

Prevention Tips

Invasive species affect ALL OF US.

Whether we are farmers, foresters, land managers, property owners, policy makers, or homeowners — invasive species impact the areas in which we live, work, and play. Not only are they an ecological concern, invasive species also affect the daily operations and budgets of municipalities across BC, which impacts our taxes.

Here are some examples on how to prevent the spread of invasive plant and animal species:



Hound's tongue seeds
cling to clothing/gear
L. Scott

Properly clean all vehicles, equipment, and gear – some surfaces are able to hold onto to weed seeds and transfer them to new locations.

- » Muddy surfaces have the ability to hold and distribute various invasive species seeds, a 6 minute pressure washer rinse is ideal for removing mud from all equipment and vehicles.
- » If a pressure washer is unavailable, remove mud using a broom, shovel, pry bar, or your boots.
- » If possible, dispose of seeds and plant parts into a garbage bag or leave at location where originally found.
- » Use non-felt bottomed wading boots. Felt bottoms are able to catch, trap and transport various species of invasive plants and animals to new, invasive-free locations.

Prevention is proven as the most cost-effective approach.

People are often unknowingly vectors for spread, but the good news is we can take actions to help prevent new introductions and further spread of invasive species across our communities.



Boat inspection for
invasive hitchhikers

Clean, Drain, Dry – aquatic invasive species are known to spread via water recreation equipment such as boats and trailers.

- » Follow the Clean, Drain, Dry process before entering another waterbody to safely remove aquatic invasive species that could be hitchhiking on your boat or trailer.



Avoid moving firewood long distances – firewood can contain introduced or invasive forest pests and diseases.

- » Use local firewood when needed and if you have extra, leave behind for others to use.



Truck parked in blueweed infestation.
S. Leverkus

Avoid parking/storing vehicles at infested sites.

- » Flat roadside sites are typically made using machinery. These disturbed sites are frequently colonized by invasive species. Parking or storing equipment in these areas can lead to seeds being spread to a new location.



Hound's tongue seeds
cling to clothing/gear.
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Work in un-infested sites before moving to infested sites.

- » If you are using earth moving equipment in various sites, plan to use equipment in un-infested sites before infested sites, this will help prevent the spread of invasive weed seeds and other plant parts.



Spotted knapweed infestation in active gravel pit.
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Use weed-free fill and erosion-control materials.

- » Before purchasing gravel and fill materials, ensure that you purchase gravel and fill materials that are weed-free.



Aquarium maintenance.

Avoid releasing live animals or aquatic plants; several aquatic and terrestrial invasive species have been introduced through human release.

- » Research humane ways to dispose aquarium animals.
- » Properly dispose of live bait fish – do not release into the water body.
- » Contact local pet stores, the SPCA, or wildlife organizations for information on terrestrial animal disposal.



Revegetation with weed-free seed.

Be 'PlantWise.' Make living conditions less desirable for invasive species.

- » Choose non-invasive alternatives to replace known invasive plants on your property. When working, try to minimize soil disturbance and avoid damage to native vegetation. If native vegetation is present, invasive species have a harder time colonizing.
- » If native vegetation has been removed, revegetate the disturbed area as soon as possible with appropriate plant species. It is important to use ecologically appropriate plants and seeds when vegetating to assure success.
- » Promptly control all introduced species that your activities have led to. Consider using mechanical or chemical controls once an introduced species has been identified. If seed banks have become established, yearly control must take place to assure the invasive species is managed.