

Module 3.0 Governance and Regulatory Tools

3.1 Definitions: Invasive Species, Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds

Understanding the many different Acts and legislation in BC for invasive species is complicated by the fact that there is no standardized terminology for undesirable plants and animals. The BC Provincial government is moving towards harmonizing all related Acts and legislation into one invasive species legislation in BC utilizing the term “invasive species” in entirety. The following terms are defined by how they are used in this document as they relate to legislation.

Invasive Species – Refers to any harmful invasive alien or non-native species, including animals, plants and other organisms whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health. This simplified version of “invasive species” is used throughout this Toolkit as a general term that includes species listed as noxious, invasive, or alien invasive in federal, provincial, or local regulations. It is important to note that the term “alien” refers to species that are not native and that not all alien species are invasive.

Invasive Alien Species – Harmful alien species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health. This term is used in the Community Charter’s Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction and is under review as governments move towards standardized use of the term “invasive species”.

Invasive Plant – Generally refers to any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals, or ecosystems. Invasive plant is used throughout this Toolkit as a general term that includes all species listed as noxious, invasive, or alien invasive in federal, provincial, or local regulations.

Noxious Weed - Legislative term for: (i) A weed designated in Schedule A of a Regulation under the *Weed Control Act* to be a noxious weed, includes the seeds of the noxious weed; or (ii) A species designated by the Federal Weed Seeds Order to be a noxious weed. The term “noxious weed” is also used in s. 64 of the *Local Government Act* and may be used by municipalities for weeds considered to be undesirable and regulated under local bylaws. When the term “noxious weed” is used generally by local government, it does not necessarily refer to Schedule A of the *Weed Control Act*.

See the *Legislative Guidebook* (ISCBC 2007) for a more comprehensive glossary.