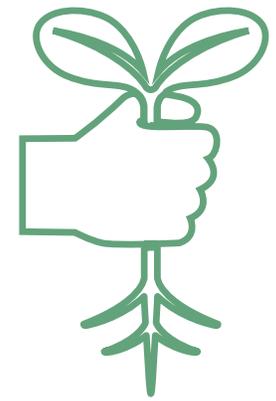




Invasive Species
Council of BC

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Organize an Invasive Weed Pull



WHAT IS AN INVASIVE WEED PULL?

An invasive weed pull event is where two or more individuals come together to remove invasive species in an area. Visit our website to see a full list of invasive species. An invasive weed pull can focus on removing just one invasive plant species or removing a variety of them.

HOW CAN YOU ORGANIZE ONE?

Step 1: Brainstorming

Brainstorm some areas you would like to do your weed pull in. This could be somewhere like a local park, a green space next to a building, or even your own backyard! Speak to your municipality, local stewardship group or regional invasive species organization with your location ideas.

!! Make sure to receive permission before doing a weed pull in a public area or on a private property!!

Step 2: Scout Your Location

Once you have brainstormed a few areas, go on a walk through those areas to see which invasive species are prominent. If you like you can do a nature inventory of the area to see what native and non-native flora and fauna are present. You can use [iNaturalist](#) for your nature inventory and be sure to join iNaturalist's I Spy and Identify project, a nation-wide community science initiative where community members throughout Canada record species they come across. Don't forget to also use the [Report Invasives app](#) to report any invasive species you find!

Also, take note of any potential hazards in the area such as proximity to roads, water bodies, risk of potentially aggressive fauna (e.g. coyotes, bears), hazardous flora (e.g. Stinging nettle, Poison oak, Giant hogweed) and steep slopes. Try to pick an area that is safe for you and others to work.

TIP! Want more help with how to identify neighbourhood plants and how to do a nature inventory? Check out our guide on [How to Do a Nature Inventory!](#)

Step 3: Create A Plan

Create a plan with a timeline. When creating your plan, here are a few things you may want to consider:

- » Will this be a one-off removal event, or will this be an ongoing project?
- » Which invasive species will I focus on and what techniques should be used to remove it?
- » Does this species pose any safety hazards or health risks to people?
- » What native species are present in the area and can they be left undisturbed when removing invasive species?
- » Are any of them endangered or at-risk native species?
- » What hazards are present in the area (e.g. wildlife, toxic or harmful plants, busy adjacent roads, etc.)?
- » How many people do I want at my event?
- » What are the goals of organizing an invasive species removal:
 - » Engaging the community?
 - » Promoting biodiversity?
 - » Something else?

Remember to keep your goals SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound). If you need to review how to create SMART goals, read our resource on [Creating a Self-Development Plan](#).

Step 4: Permissions

Now that you have picked a site, make sure you get permission to do a weed pull in the area. If you are planning to do a weed pull in a park, usually you can contact the Parks Department of the city you want to do a weed pull in and they can guide you to the correct individual to contact. Make sure to have a few potential dates in mind for your weed pull, as it could take a few weeks or months to get approval to host events in public areas.

Be sure to also ask about who should dispose of the removed invasive plant material. Sometimes the Parks Department of the city you're doing your work in will come by to dispose of the plant material removed if it's placed in garbage bags or in a few piles. Make sure to confirm this with the appropriate city staff or property owner before your event takes place.

Step 5: Supplies

Now you should make a list of supplies you will need for the event. Will you be pulling out plants by hand, or will you need tools to cut plant stalks and dig out roots? You may need to find somewhere you can source these tools from. A good idea might be to reach out to a local environmental organization in the area that may have tools you could borrow for the event.

Here are a few things you might want to consider bringing to your event if you are doing an invasive removal event independently of ISCBC:

- » A map of the area you're working in
- » Garden gloves
- » Appropriate tools (shovels, pruners, etc.)
- » Drinking water
- » First Aid kit
- » A tarp and/or garbage bags

TIP! If this is the first weed pull you're organizing, you may want to stick with plants that don't require special equipment such as shovels or loppers to remove. Check out some invasive species factsheets on our Publications page for more information on which invasive plants are easiest to remove.

Step 6: Safety Plan

Write up a safety plan to take with you to the site. It should include a description of when and where the event will take place, potential hazards at the site and contact information.

Step 7: Invitations

When you have permission to do a weed pull on the site and you have the tools you need, you can start inviting people to help you out! You can invite your friends, family, or anyone you know who might be interested!

Step 8: Start the weed pull!

You may want to give a brief demonstration on how to remove certain invasive plants, especially for folks who may be new to removing certain species. Make sure you and your volunteers are careful not to disturb any native species on site and ensure that you communicate any potential hazards that may be present. Don't forget to take some photos of all the hard work you and your team are doing!

Before finishing up the event, if requested by city staff or the property owner beforehand, make sure the plants you have removed are placed in an appropriate area (e.g. not in the middle of a walking path or spilling out onto the road). If you are taking the plant matter you have pulled off site, make sure you dispose of it responsibly. For more information on how to dispose of invasive plant matter, watch our video on invasive plant disposal!

Step 9: Celebrate!

You did it! Now give yourself a pat on the back and don't forget to thank any other volunteers who helped out as well! Sharing success stories helps inspire others to take action.