

False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa* L.) – An Invasive Plant Species in Croatia: Control Strategies

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Abstract

False indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa* L.), is a shrub that reaches up to 5 m in height. Originally from North America, it was introduced to Europe in 1724. It covers large areas of lowland oak forests and makes the regeneration of these forests more difficult and expensive. Control by cutting provides poor results. Systemic herbicides can be applied only in areas where there are no young oak plants since they also are susceptible to herbicides. However, polypropylene tree shelters, combined with a reduced use of herbicides, provides excellent results. This method is both economically and ecologically acceptable, and does not require much human labor. Furthermore, the shelters prevent oak seedlings from being attacked by oak mildew (*Microsphaera alphitoides* Griff et Maubl.) or by defoliating caterpillars thus eliminating the need to apply fungicides and insecticides.