

Priority Invasive Species and Best Practices

NOVEMBER 30 ,2023

Presented By:
Diane Watson and Lara Phillips
Invasive Species Council of BC

A lush, moss-covered forest floor with tall, slender trees and dense ferns, creating a serene and natural backdrop for the text.

The Invasive Species Council of BC
gratefully acknowledges the territories of the
Indigenous Peoples of BC where we live and work
to maintain healthy ecosystems for all.

Invasive Species Council of BC

- Largest provincial invasive species charity in Canada
- Focus: education, outreach, training, cross-border collaboration across Canada and internationally
- Founding member, co-chair of the Canadian Council on Invasive Species



ISCBC's Mission

Take action to build healthy landscapes, habitats and communities through education and responsible practices to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Board of Directors represent one of three Chambers

- Governments - federal, Indigenous, local, provincial
- Community - education, academia, conservation
- Business and industry - natural resources, utilities, mining



- Provincial Government
- Federal
- Indigenous
- Industry
 - Forestry
 - Mining
 - Agriculture
 - Tourism
- Local government
- Regional Committees

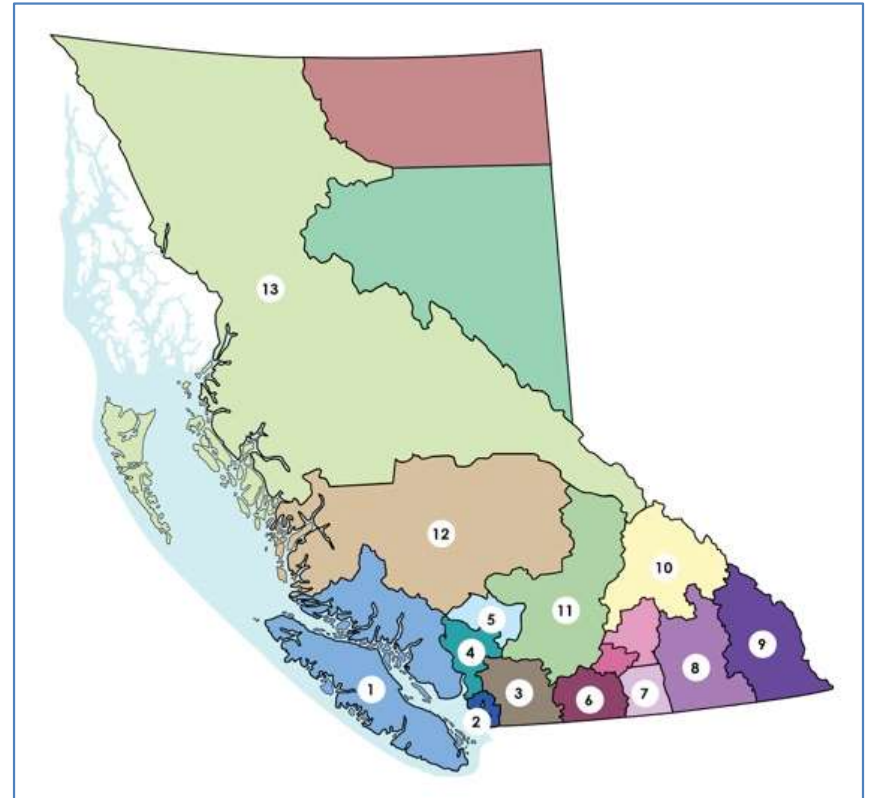
Sample of Partners



Regional Connections

Regional Partnerships

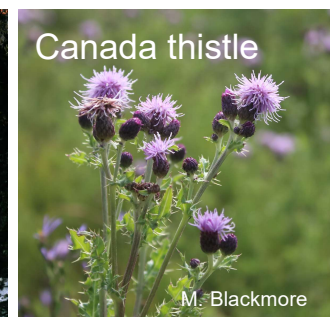
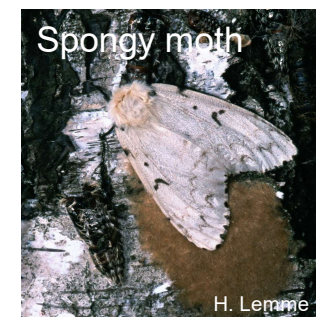
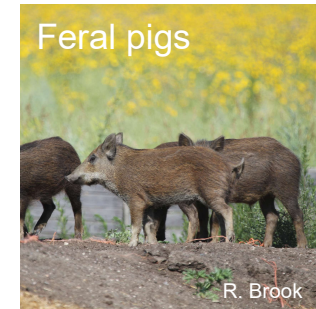
- Work in partnership with 13 regional invasive species organizations
- Special projects with the Regional Councils has included:
 - Plant Wise, Clean Drain Dry, Don't Let Loose
 - Local Workshops on local concerns
 - Training and more!



