Help Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants

What is an invasive plant?
Many plants have been introduced to this region from other continents. Some of these plants are considered “invasive” because the predators and diseases from their native regions are not here to keep them under control, so they spread rapidly and can cause many problems.

Why are invasive plants a problem?
In some cases, invasive plants:
- damage sensitive ecosystems, alter stream flows, and increase soil erosion
- are toxic to people and animals
- are highly flammable and increase the risk of wildfires
- reduce crop yields and harm livestock
- displace traditional food or medicinal species used by Indigenous peoples
- damage buildings and pavement
- are costly to manage

In fact, municipalities in Metro Vancouver spend over $2 million per year controlling 11 priority invasive species.

How can you help?

Report invasive plants
Download the ‘Report a Weed’ App from reportaweedsbc.ca to identify and report invasive plants.

Join a stewardship group
Several stewardship groups organize invasive species removal parties in local parks.
Visit meetup.com and join the ‘Metro Vancouver Ecological Restoration Team’ or the ‘Lower Mainland Green Team’.
Contact New Westminster Environmental Partners at the.nwep@gmail.com for information about volunteering opportunities.

Learn more about invasive plants
Go to metrovancouver.org and search “invasive species”
Check out iscmv.ca for more information from the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver.
Visit the City of New Westminster’s website at: https://www.newwestcity.ca/services/environment-and-sustainability

Choose garden plants wisely
Research new plants for the garden to avoid picking an invasive species. (Yes, some are still sold in garden stores.)
Check out growgreenguide.ca for non-invasive plant and garden design suggestions.

Keep invasive plants under control
Keep fast-spreading invasive plants such as ivy, periwinkle and yellow archangel contained. Consider hiring a professional to control highly invasive species such as knotweeds and giant hogweed.
Be sure to replace invasive plants with a non-invasive alternative.

Put yard waste in its place
Do not place invasive plants in your backyard composter as the temperature will not become hot enough to completely destroy the seeds and roots.
To reduce the spread of invasive species, please dispose of yard waste and soil appropriately.
Residents are asked never to compost invasive plants in their Yard & Food Scraps cart. Dispose of all plant parts in double-bagged garbage bags (preferably clear) and put out for curbside collection.

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Other ways to lend a helping hand

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Common Invasive Plants in Metro Vancouver

Garden escapees

- English and Irish Ivies (Hedera helix and hibernica)
- English holly (Ilex aquifolium)
- Yellow archangel (Lamiastrum galeobdolon)
- Common periwinkle (Vinca minor)
- Yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus)
- Daphne/spurge laurel (Daphne laureola)
- Cherry laurel (Prunus laurocerasus)
- Butterfly bush (Buddleia davidii)
- Bamboo (Phyllostachys spp.)

Others

- Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus)
- Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)
- Knotweeds (Fallopia spp.)
- Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius)
- Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)
- Himalayan balsam (Impatiens glandulifera)

Toxic - Don’t touch!

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