



INVASIVE

American bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeianus

- I am the largest frog in BC. I can weigh up to one kilogram and measure over 20 cm long.
- I have a big appetite, eating anything that will fit in my mouth and threatening many species at risk.
- I was first brought to BC to be farmed for my meaty legs.



INVASIVE

Baby's breath

Gypsophila paniculata

- I am a popular flower to buy for floral bouquets, especially for weddings.
- When in bloom I have many tiny, white, star-shaped flowers that become many seeds—up to 10,000 per plant.
- After I flower I break off and roll like a tumbleweed, moving to new areas where I outcompete native grasses that are preferred by wildlife and livestock.



B. Stewart

INVASIVE

Blueweed

Echium vulgare

- I am toxic to horses and cattle so when I take over pastures, they have less to eat!
- My leaves and stems are very hairy and painful to touch.
- My rough seeds may be spread to new areas by clinging to fur, clothing, and feathers.



INVASIVE

Brown marmorated stink bug

Halyomorpha halys

- I have a brown, shield-like body with white stripes on my antennae, legs, and stomach.
- I inject digestive juices into ripe fruit when I eat them, spoiling the fruit and decreasing farmers' crop yields.
- In the winter we hibernate in large groups inside wooden structures.



INVASIVE

Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare

- My purple flowers are a source of nectar for pollinators, but my spiky stem and leaves prevent animals from eating me.
- Because my seedheads are so light, the wind can blow them kilometres away.
- I soak up so much water that the soil around me dries up, causing erosion.



INVASIVE

Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense

- Despite my name, I am native to Europe and Asia. I was one of the first weeds introduced by settlers in the 1600s.
- My flowers are small and my stem is smooth, but watch out! My leaves have spikes that protect me from herbivores.
- My plants grow thick, crowding out grasses and reducing crop production.



INVASIVE

Cheatgrass

Bromus tectorum

- I outcompete native grasses by growing in dense stands, which can fuel wildfires and harm native plants and wildlife.
- My top cluster of seeds change colour throughout the season from green to purple to brown.
- My sharp, spiny seeds can injure the mouths and eyes of livestock and wildlife.



INVASIVE

Chicory

Cichorium intybus

- My flowers can be blue, purple, or white and will close at night and on cloudy days.
- My stem contains a milky substance that can cause skin irritation when touched.
- If cows eat me their milk will taste bitter.



INVASIVE

Common burdock

Arctium minus

- My burrs were the inspiration for Velcro because they hook onto everything.
- My roots are commonly eaten in Asia.
- Birds and bats can die if they become tangled in my burrs.



M. Lavin

INVASIVE

Common comfrey

Symphytum officinale

- I was brought to North America from Europe for my medicinal properties, but it is now known that I am toxic if eaten.
- I have large fuzzy leaves and in the summer look for my white or purple flowers that hang like bells.
- I am difficult to remove because I can grow a whole new plant from a tiny root fragment.



INVASIVE

Common periwinkle

Vinca minor

- I am a popular garden plant because of my fast growth, shiny evergreen leaves, and pretty purple flowers.
- I can spread from gardens and form a dense ground cover, taking over in forests and along waterways.
- I am one of the top invasive plants still sold at garden stores in BC.



INVASIVE

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

- I am toxic to both humans and livestock.
- I grow best in disturbed soil, like pastures and roadsides.
- My leaves are fern-like while my flat-topped, bright yellow flowers grow in clusters.



INVASIVE

Common wall lizard

Podarcis muralis

- I first arrived in BC in the late 1960s when a dozen of us were released from a small zoo on southern Vancouver Island.
- I spread by hitching a ride on vehicles and by people who catch me and release me in new places.
- You can tell me apart from the native Northern alligator lizard by my long, thin body and my green and blue splotches.



INVASIVE

Dalmatian toadflax

Linaria dalmatica

- My cheerful yellow flowers look like snapdragons, but watch out, I am toxic to cattle!
- Some people call me ‘butter & eggs’ because of the dark yellow spot on my flowers.
- My leaves don’t have stems (petioles). Instead they clasp or hug my main stem.



INVASIVE

Daphne

Daphne laureola

- My toxic sap can cause rashes, nausea, and swelling of the tongue.
- I'm often planted in gardens for my glossy, evergreen leaves, but thanks to birds who spread my seeds, I can quickly take over the forest.
- Another name for me is Spurge-laurel.



INVASIVE

Eastern grey squirrel

Sciurus carolinensis

- I compete with native squirrels and birds for homes.
- I love to chew and will strip the bark from trees and even eat through electrical wires.
- I carry the virus called parapoxvirus, which is deadly to native squirrels and other animals.



INVASIVE

English holly

Ilex aquifolium

- My berries are toxic to both humans and pets.
- You will often see me in holiday decorations.
- Birds love to eat my berries and they spread my seeds into forests, where I quickly grow and takeover, displacing native trees and shrubs.