What We Do

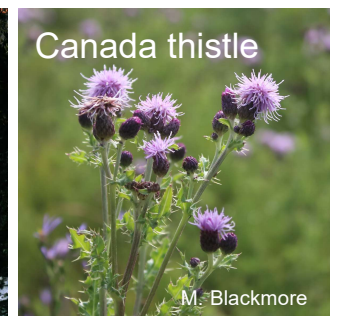
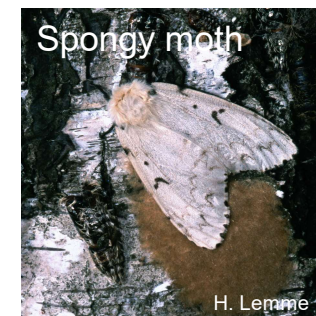
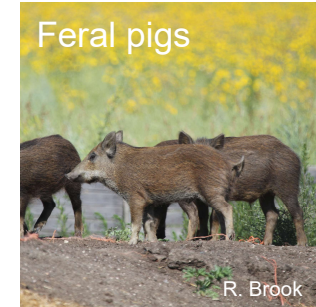
1. **Increase awareness** on the negative impacts of invasive species
2. **Develop, deliver training** programs for business and industry
3. **Work to build 'responsible practices'** in individuals and organizations
4. **Increase research** on priority issues
5. **Build collaboration** across all parties

"Invasive Species Know No Boundaries"

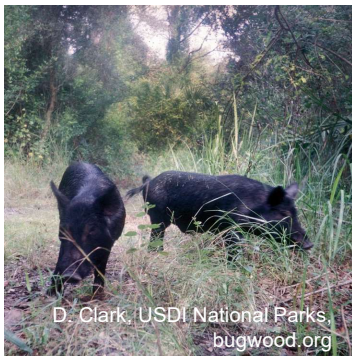


What Are Invasive Species?

- Alien, non-native
- Invasive
 - Take-over habitat
 - Displace native species
- **64** plant species listed as noxious in BC
Weed Control Act Regulations
- **Over 175 species regulated** in all
federal, provincial and local gov't statutes



Invasive Species are more than “weeds”



Feral Pigs



Japanese
beetle



Japanese
knotweed



Eastern grey
squirrel



Smallmouth
bass

Pathways and Vectors

How do they spread?

Pathways



Trails, boating/fishing, movement/sale of plants and pets, ecosystem disturbances, wind/currents

Vectors



Humans, transportation, wildlife, plants, insects, soil, equipment

Pathways and Vectors

How do they spread?

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Vectors








Humans, transportation, wildlife, plants, insects, soil, equipment

Which of these IPBES Inter-governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service drivers are drivers for biodiversity loss?

- a) Changing Use of Sea and Land
- b) Direct Exploitation of Organisms
- c) Climate Change
- d) Pollution
- e) Invasive Non-Native Species

Which of these IPBES Inter-governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service drivers are drivers for biodiversity loss?

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-  d) Pollution
-  e) Invasive Non-Native Species





Why We Should Care

Which of these is the estimated economic impact of invasives?

- a) BC agriculture industry loses **>\$50 M/year** in crop productivity
- b) Est. annual BC crop damage if Japanese beetle establishes **\$14.5 M**
- c) Est. cost Zebra Quagga Mussel invasion in BC **\$64-\$129 M/year**
- d) Invasive plants (Canada) crops & pastures cost est. **\$2.2 B/year**

Why We Should Care

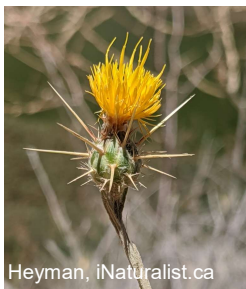
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Climate Change

What is the linkage to Climate Change?

- Expanded range increases risk of introduction and establishment
- Increased rate of species movement
- Lack of, or shorter cold winters



