

Are Exotic Plant Invaders All That Bad?

Part I Post Viewing Activity

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class _____

Data Analysis: After viewing video segment 2, review the data collected.

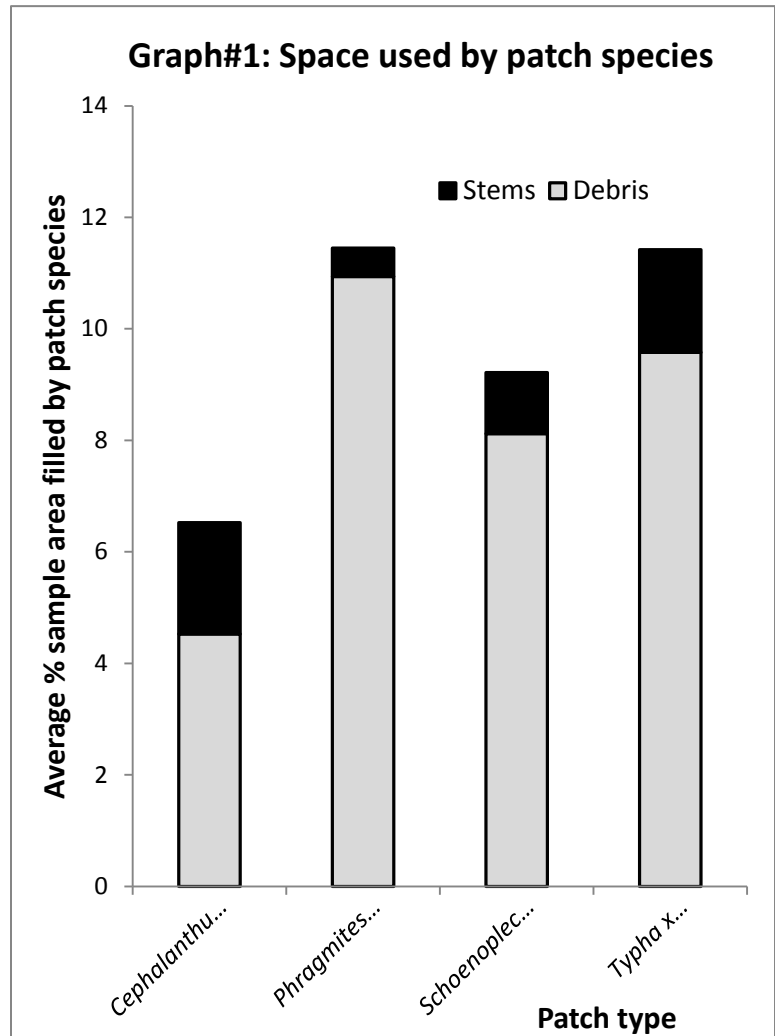
1. Graph #1 shows the space that is taken up by each type of plant species measured including live stems and decaying debris. Put the plant species in order from the species that takes up the most space to the one that takes up the least space.

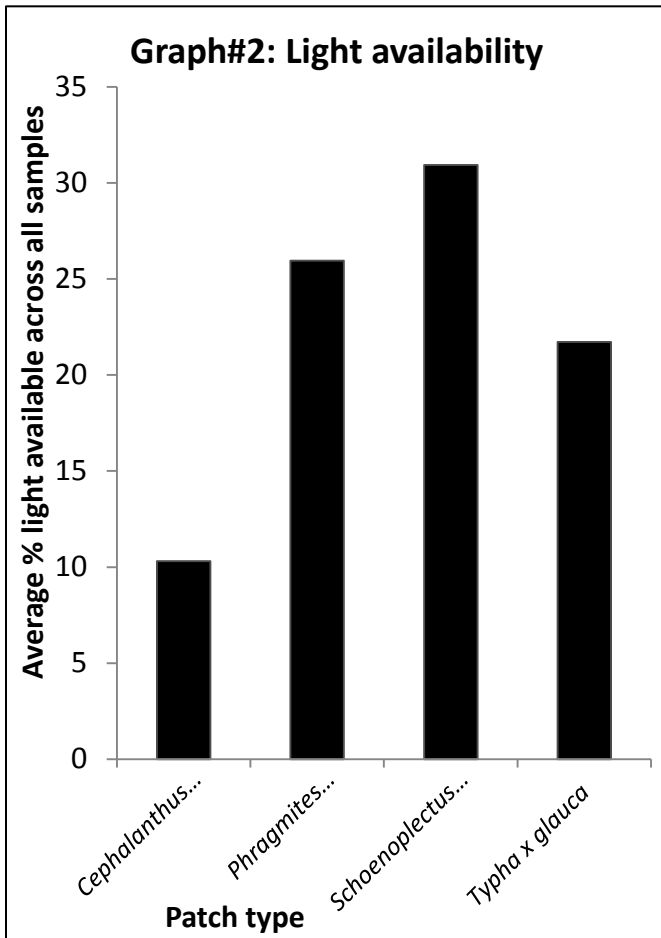
Phragmites

Typha

Schoenoplecus

Cephalanthus





2. When a monoculture takes up resources such as light and space, other plants in the area suffer. Graph#2 shows the amount of light available for other plants within the monocultures tested. Put the patch types in order from least amount of light available to most light available. Which group should allow the largest number of other plants to survive in the same area?