INVASIVE

English ivy

Hedera helix

- I need little light and water and, unlike many plants, I do not go dormant and keep growing through winter.
- I am commonly planted in gardens, but birds eat my berries and spread my seeds to forests and parks, where I can quickly grow and take over.
- I form a dense groundcover, blocking light to native plants below. I can also climb and strangle trees.



INVASIVE

Eurasian collared dove

Streptopelia decaocto

- I am named for the black collar on the back of my neck.
- I have spread quickly across North America since 1982, when I was released from a pet store in the Bahamas.
- Listen for my repetitive cooing song.



INVASIVE

European rabbit

Oryctolagus cuniculus

- I was originally kept as a pet until being released into the wild.
- I compete with native animals for food and habitat.
- I come in a variety of sizes and colours including white, black, brown or a combination.



INVASIVE

Feral pig

Sus scrofa

- I am a large animal and can sometimes be aggressive, so remember to give me space.
- I am descended from domestic pigs but unlike them, I have dark hair and sometimes even tusks!
- I like to live near water but often turn these areas into muddy wallows, damaging wetland ecosystems.



INVASIVE

Field scabious

Knautia arvensis

- I was chosen for gardens because my flowers attract butterflies.
- I am difficult to control once I escape into the wild because I produce 2,000 seeds per plant each year.
- I crowd pastures, reducing food for grazing animals.



INVASIVE

Freshwater jellyfish

Craspedacusta sowerbii

- I am about the size of a penny and although you won't feel it, I have stinging tentacles that I use to catch and eat zooplankton.
- I am native to the Yangtze River basin in China but have spread to all continents except Antarctica.
- When I am in my immature 'polyp' stage, I am about 2 mm tall and may attach to aquatic plants and animals.



IPCMV

IPCMV

INVASIVE

Giant hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

- Watch out! I produce a toxic sap that causes burns, blisters, and scarring.
- I can grow up to 5 m tall with leaves 3 m long and 1.7 m wide.
- My white flowers cluster and look like umbrellas.



INVASIVE

Goldfish

Carassius auratus

- I am not always gold; sometimes I am silver or even muddy brown.
- It's illegal to release me into the wild! I can grow to the size of a football and cause great damage to wetlands and native wildlife.
- I make the water so murky that sunlight cannot reach underwater plants.



INVASIVE

Himalayan balsam

Impatiens glandulifera

- My flowers produce a lot of nectar, drawing pollinators away from the native plants around me.
- Some think my flowers are shaped like a British police officer's helmet, which explains my other common name, 'Policeman's helmet'.
- When my seed pods dry out they explode when touched and can spread my seeds up to 7 m away.



INVASIVE

Himalayan blackberry

Rubus armeniacus

- I grow as large and dense as a wall, blocking animal movement.
- I produce delicious berries that many types of animals eat, helping to spread my seeds.
- I increase flooding and erosion along waterways by preventing the growth of deep-rooted shrubs.



INVASIVE

Hoary alyssum

Berteroa incana

- I am toxic to horses if eaten.
- Brush off your gear! My seeds can spread to new places by hitching a ride on your shoes, clothes, and vehicles.
- I am covered in star-shaped hairs and have rough green-grey leaves that hug my stem.



INVASIVE

Japanese knotweed

Reynoutria japonica

- I can grow through concrete and asphalt and cause significant damage to homes and roads.
- I was introduced to BC from Asia as a garden plant.
- I'm considered one of the top 10 worst invasive species in BC because I'm so hard to control.



INVASIVE

Marsh plume thistle

Cirsium palustre

- My leaves and stem are spiny so people and animals do not want to touch me.
- I can grow 2 metres tall with a group of purple flowers at the top.
- I like open areas and disturbed, moist soil.



INVASIVE

Mountain bluet

Centaurea montana

- I am often planted in gardens because of my showy flowers, but easily escape into the wild.
- My leaves are nearly hairless on top, but are woolly below.
- I outcompete native plants, reducing food for wildlife and livestock.



Murielle DESROIS

M. Desrois, iNaturalist.ca

INVASIVE

Nutria

Myocastor coypus

- You can tell me apart from native beavers and muskrats by my white whiskers and long, thin tail.
- I cause problems along dykes, in wetlands and other aquatic habitats by digging burrows in soil and eating so much aquatic vegetation.
- My name in my home in South America is Coypu. I was brought to southern BC.



INVASIVE

Orange hawkweed

Hieracium aurantiacum

- I spread quickly through runners, roots, and seeds.
- I am ‘allelopathic’. This means I release chemicals into the ground so only I can grow.
- You’ll spot my bright orange flowers in ditches, fields and pastures.



INVASIVE

Oxeye daisy

Leucanthemum vulgare

- My white flowers can produce up to 26,000 seeds per plant.
- I am difficult to control because my seeds can live in the soil for 20 years.
- Originally from Europe and Asia, I came to North America in packs of wildflower seeds.