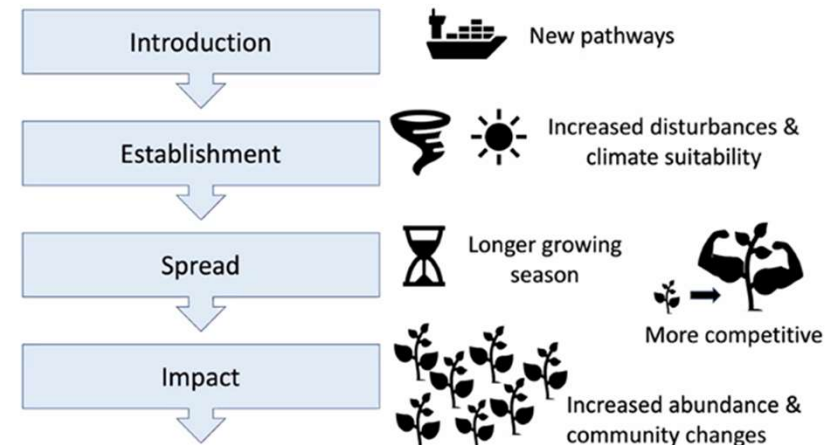
Yellow
starthistle



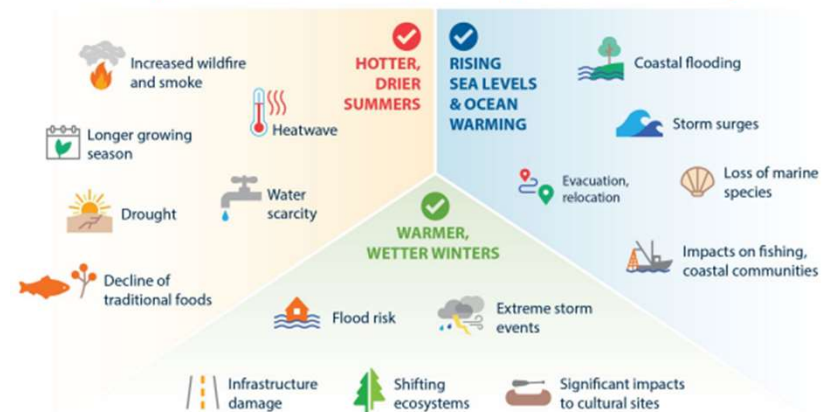
Zebra
mussels



Spotted
lanternfly



Impacts on our Communities, Economy, Health and Wellbeing

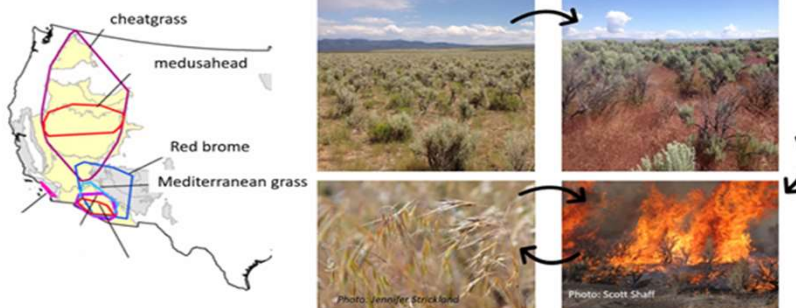


What is the linkage to Climate Change?

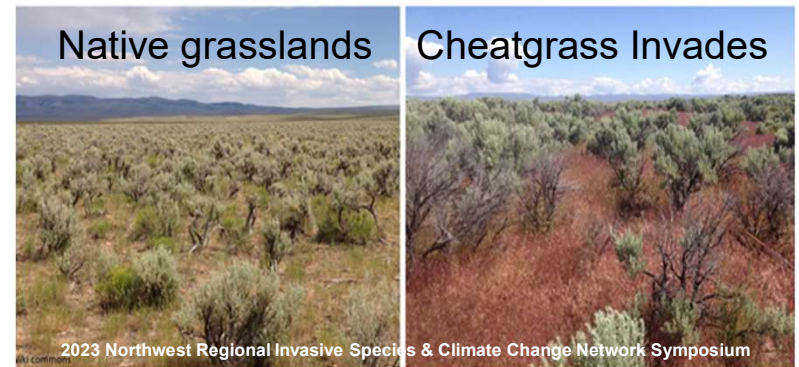
- Increase of fuels
- Increase risk of fire
- Contributed to Maui fires

Invasive grasses increase fire occurrence and frequency across US ecoregions

Emily J. Fusco^{a,1}, John T. Finn^b, Jennifer K. Balch^{c,d}, R. Chelsea Nagy^e, and Bethany A. Bradley^{a,b}



> Grass-fire cycle: Invasion increases fuels



Fire removes native species, introduced species thrive



Yellow starthistle range expands with temperature increases

What is the linkage to Climate Change?

- Increased impact for floods
- Invasives reoccupy first having poor water retention



Knotweed



Himalayan balsam



Invasive Species Regulations

Federal legislation regulates:

- Ballast water management
- Fisheries management
- Movement of wildlife, pathogens, and pests



Plant Protection Act (CFIA)

Regulates import, sale, movement of plants:

- Movement of imports and within
- Monitors imports by land and sea
- Conducts surveillance
 - Determine if an invasive plant is here or not
- Insects, plant diseases, nematodes, snails, and other species



Seeds Act

- Determine seed grades
- Samples randomly to ensure compliance

Pest Control Products Act

- Regulates pesticides
- Determines all claims are science based
- Reviews all submitted data for accuracy



Plant Protection Act – BC Ministry

Agriculture & Food

- Primarily insect related
- Does not apply to regulated species in federal Plant Protection Act

BC Weed Control Act and Regulations

- Invasive plant species listed **noxious** on all jurisdictions, except federal
- 39 provincially listed, 25 listed with regional districts

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This Act is current to September 13, 2023

See the [Tables of Legislative Changes](#) for this Act's legislative history, including any changes not in force.

WEED CONTROL ACT
[RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 487

Contents

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Duty to control noxious weeds
- 3 Appointment and powers of inspectors
- 4 Notice to control noxious weeds
- 5 Noxious weed control regulations
- 6 Form of notice and method of service
- 7 Control of noxious weeds by inspector
- 8 Recovery of costs
- 9 Weed control committees
- 10 Weed control officers
- 11 Weed control agreements
- 12 Highways
- 13 Crown land
- 14 Exemptions
- 15 Offence
- 16 Power to make regulations

Definitions

1 (1) In this Act:

"council" means

- (a) the council of a municipality, and
- (b) the board of a regional district;

"inspector" means a person appointed by the minister under section 3, and includes a weed control officer appointed by a council under section 10;

"minister" includes a person designated in writing by the minister;

"municipality" includes a regional district;

Forest and Range Act (FRPA)

- Implement measures that prevent the introduction or spread of 42 plant species in their stewardship plans

Wildlife Act

Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation

- Any part of a body of water located in BC
- Includes aquarium species
- Over 65 species listed for BC



Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulations *Act*

- Establishes pesticide classes
- Licenses, certificates, permits, Pesticide Use Notice (PUN), confirmations requirements
- Requirements for storage and transport

Regulation

- Pesticide use, handling, release, transport, storage, disposal of or sale of a pesticide.

Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation

Summary

This is a summary prepared to provide general guidance on the use of pesticides in British Columbia. This is not a legal document and the contents should not be relied upon for legal purposes. In all cases the Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulations will prevail. Copies of the Act and Regulations may be obtained through the Queen's Printer.



February 28, 2005

Community Charter

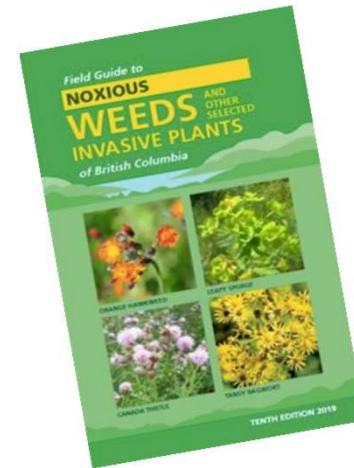
Spheres Concurrent Jurisdiction

- Local governments through Municipal Act

Local Governments

By-laws

- May be species specific or general
- i.e., Nuisance vegetation



Some of these enforcement statutes may allow local government (regional districts, municipalities, etc.) to utilize powers for local purposes.

Key Invasive Plants and Other Species

Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Knotweed (*Reynoutria* spp., *Persicaria* spp.)

- Can grow through concrete and asphalt
 - Damages infrastructure
- Aggressive and very hard to kill
- Significant control, management, and repair costs



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Knotweed (*Reynoutria* spp., *Persicaria* spp.)

Method of Spread

- Rhizomes, some seed set

Management

- Do not cut
- Herbicide
- Removal by excavator



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

- Produces a **highly toxic** sap
 - Can cause burns, blisters and scarring
- Dominates ravines and stream banks
- Poses serious risks to human health and ecology
- Look alike species – Cow parsnip
- <https://ssisc.ca/giant-hogweed-lookalike>



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Method of Spread

- Seed

Management

- Cut before seed set
- Dig out seedlings
- Herbicide



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Spartina (*Spartina* spp.)

- Decreases habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, fish and shellfish
- Disrupts tidal drainage patterns and estuary hydrology
- Impacts coastal based industries



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Spartina (*Spartina* spp.)

Method of Spread

- Rhizomes and seeds

Management

- Digging and burying with excavator
- Systematic herbicide treatment



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

- Suppress native vegetation by smothering
- Leave plants vulnerable to blowdown and disease
- Unsuitable to wildlife as habitat and forage



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Method of Spread

- Cuttings or juvenile stems in contact with the ground

Management

- Hand pulling and cutting
- Herbicide



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*)

- **Poisonous!**

Contains toxic sap that can cause skin rashes, nausea, swelling of the tongue and coma

- Shade tolerant – can take over forest understories
- Commonly grown in gardens



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*)

Method of Spread

- Rhizomes and seed

Management

- Cutting
- Pulling and digging (young plants)



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

- Perennial aquatic plant
- Thick mats damage wildlife habitat, reduce waterflow, crowd out native vegetation
- Commonly sold for ponds and water gardens



Key Invasive Plants of Concern

Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Method of Spread

- Seed, rhizomes, fragmentation

Management

- Deadheading before seed set
- Pulling and digging – caution!
- Benthic barriers
- Deep water cutting



J DiTomaso

Post-Treatment Activities

- Multi-year approach
- Consider site variables, seed viability and species biology
- Treatments typically result in soil disturbance
- Passive or active restoration
- Monitoring



BC Priority Invasive Plants

Province of BC

- 'Top 25' updated annually
- Priority for management
- Containment lines for some species
- https://iscmv.ca/docs/2023_Provincial_Top_25_list_EXTERNAL.pdf

Invasive Plant Species (Species with containment lines in red)	NEW RANK 2023
Bohemian knotweed	1
Giant knotweed	1
Japanese knotweed	1
Giant hogweed	2
Poison Hemlock	3
Wild Parsnip	4
Marsh Plume Thistle	5
(NEW) Japanese Butterbur	6
Shiny geranium	7
Wild chervil	8
North Africa grass	9
Garlic mustard	10
Rush skeletonweed	11

Common tansy	12
Yellow flag iris (5m ² or less sites only)	13
Common bugloss	14
Blueweed	15
Teasel	16
Himalayan Knotweed	17
Field scabious	18
Scotch broom	19
(NEW) White flowered broom (use Scotch Broom Containment line)	19
Spotted Knapweed	20
Hoary alyssum	21
Himalayan Blackberry	22
Yellow Archangel	23
Puncturevine	24
Hoary cress	25

'Early Detection Rapid Response' Species

- New species or limited extent in BC
- 6 step process
- Report!
- Full list – BC Gov webpage

[Provincial Priority Invasive Species List](#)

Eggleaf spurge (*Euphorbia oblongata*)

