B.C. INVASIVE PLANT EARLY DETECTION RAPID RESPONSE: BOOT CAMP WITHOUT THE SWEAT!

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OVERVIEW

• What is the B.C. EDRR Program?

• Feature Species
  • How to ID?
  • Why is it a problem?
  • Where is it in B.C.?
  • What are we doing about it?
  • What can YOU do?
Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for British Columbia

November 2014

IMISWG
Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/edrr.htm
B.C. PRIORITY INVASIVE PLANTS

- Slender false brome
- Shiny geranium
- Flowering rush

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SLENDER FALSE BROME: WHAT IS IT?

- Native to Eurasia
- Perennial bunchgrass
- Evergreen; nodding form
- Fringe of fine hairs along leaf and culm margins
- Drooping flower spikelets with < 2 mm stalks
SLENDER FALSE BROME: WHAT IS IT?

- Young plant “spider-like”
- Flat, floppy leaf blades, freely releasing
- Solid mats, 30-40 cm tall
- Fibrous root
SLENDER FALSE BROME: *LOOK-ALIKES*

Columbia brome (*Bromus vulgaris*)

Velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*)
SLENDER FALSE BROME: **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

- Prefers closed to semi-open temperate conifer forests
- But thrives in dry open roadside, cobble riparian areas or grasslands
- Reproduces and disperses mainly by seed (stem and root fragments can sprout)

- Local dispersal: wildlife, road grading, humans, vehicles
- Long distance spread: intentional planting for range improvement, ornamental gardens, forestry or recreational equipment, contaminated seed mixes
SLENDER FALSE BROME: **WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?**

- Increases wildfire risk
- Impedes forest regeneration
- Out-competes native forest understory and grasslands
**SLENDER FALSE BROME: WHERE IS IT IN B.C.?**

One confirmed site in B.C.:

- Cowichan Valley
- Occurs across ~ 25 ha

Slender false brome: B.C. Distribution June 2016.
SLENDER FALSE BROME: WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Risk assessment: In draft
- Extent Surveys: In progress
- Containment: In progress
- Targeted surveillance
- Targeted education
Shiny Geranium: What is it?

- Native to Eurasia
- Low-growing annual to biennial forb
- Grows up to 50 cm tall
- 5-petaled pink flowers grow in pairs on short stems
SHINY GERANIUM: WHAT IS IT?

- Sepals at base of flower appear keeled, with conspicuous vertical cross-ribs
- Red stems smooth
- Shiny leaves, round to kidney shaped, 5 to 7 lobes
- Weak central root
SHINY GERANIUM: LOOK-ALIKES

*G. lucidum* (shiny geranium)

*G. molle* (dovesfoot)

*G. dissectum* (crane’s bill)

*G. robertianum* (herb Robert)
SHINY GERANIUM: HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Prefers semi-open woodlands and open grasslands in the PNW
- Reproduces by seed
- Germinates late summer/early fall
- Flowers April to May
- Seeds late June to July then senesces
- Local dispersal: Wildlife, humans, water currents
- Long distance spread: Vehicles, equipment, contaminated seed and fill

Molly Juillerat
Shiny geranium: Why is it a problem?

- Threatens species at risk
- Dominates understorey in semi-open and open habitats
- Hybridizes with other geraniums
SHINY GERANIUM: WHERE IS IT IN B.C.?

Limited to the Capital Regional District in BC:

• District of Saanich park lands
• Private property
• <2.5 ha total

SHINY GERANIUM: WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Risk assessment: In draft
- Extent Surveys: Completed
- Containment: In progress
- Targeted surveillance
- Targeted education
FLOWERING RUSH: WHAT IS IT?

- Native to temperate Eurasia
- Perennial, aquatic macrophyte
- Flowering variable
- Twisting leaf spike
- Leaf x-section triangular
FLOWERING RUSH: WHAT IS IT?

- TWO growth forms
- Up to 1.5m tall

- “Cob web-like” filament when leaf broken
- Rectangular plant base
FLOWERING RUSH: LOOK-ALIKES

Seacoast bullrush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*)

Bur-reed (*Sparganium spp.*)
FLOWERING RUSH: HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Occurs in <6 m of water
- Reproduces and disperses by floating rhizomes, bulblets, sometimes seed
- Local dispersal: mainly by water, human rec. and in garden waste
- Long distance spread: nursery sale
FLOWERING RUSH: WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

- Interferes with irrigation
- Reduces water quality/availability
- Reduces recreation activities
- Alters valuable fish/wildlife habitat
- Displaces native aquatic and riparian species

Effective treatment??
FLOWERING RUSH: WHERE IS IT IN B.C.?

3 Impacted Waterbodies:

- Bouchie Lake
- Hatzic Lake
- Whistler pond

FLOWERING RUSH: WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

- Risk assessment: In draft
- Extent Surveys: Complete
- Containment Strategy: Complete
- Containment: In progress
- Eradication: Trials in progress
- Targeted surveillance
- Public Education
B.C. PRIORITY INVASIVE PLANTS: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

• Learn how to identify it

• Report suspected new sites: www.reportaweed.ca

• Play, Clean, Go

• Stay informed

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CONCLUSION

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- Feature Species:
  - How to ID?
  - Why is it a problem?
  - Where is it in B.C.?
  - What are we doing about it?
  - What can YOU do?

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THANK YOU!

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