

BEYOND THE BINARY VI



ALTERNATIVE
FRAMEWORKS

It is whether
humans have a
living relationship
with it.

Belonging is
earned through
reciprocity,
not origin.



Plants have
been moving
across and between
continents since
time immemorial,
carried by
people, migrating
birds, oceans,
and wind.

In Japan,
naturalized
plants are called
kikashokubutsu,

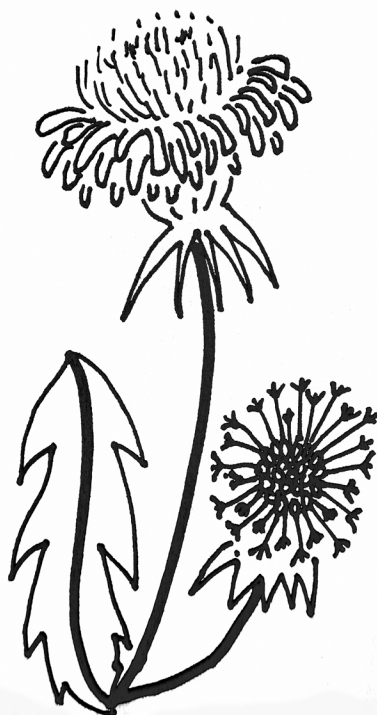
帰化植物.

The characters mean,
roughly, plants that
have "returned
home."

For Māori, introduced
plants have their
own category,

rakau rawaho,

but the primary
question is not
where a plant
is from.



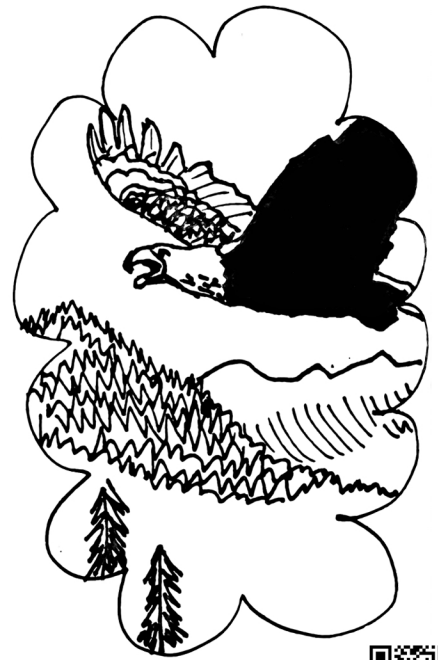
For Anishnaabe
people of the
Great Lakes
region, a plant's
origins, whether
dispersed by
humans, or
whether it altered
its new envi-
ronment, are not
marks against it.

Many Anishnaabe
elders hold that
nature finds its
own balance, and
that chemical
applications and
other drastic
interventions are
not the answer.

FLIP



...but only in the Americas did the year 1492 become not simply a timestamp but a myth of untouched wilderness.



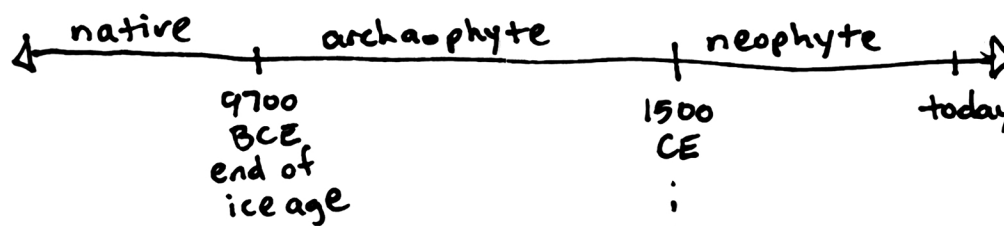
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SOURCES

In much of Europe, plants are described by when they arrived, but on a timescale so long that a value judgment is no longer straight-forward.

Europe



America



The Columbian Exchange transformed ecosystems on both sides of the Atlantic...