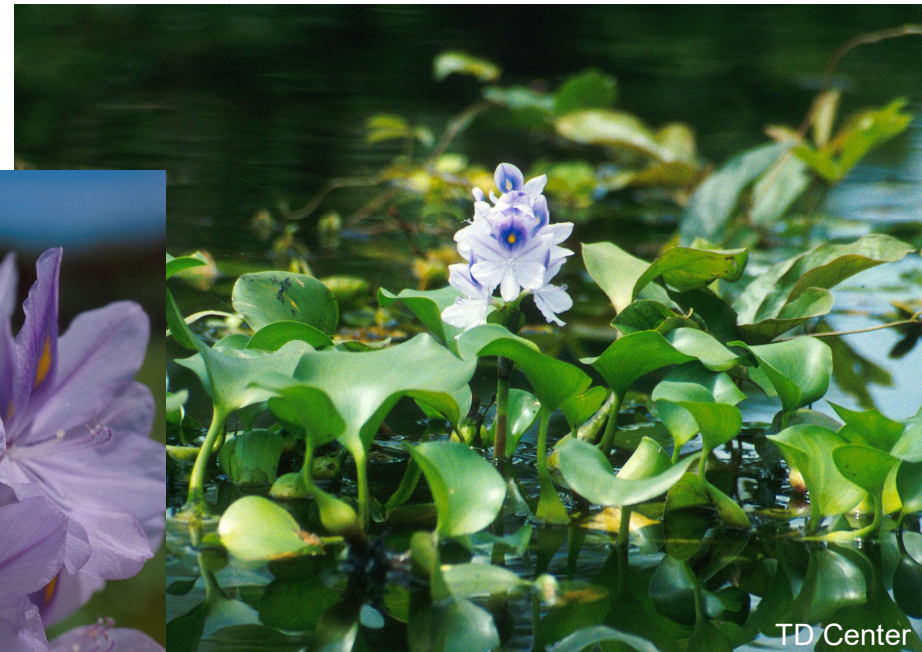


- Yellow flower clusters
- Egg-shaped leaves, finely toothed
- 0.5 m tall – branching stems



Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

- Kidney-shaped leaves
- Thick and glossy
- Inflated leafstalk
- 4-15 flowers on spikes
- Purple with yellow spot
- Horticulture plant



Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)

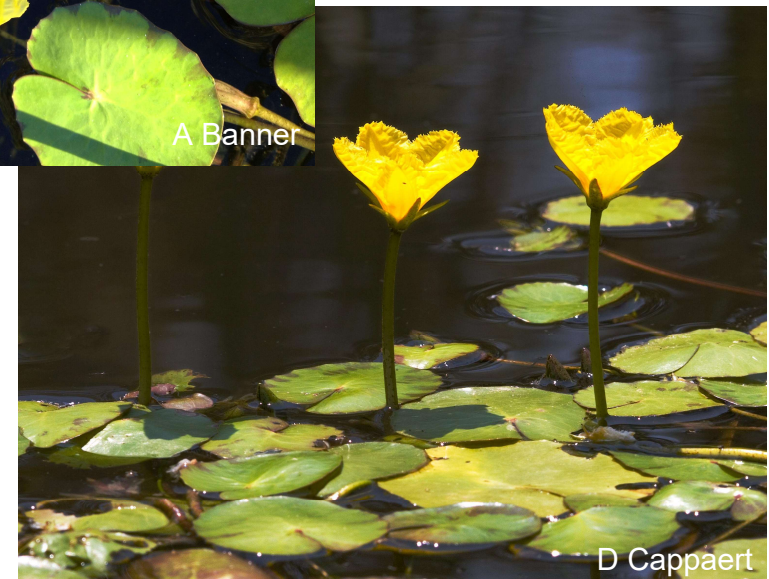
- Floating rosettes appear 'lettuce-like' - no stem
- Soft, light green leaves with wavy margins
- Feathery roots
- Dense mats
- Horticulture plant



Yellow floating heart

(*Nymphoides peltata*)

- Resembles a water lily
- Single yellow flower grows on a single stalk
- Dense mats
- Planted intentionally – ponds near housing
- Provincial alert coming soon




Invasive Plant Disposal

- Landfills – deep burial
- Incineration or high-heat composting – not often available
- Varies by municipality
- NO regular composting!
- Secure during transport

Metro Vancouver Disposal Options:

<https://metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/Documents/invasive-species-toxic-plant-disposal-options.pdf>



**Dispose with Care
Invasive Plant Disposal in BC**


**FACTSHEET
DECEMBER 2021**

Background

There are many different invasive plant species present in British Columbia. Many of these species cannot be fully destroyed through composting, so they need to be disposed of in other ways. This factsheet will provide you with the information you need to safely and effectively dispose of invasive plants and stop their spread.


What is an invasive species?

The term "invasive species" is any non-native organism that causes environmental, economic or social harm and can spread quickly to new areas. Invasive species, including plants, can out-compete native species, including vegetation, altering ecosystems and impacting biodiversity. The economic impacts of invasive plants are a combination of the loss in resource productivity and increased management costs to control further introduction and spread. Invasive plants can also increase fire risks, pose health hazards and impact the values of recreational areas.



What can you do?

Prevention is essential in controlling further introduction and spread of invasive plants throughout the province. Improper disposal is a major pathway of introduction, as invasive plants are often disposed of in ways that allow their seeds or plant parts to be dispersed. Dumping green waste, which includes plant waste from yards, parks and other recreational areas, in areas such as parks and forests, is one of the leading ways in which invasive plants spread. Invasive plants are highly adaptable and easily move into new areas by seed or vegetative fragment dispersal. It is extremely important that responsible invasive plant disposal is common practice. In order to practice safe and responsible disposal methods, residents should contact their local municipalities to find out what disposal options and programs are available to them.