Cephalanthus

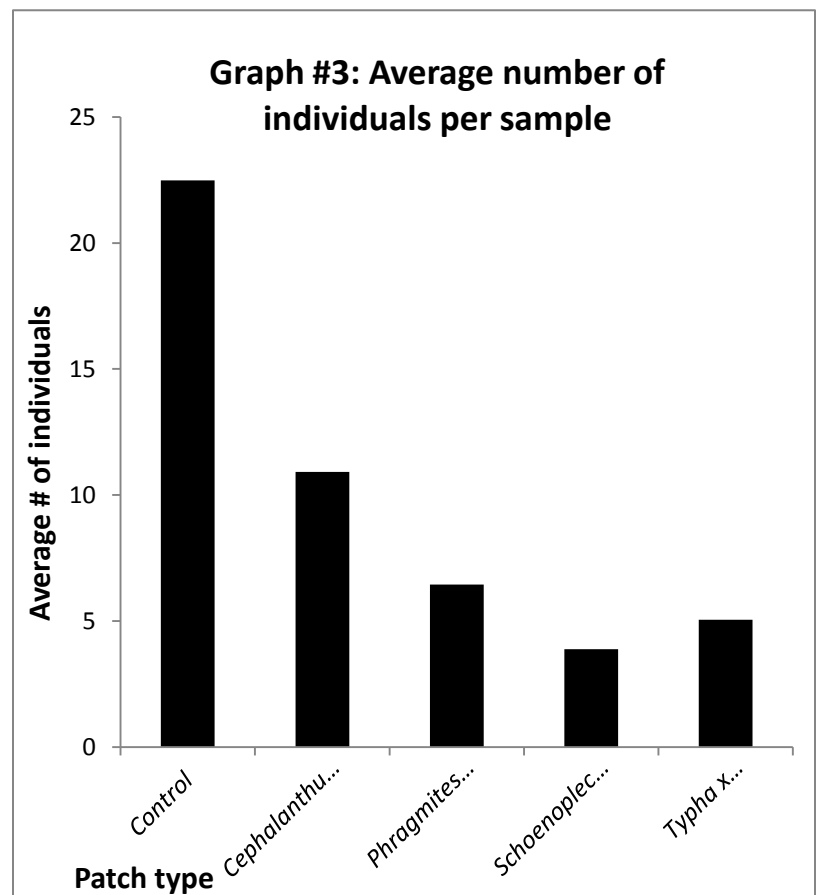
Typha

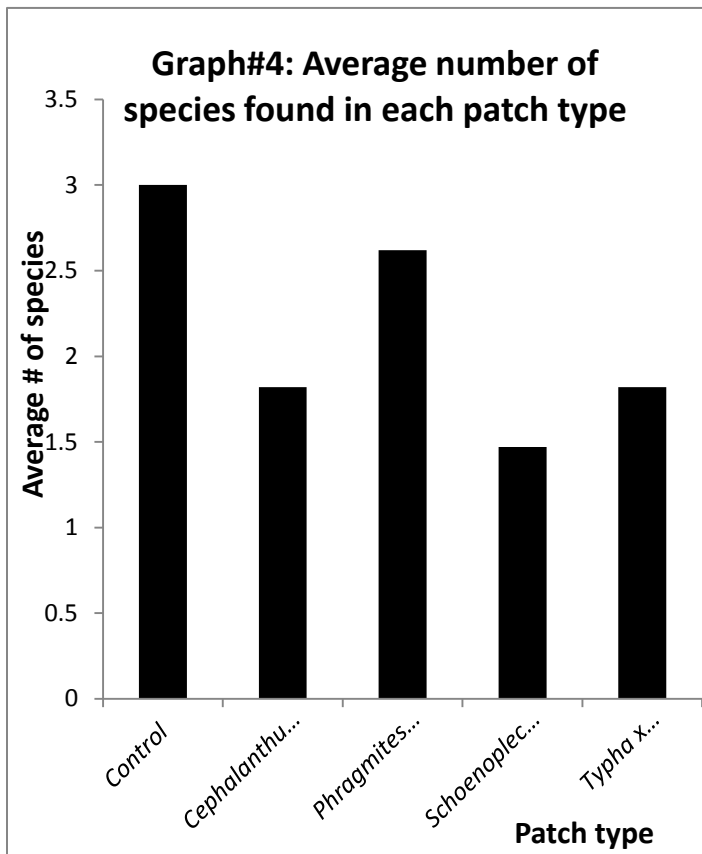
Phragmites

Schoenoplectus – should allow the most plants to survive

3. Graph #3 shows the average number of all individual plants per sample space measured. Considering the limited resources available within the monoculture, which area contained the most plant individuals aside from the control group?

Cephalanthus





4. Biodiversity is the amount of different species found in an area. Graph #4 shows the average number of species found in each area measured. Which area contained the most biodiversity? Which area contained the least?

Control followed by Phragmites (most)

Schoenoplecus (least)

5. Based on the review of the data, write a conclusion putting the plant species tested in order from least damaging to the environment to most damaging. Support your claim with evidence such as reduction in resources and biodiversity as well as the amount of space used by the species.

Responses will vary – pointing out that it's very difficult to make determinations about "worst". Overall the 2 invasive species are still more damaging than the 2 native species.