species of special concern or threatened or endangered plants. 1d. Impact on higher trophic levels Section 1. Subrank 40 0 Comments: No known impact on higher trophic levels. Section 2. Current Distribution and Potential for Expansion 2. Local range expansion 7 0 Comments: 2b. Long-distance dispersal potential 13 0 Comments: Evergreen azalea cuttings root well from wood taken throughout the year (timing is not critical) (Reiley 2001). Azaleas set many tiny seeds in elongated pods. Fresh seed has a 90% germination rate at a temperature of 65° to 70° F (Reiley 2001).					
Introductory Questions Current federal and state regulations Y/N N	Date evaluated: March 9, 2009				
Current federal and state regulations		Answer Choices	Response		
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2d. Range of communities 6 0					
	seed has a 90% germination rate at a temperature o	f 65° to 70° F (Reiley	y 2001).		
Comments: Evergreen azaleas grow well along most of the East Coast (Reiley, 2001), but	2d. Range of communities	6	0		

11 C 1' (1		
are not generally found in natural areas		
2e. Similar habitats invaded elsewhere	6	0
Comments: There are hundreds of Evergreen azalea		
(tolerance to low winter temperatures). Depending	on the cultivar, everg	green azaleas can
survive in USDA Zones 5b to 9 (Niemiera, 2009).	T	T
Section 2. Subrank	40	4
G 42 2 M 4 D100 14		
Section 3. Management Difficulty	_	
3a. Herbicidal control	5	0
Comments: Herbicides will damage azaleas (Reiley		T
3b. Nonchemical control methods	2	0
Comments: Digging around azaleas will damage sh	allow root systems (l	Reiley 2001).
3c. Necessity of individual treatments	2	2
Comments: Shrubs (Reiley 2001) would require inc	dividual treatments.	
3d. Average distribution	2	0
Comments:		
3e. Likelihood for reestablishment	2	0
Comments:		
3f. Accessibility of invaded areas	2	0
Comments:		
3g. Impact on native species and environment	5	0
Comments:		
Section 3. Subrank	20	2
	-	
Section 4. Benefits and Value		
4a. Estimated wholesale value	-7	-5
Comments: The estimated annual wholesale value a	attributed to evergree	
approximately \$29,058,200 (Trueblood 2009).		
4b. Percentage of total sales	-5	-3
Comments: The highest percentage of total sales at	tributed to this specie	es from any one
grower in North Carolina is estimated to be 11-25%		,
4d. Ecosystem services	-1	0
Comments:		
4e. Wildlife habitat	-1	0
Comments:		<u> </u>
4f. Cultural and social benefits	-1	0
Comments:		<u> </u>
Section 4. Subrank	-15	-8
Section is Swotwish	10	
Overall Score	100	-2
Overall Recommendation: Noninvasive and recor		

Overall Recommendation: Noninvasive and recommended for use – These species have limited ecological impact, distribution and invasive potential, and management difficulty in relation to economic value. They may be locally problematic but their reproductive biology and other traits limit their rate of invasion to natural areas.

(Overall Score: 0 - 33)

Summary: Evergreen azaleas are noninvasive in North Carolina and may be recommended for horticultural use by the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association. These species are not known to invade natural areas in North Carolina. These species have little to no negative ecosystem impacts, low potential for long-distance dispersal, and may be easily removed from the landscape. They have extremely high economic value to the North Carolina nursery industry.

References:

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Reiley, H. E. (2001) Azaleas, Camellias, and Rhododendrons. Des Moines, IA: The Scotts Company.

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