BCINVASIVES.CA / INFO@BCINVASIVES.CA / 1-888-933-3722

Slide 47

DW0

<https://metrovanancouver.org/services/regional-planning/Documents/invasive-species-toxic-plant-disposal-options.pdf>

Tasha recommends including this PDF for the Metro Vancouver area if possible because it is always updated with new information

Diane Watson, 2023-11-29T16:54:13.528

Key Invasive Species of Concern

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)

- Feeds on over 300 plants species
- Damages plants by feeding on roots and skeletonizing leaves
- Would impact agriculture and horticulture industries in BC



Key Invasive Species of Concern

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)

Method of Spread

- Movement of plants, soil

Management

- Trapping
- Movement controls
- Larvicide



Key Invasive Species of Concern

Brown marmorated stink bug

(*Halyomorpha halys*)

- Broad diet of fruits, seeds, plants and tree bark
- Serious pest in many fruit, vegetable and hazelnut crops
- Nuisance to homeowners



Key Invasive Species of Concern

Brown marmorated stink bug

(*Halyomorpha halys*)

Method of Spread

- Shipping containers, wood, packing material, cargo and vehicles

Management

- Natural and introduced biocontrol
- Insecticide



Slide 51

LPO

Could mention preferred host tree - TOF

Lara Phillips, 2023-11-23T21:29:57.066

Key Invasive Species of Concern

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

- Prolific reproducer; allelopathic
- Preferred host tree of Spotted lantern fly
- Not listed noxious but an important invasive to watch out for – report!

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

- **Not yet present in BC!**
- Huge implications for fruit orchards and vineyards – feeds on 100+ species, including Garry oak



Key Invasive Species of Concern

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Method of Spread

- Seed, vegetative sprouts/suckers

Management

- Pulling and digging - saplings
- Herbicide



Known host tree of the invasive
Brown marmorated stink bug

Slide 53

LPO

Added BMSB fact here and removed from other BMSB slides - confirmed host but perhaps not 'preferred host'

Lara Phillips, 2023-11-28T06:21:51.529

Key Invasive Species of Concern

Zebra and Quagga mussels

- Reproduce rapidly
- Severe impact to economy, environment and society

NOT YET IN BC!



Key Invasive Species of Concern

Zebra and Quagga mussels

- Inspection stations
- Idaho detection
- Moss balls

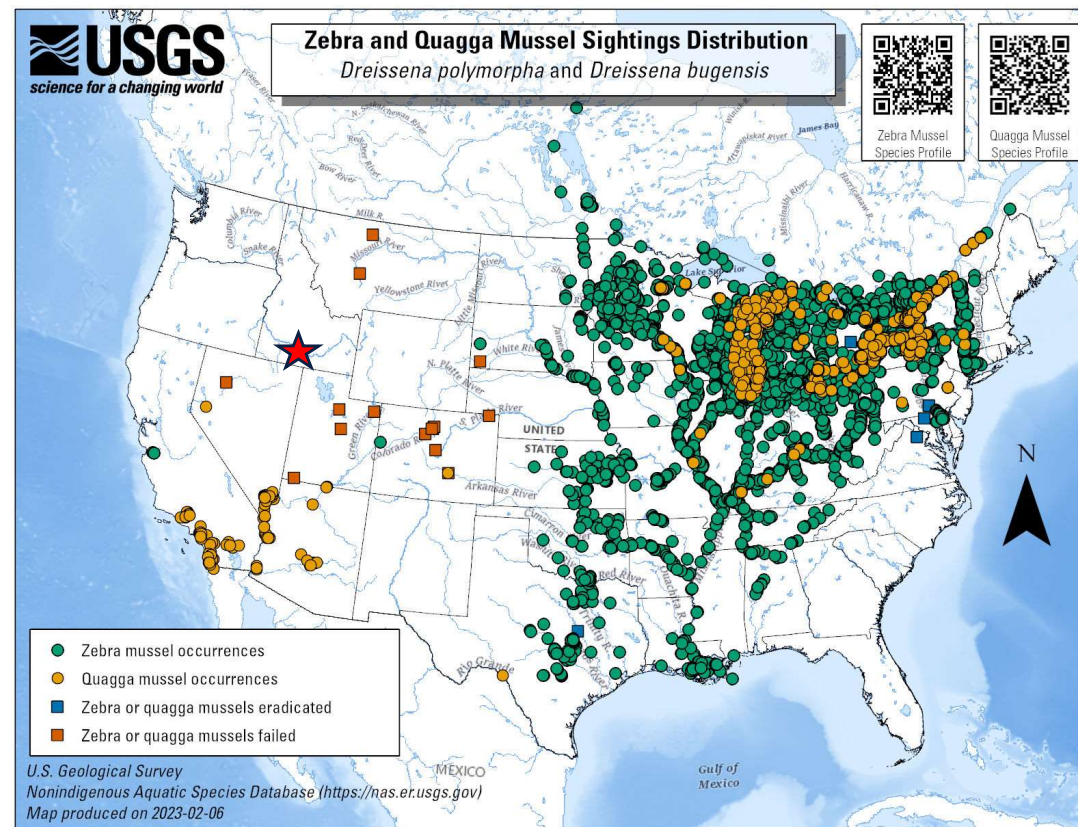


REMEMBER

- ✓ **CLEAN**
plants, animals and mud
from boat and gear
- ✓ **DRAIN**
all water from boat
and gear onto land
- ✓ **DRY**
all parts of boat and
gear completely

Report Zebra or Quagga mussel
sightings to the R.A.P.P. Hotline:
1-877-952-7277

CleanDrainDry.ca

Slide 55

LPO

Updated map?

