



Report Weeds!

Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) to new infestations is critical to the management of invasive plants.

Weed Hotline: 1-866-44WEEDS

www.nwipc.org or www.weedsbc.ca



The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) is your local non-profit weed committee. NWIPC provides education and awareness of invasive plant identification and management to achieve our goal of preventing further damage to the natural areas of northwest and central BC.

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS AND WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Invasive plants are species that are able to quickly establish and flourish in new areas due to a competitive ability over other vegetation. Invasive plants are non-native and can quickly form extensive and dense infestations. Infestations in the natural environment can threaten biodiversity, reduce forage for wildlife and reduce habitat for rare or endangered species. Certain invasive plants also have undesirable

Invasive plants are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss.

~ International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

traits such as toxicity to animals and humans or they can restrict recreation due to forming extremely dense infestations or containing spines. When invasive plants infest agricultural areas, they can reduce forage for livestock, contaminate seed

stocks and reduce crop yields. Some invasive plants are known to affect regeneration of tree seedlings in the forest industry.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Invasive, non-native plants threaten the health of our resources as well as the viability of the industries they support. Weed infestations:

- Reduce forage quality & yield.
- Are expensive to control.
- Reduce tree seedling vigour.
- Reduce property & aesthetic value.
- Restrict recreation opportunities when poisonous and thorny weed infestations are present.

ECOLOGICAL THREATS

Noxious weeds aggressively compete with native plants for nutrients, light, water and growing space. Competition from noxious weeds can result in:

- Suppressed native plant and seedling growth
- Reduced forage for livestock and wildlife.
- Less palatable and sometimes poisonous weed species within the plant community.
- Increased fire hazard as unpalatable plant material builds up.
- Future plant communities being threatened by weed seeds that remain viable in the soil for decades.

Protecting the diverse habitats of North Central BC from noxious weed spread is the responsibility of all resource users.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Learn to recognize noxious invasive weeds; educate children.
- Prevent infesting new areas by remove weeds from equipment, pets & clothing.
- Clip seed heads and place in a sealed plastic bag.
- Bury or burn the plants & seed heads.
- Adopt an area for volunteers to control weeds.
- Pull isolated or new patches of weeds
- Report weed locations to weed control organizations listed on this page.
- Share this information with friends & neighbours.