



INTRODUCTION

Q-bank is a dynamic open-access database located at www.q-bank.eu. It contains data that is relevant to supporting national and international plant health policies.

Q-bank offers sequence data, morphological data (including photographs) and nomenclatural and diagnostic data on plant pathogenic quarantine organisms and look-alikes. The data is curated by an international network of experts, with specimens available from publicly accessible reference collections.

Q-bank offers information about arthropods, bacteria, fungi, invasive plants, nematodes, phytoplasmas and viruses. It provides plant protection organisations, inspection bodies and private laboratories with the information they need for timely and accurate identification of quarantine organisms.

ORGANISMS INCLUDED

The database is specimen based and summarizes existing knowledge for plant species that pose a (potential) threat to the biodiversity of the ecozone comprising northern Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and north-western France or are regulated by third countries and are likely to be present as contaminant in commercial exports originating from the Netherlands. Species records contain relevant information like taxonomy, morphology, ecology, original and current distribution, invasiveness, risk & control and links to references. Moreover, species are well illustrated with photographs and distribution maps.



Two commonly traded frost-tolerant *Myriophyllum* species.

METHODOLOGY

Fact sheets for a selected group of plants are available in 3 languages (English, French, Dutch) which present information on taxonomy, ecology, risk associated with the species, control and morphological and distinguishing characters. Photographs of distinguishing characters and distribution maps are included.



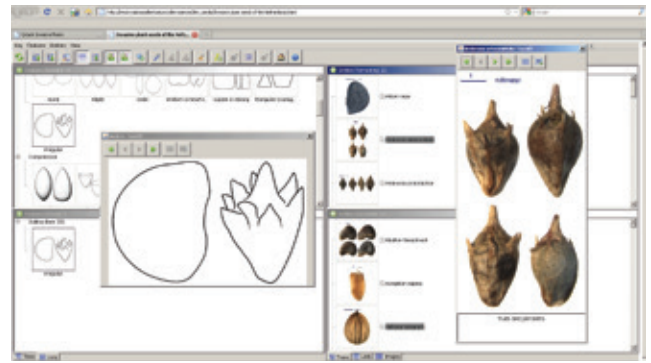
Rosa rugosa (planted) invaded by *Solidago gigantea* and *Solidago canadensis*.

GENERAL SEARCH

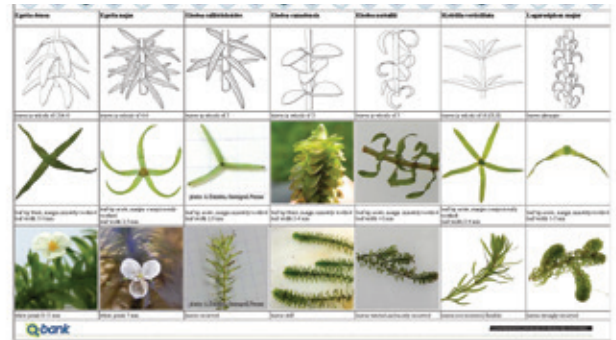
Information on specimen which form the basis for the species records can be consulted here. Detailed information on these species comprise: collector information and date of collection, depository, identity, location (geographic coordinates), brief morphological, ecological and habitat information and a link to the species record.

IDENTIFICATION

For the identification of invasive plant species, tools have been developed that will be useful for both inspectors as well as researchers. These are validated electronic identification keys for (groups of) potentially invasive plant species and their look-alikes and visual aids in the form of fact sheets (in 3 different languages) for species or species groups. Moreover, look-alike pages are available which point out the distinguishing characters in closely related species. Molecular data (trnH-psbA and rbcL sequences) are searchable for some genera of aquatic plants to facilitate identification of these morphologically versatile species in the absence of flowers or fruits.



Identification of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* by means of the interactive identification key for seeds in animal feed.



Look-alike page for 'waterpest' species.



Netherlands Food and Consumer
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www.Q-bank.eu

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