Lara Phillips, 2023-11-28T06:00:34.501

Key Invasive Species of Concern

American Bullfrog

(*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

- Largest frog in BC
- Predator with a broad diet
- Serious threat to species at risk
 - Red-legged frog
 - Western painted turtle



Key Invasive Species of Concern

American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)

Method of Spread

- Catch and release
- Land migration
- Require permanent waterbodies

Management

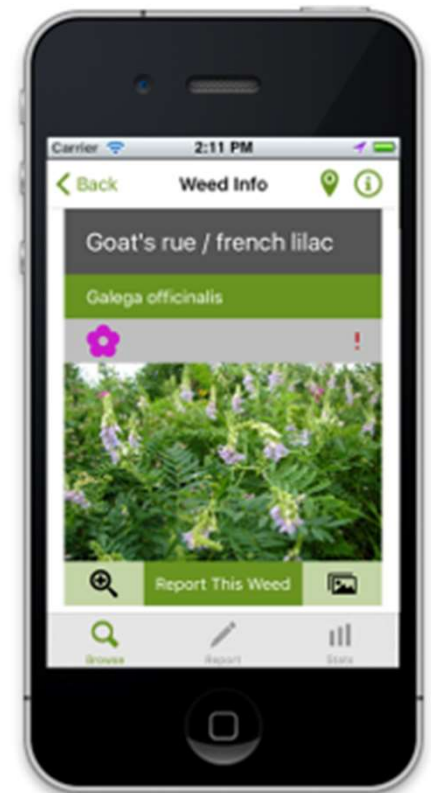
- Manual removal of all life stages
- Habitat manipulation



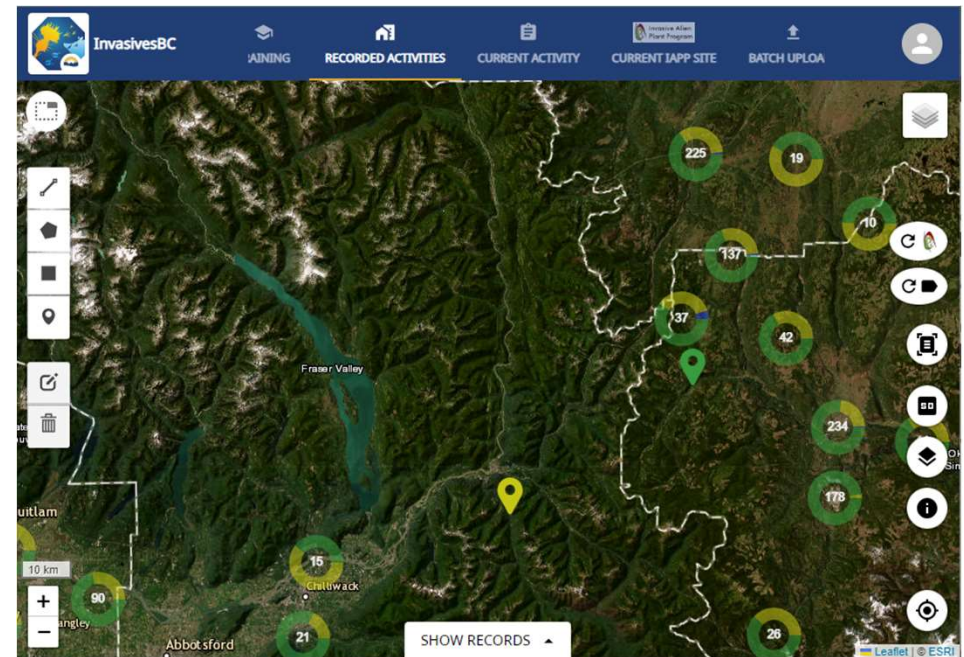
- Report Invasives BC app
- ISCBC online form,
phone or email:
info@bcinvasives.ca
- iNaturalist app
- Local invasive species
organizations
- Local CFIA – plant pests



iNaturalist



- Launched June 2023 - replaced 'IAPP' software
- Mapping and information database for invasive plants in BC
- Species distributions and treatment records (mechanical, chemical, biological)
- In progress - new phases coming



- Mobile app management tool
- Agriculture focused – plants only
- Identification, management advice from experts, and more
- Available offline
- Excellent resource for land managers





About

Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a significant invasive species in many parts of the world. Native to Asia, it was introduced to British Columbia as an urban tree known for its fast growth and tolerating a wide range of growing conditions. Tree of heaven has multiple modes of reproduction, allowing it to spread prolifically. Tree of heaven is known to be the preferred host of the invasive agricultural and forest pest, Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*).



Legal Status

Currently, *A. altissima* is not listed as a noxious weed in the BC Weed Control Act. However, it is listed as an invasive plant according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and a species for regional containment and control by the BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group.

Distribution

Tree of heaven's native distribution is throughout northeast and central China and Taiwan. It is now found throughout North America, including British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. It has also spread throughout Western Europe, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Identification

Flowers: Large panicles at the end of new stems, up to 30 cm in length; individual flowers small, appear to be white, or yellow to green; five sepals. Flowers in late May and June.

Stems: May reach 30 m in height. Grey-brown bark that is smooth on young trees and rougher on mature trees.

