

Species name: Common milkweed <i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	
Member State proposing the RA: Poland	
Criterion for listing	Evidence that the criteria for listing are met
<p>(a) they are found, based on available scientific evidence, to be alien to the territory of the Union excluding the outermost regions</p> <p>(b) they are found, based on available scientific evidence, to be capable of establishing a viable population and spreading in the environment under current conditions and in foreseeable climate change conditions in one biogeographical region shared by more than two Member States or one marine subregion excluding their outermost regions</p> <p>(c) they are, based on available scientific evidence, likely to have a significant adverse impact on biodiversity or the related ecosystem services, and may also have an adverse impact on human health or the economy</p> <p>(d) it is demonstrated by a risk assessment carried out pursuant to Article 5(1) that concerted action at Union level is required to prevent their introduction, establishment or spread</p> <p>(e) it is likely that the inclusion on the Union list will effectively prevent, minimise or mitigate their adverse impact</p>	<p>The natural range of <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> includes central, northern and north-eastern regions of the United States and adjacent areas of Canada.</p> <p>In 11 EU Member States common milkweed has already shown signs of invasiveness. Established and growing populations of this species can be already found for example in Hungary, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia.</p> <p>The species threatens native species diversity, penetrating into natural and semi-natural habitats and occurring, among others, in grasslands, dune areas and river valleys. It can threaten natural habitats of Natura 2000, e.g. Pannonic sand steppes (6260), dry grasslands (6210), dune habitats (2130 and 2160). It is a significant weed in arable land, vine- and fruit-yards, as well as young forestations. Milkweed is toxic to humans and herbivorous and can act as a vector of fungal and virus plant diseases (eg. cucumber mosaic virus and tomato spotted wilt virus).</p> <p>The species is already invasive in some EU countries and has potential to spread in other Member States, also taking into account the climate change. Concerted action at Union level is required, because it is still possible to control it in the countries where the species is already widespread (eg. Hungary) and to eradicate in the countries with small populations (eg. Poland, Netherlands). Furthermore, EU common legislation could prevent trade and planting of this species, eg. for honey or biofuel production.</p> <p>Management measures are still cost-effective, due to relative small size of populations in most of the EU countries. In this way the negative impacts on biodiversity, human health, as well as economy can be minimised.</p>
Outcome	Compliant