



**A plant ecologist  
studies plants and how  
they function on the  
landscape.**

**Dr. Qinfeng Guo**

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# Dr. Qinfeng Guo



## Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Curiosity
- ★ Broad training and background
- ★ Strong interests in how nature works

## Example of a simple research question I have tried

**to answer:** Why are some introduced species invasive and others are not? Why are some habitats more vulnerable to species invasions than others?

**Technology or equipment used in research:** I use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to locate and map the distribution of invasive species. I also use GIS to map the projected spread and distribution of many invasive species in the future using various climate change models.

## • Most Exciting Discovery

- I recently completed a study
- reporting the richness and
- distribution of invasive and
- other documented hybrid
- plants in the United States.
- The results show that, similar
- to the factors controlling
- the richness and distribution
- of exotic species (but not
- natives), human disturbances
- also create novel niches for
- the newly formed hybrids
- to establish and persist. This
- is the first such report at
- the national level for hybrid
- plants in the US.

## • When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

- Since high school when I
- learned about some big
- names in science and their
- stories.