Leaves: Compound leaves; 1 m long; individual leaflets are 5-15 cm long and 2.5-5 cm wide; ovate-lanceolate shaped; dark green with lighter green veins. Note: A pair of glandular teeth are found at the base of each leaflet.

Fruit: Grow in bright red and brown clusters with hundreds of seeds enclosed in a samara – a winged variety of a simple dry fruit.

Similar Species: Native species such as Steeplebush (*Staphylea trifolia*), Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) can resemble Tree of heaven. The critical difference is that Tree of heaven does not have toothed edges on its leaflets compared to those three species and a pair of glandular teeth at the base of each leaflet.

Biology

Habitat: *A. altissima* is found in disturbed urban environments, such as abandoned lots, alleys, parking lots, and streets. It can effectively colonize sites with rocky and poor growing conditions.

Reproduction: Tree of heaven effectively proliferates through sexual and asexual reproduction. Sexual reproduction through seed production is done by the female, producing as many as 325,000 seeds a year. These seeds are encased in a spiny wing that aids in wind and water dispersal. It is an efficient asexual reproducer through vegetative sprouts and suckers. It aggressively re-sprouts in response to being ground and will rapidly spread vegetatively through root sprouts.

Dispersal: Tree of heaven dispersal was primarily through glaucous and horticulturalists who introduced this species to the East Coast of North America in the late 1700s and the West Coast in the 1800s. It was commonly available in nurseries and valued as a street tree due to its ability to proliferate and tolerate a wide range of soil and air quality.



About English Ivy

English ivy is a widely planted ornamental that arrived in North America during colonial times. It is indisputable that English ivy inhibits the growth and regeneration of native wildflowers, shrubs and trees through shading, smothering, and associated harmful pathogens.

Legal Status

Community Charter, Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation.

Distribution

English ivy is currently found in southeastern BC, along the coast, inland, and Haida Gwaii. There have been isolated reports of English ivy in the southern interior and Kootenays.

Identification

Flowers: Flowers are an umbel-shaped cluster of small, greenish-yellow flowers with five thick and pointed petals, each 3 mm long. Petals radiate from green, five-lobed floral disk.

Stems: An evergreen, climbing shrub that can form dense ground cover or climb to 30 m by aerial roots. Stems can grow to 25 cm in diameter when climbing. Vines covered in grey-brown shiny bark, with raised leaf scars.

Leaves: English ivy has thick, waxy, dark-green leaves with three to five pointed lobes when juvenile. Mature plants have erect branches with unlobed leaves with terminal flower clusters. Leaves are alternate, broadly egg-shaped, ranging from 5-10 cm long and 6-12 cm wide.

Fruits: Are dark blue to purplish, growing in clusters of spherical drupes each 5-8 mm diameter.

Similar Native Species: Sals (*Southern shallop*) is a native creeping to erect shrub found in southwestern BC. While sals does not climb, it can also be differentiated by leaf width and the presence of toothed leaf margins, unlobed leaves, as well as nodding flowers and fruits.

Ecological Characteristics:

Habitat: English ivy does best in moist, open forests, but is adaptable to a range of soil and moisture conditions. Young plants are shade tolerant enabling growth under existing dense stands of plants and trees.

Reproduction: English ivy flowers from late summer to early fall. Vegetative reproduction can occur from cuttings or from juvenile stems in contact with the ground.

Dispersal: The plant remains vegetative when growth is horizontal, but turns reproductive when allowed to climb. Fruit and seeds can be eaten and spread by birds.

Impact

Ecological: English ivy can form dense monocultures that spread on the ground and on other plants and trees. It can suppress and exclude native vegetation by smothering them and competing for light. The excessive weight of English ivy growing on native plants can leave them more vulnerable to blowdown and disease. English ivy can also create unsuitable wildlife habitat and forage availability. It can serve as a vector of Bacterial Leaf Scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), a plant pathogen that is harmful to maples, oaks, elms, and other native plants.

Economic: Has the ability to damage infrastructure it grows on.

Health impacts: Has been found toxic to humans when eaten and may cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals.

Integrated Pest Management

IPM is a decision-making process that includes identification and inventory of invasive plant populations, assessment of the risks that they pose, development of well-informed control options that may include a number of methods, site treatment, and monitoring.

A. Prevention

➤ Monitor for English ivy in community gardens, along built-up walls and trees, and in understory vegetation.

➤ Destroy single plants or new infestations early, before seeds are produced.

➤ Maintain a strong, competitive perennial plant cover.

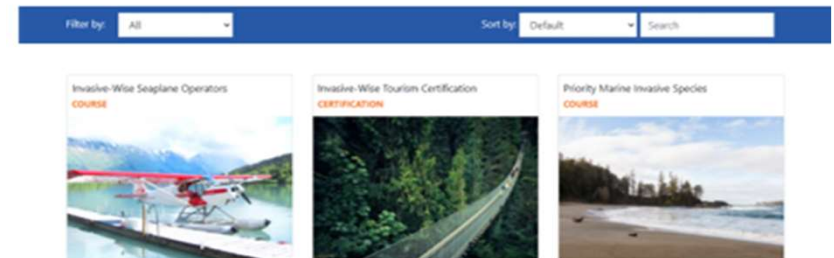


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Who to contact

- Regional invasive species organizations
- ISCBC – email, phone, website
- View 'Our Networks' -
<https://bcinvasives.ca/about/our-networks/>
- We like to hear from you!



Thank you!

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