INVASIVE

Purple loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

- I take over wetland and aquatic environments where I block water flow.
- I am sometimes mistaken for native fireweed, which has flowers with 4 petals, while my flowers have 5-7 petals.
- I can produce 2.5 million seeds on a single plant and can also spread by root and stem fragments.



INVASIVE

Red-eared slider

Trachemys scripta elegans

- I can carry diseases harmful to both humans and native turtles.
- I am best known for the red patch of colour behind my eyes.
- Don't let me loose! I was once a pet before I was released into the wild. Now I'm competing with BC's native Western painted turtle.



INVASIVE

Russian olive

Elaeagnus angustifolia

- I am a small tree with silver leaves, yellow flowers, and olive-shaped berries. Birds and wildlife eat my berries so I spread through their droppings.
- I crowd out native riparian (streamside) vegetation including large trees like cottonwood.
- I can survive in wet and dry soil conditions and low temperatures.



INVASIVE

Scentless chamomile

Tripleurospermum inodorum

- I am in the daisy family. You can tell me apart from others by my frilly, carrot-like leaves.
- My seeds float easily, allowing me to spread along lakes and rivers.
- I grow well in both dry, poor quality soils and moist aquatic areas, making it easy for me to crowd out other plants.



INVASIVE

Scotch broom

Cytisus scoparius

- I am toxic to livestock if eaten.
- I pose a wildfire hazard because I grow in dense thickets and have oils in my tissues that are highly flammable.
- When my yellow flowers have been pollinated, I produce hundreds of seed pods that can shoot my seeds many metres away.



INVASIVE

Smallmouth bass

Micropterus dolomieu

- I was originally introduced into BC lakes for recreational fishing.
- I am a predator that feeds on smaller fish, amphibians, and insects.
- Despite my name, I have a big mouth! But unlike my Largemouth bass relatives, my upper jaw doesn't extend past my eye.



INVASIVE

Spotted knapweed

Centaurea stoebe

- I am ‘allelopathic’. This means I release chemicals into the ground so only I can grow.
- Special insects called weevils were brought here from my native home in Eurasia as ‘biological control’ to eat me.
- My cousins, Brown and Diffuse knapweed, are also invasive and look a lot like me.



INVASIVE

St. John's wort

Hypericum perforatum

- I contain a chemical that can cause skin burns and blisters to livestock.
- I grow in dense patches, crowding out other plants.
- My bright yellow flowers turn rusty red in autumn.



INVASIVE

Sulphur cinquefoil

Potentilla recta

- I invade grasslands, open forests, and disturbed areas like roadsides.
- My pale yellow flowers each have 5 heart-shaped petals.
- Wildlife and livestock don't like to eat me because I taste bitter.



INVASIVE

Tree of heaven

Ailanthus altissima

- I am 'allelopathic'. This means I release chemicals into the ground so only I can grow.
- I am the preferred host plant for Spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect that is spreading across North America.
- When you crush my stems or leaves, I smell like burnt rubber.



INVASIVE

Yellow archangel

Lamium galeobdolon

- I am often planted in gardens because of my pretty leaves and flowers, but my underground stems allow me to spread to new areas.
- I can grow in many conditions and even thrive in dry, acidic soils under the canopy of cedar and hemlock.
- I grow densely in forests, smothering native plants.



INVASIVE

Yellow flag iris

Iris pseudacorus

- I am toxic to people and animals and may cause skin irritations for some.
- My thick roots restrict water flow, damage habitat, and crowd out native plants.
- My yellow flowers have 3 tongue-shaped petals with brown or purple veins on them. My stem is tall and smooth.



INVASIVE

Yellow floating heart

Nymphoides peltata

- I grow in dense mats, preventing waterflow and disturbing sensitive habitat.
- My leaves look similar to a water lily, but my yellow flower grows tall above the water.
- I can spread from garden ponds to wetlands, so please don't plant me and report me if found!



INVASIVE

Yellow perch

Perca flavescens

- I can survive in a range of water temperatures, allowing me to establish in many lakes.
- I can carry diseases that are harmful to native fish species, including salmon.
- I am native east of the Rockies, but invasive in BC.



R. Mueller

M. Blackmore

INVASIVE

Yellow salsify

Tragopogon dubius

- Some people call me Western goatsbeard. I can invade grasslands and reduce food for animals.
- When my flowers go to seed, they look like giant dandelion heads. Don't blow me to make a wish, it will help me spread.
- I was brought to North America around 1900 as a garden plant and food source as my roots are similar to parsnips.



INVASIVE

Zebra & Quagga mussels

Dreissena polymorpha & *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*

- I can lay up to a million eggs each year that become floating, microscopic larvae that are easily spread in water.
- I form large colonies on boats and structures in lakes where I love to eat all the plankton and algae.
- Help prevent me from spreading by cleaning, draining, and drying boats and other water gear and by visiting boat inspection stations.