

Field Guide to
**AGRICULTURAL
PESTS** AND OTHER
INVASIVE
SPECIES
of British Columbia 2026



Grape powdery mildew
(*Erysiphe necator*)



Japanese beetle
(*Popillia japonica*)



Canada thistle
(*Cirsium arvense*)

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The Government of British Columbia and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC are pleased to participate in the production of this field resource. We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia. Opinions expressed in this field guide are those of the Invasive Species Council of BC and not necessarily those of the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC or the Government of British Columbia.

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PREFACE

Agricultural weeds are plant species that interfere with crop production, forage quality, and farm operations through competition for light, water, nutrients, and space. In British Columbia, weeds may be native or non-native and are considered problematic based on their impacts to agricultural productivity, economics, and management systems, rather than solely on their origin. Some agricultural weeds also act as alternate hosts for crop pests and pathogens, reduce harvest efficiency, contaminate seed and feed, and increase long-term management costs.

This field guide has been developed to support farmers, ranchers, agrologists, land managers, and agricultural workers in identifying common and emerging weed species affecting agricultural systems in British Columbia. Accurate identification is a critical first step in selecting appropriate, effective, and legally compliant management approaches.

Species included in this guide represent weeds of concern in cultivated fields, forage systems, pastures, and agricultural margins across B.C. Species are organized alphabetically by common name to support rapid field identification and practical use.

REGULATED SPECIES UNDER THE B.C. WEED CONTROL ACT

Some species in this guide are regulated under the B.C. *Weed Control Act*. To help readers quickly recognize these species, a small icon is placed beside the species name.



A **Provincially Regulated** icon identifies species designated as noxious weeds throughout British Columbia. Under the Act, land occupiers are required to control these species to prevent their establishment and spread.



A **Regionally Regulated** icon identifies species designated as noxious weeds only within specific regional districts. Control requirements apply within those listed regions.

BN Bulkley-Nechako	KS Kitimat-Stikine
C Cariboo	KB Kootenay-Boundary
CK Central Kootenay	NO North Okanagan
CS Columbia-Shuswap	OS Okanagan-Similkameen
EK East Kootenay	PR Peace River
FFG Fraser-Fort George	TN Thompson-Nicola

These icons are included to highlight species with legal management obligations and to improve awareness of regulatory requirements related to invasive plant management in British Columbia.

https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/10_66_85#ScheduleA

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN B.C.

For more information on invasive plants and noxious weeds in B.C., refer to:

- bcinvasives.ca/resources/publications
- www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants
- ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora

To report an invasive, pest, or weed species of concern:

Download a Smartphone App:

Online:
gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

Report InvasivesBC



Email:
info@bcinvasives.ca

iNaturalist



PRIORITY INVASIVE SPECIES AFFECTING B.C. AGRICULTURE

The following list of invasive & pest species has been identified by a group of advisors spanning industry, government, and academia:

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INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES/WEEDS

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

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Bittersweet nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*)



- Perennial, woody vine or shrub-like plant with a spreading root system
- Climbing or trailing stems that can reach 1–3 m in length
- Stems and leaf veins often have a purple tint
- Leaves are oval to arrow-shaped and may have small lobes at the base
- Clusters of purple, star-shaped flowers with bright yellow centres, followed by soft, shiny red berries
- Spreads easily through seeds, stem fragments, and root pieces

Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)



- Biennial plant growing 30–80 cm tall
- Forms a low rosette in the first year and produces upright flowering stems in the second year
- Stems are unbranched, stiff, and very hairy, making them rough and painful to touch
- Leaves are long, narrow, very hairy, and have a bumpy texture, with most leaves present on the lower half of the plant during flowering
- Flowers are bright blue, funnel-shaped with five lobes, and grow along the upper portion of short side stems
- Common in central and south central areas of B.C.
- Spreads only by seed

Bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*)



- Perennial grass with fibrous roots that grow in clumps, typically up to 60 cm
- Stems are thickened and bulb-like at base
- Leaves are narrow with flowers that develop into bulblets with a dark-purple coloured base
- Reproduces primarily through basal buds, limited seed production
- Scattered but increasing distribution in B.C., most common in pastures, hay fields, roadsides, and distributed forage systems

Canada fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*)



- Annual to short-lived perennial plant with a shallow taproot, growing 30–150 cm tall
- Also known as horseweed
- Forms a low basal rosette early in the season before producing a single upright, unbranched flowering stem
- Leaves are narrow, soft-hairy, and arranged densely along the stem
- Many small white to pale yellow flower heads clustered at the top of the plant, followed by fluffy seed heads
- Spreads only by seed, with very high seed production
- Seeds are lightweight and easily spread by wind over long distances
- Establishes quickly in disturbed soils and cropped or fallow fields
- Common in forage fields, field margins, roadsides, and agricultural areas

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Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



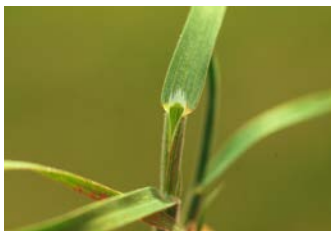
- Perennial plant that can grow between 0.6–1.5 m high
- Spreads by rhizomes and seeds, creating dense infestations
- Leaves are narrow, dark green to sage in colour, deeply lobed with dense white hairs on undersides and sharp spines along the leaves margin
- Clusters of small pink-purple flowers on branched stems; when flowers go to seed, they become pom-pom like and fluffy, like cattails and dandelions
- Widespread across B.C., common in forage fields, hay lands, pastures, roadsides and distributed sites

Carpet burweed (*Soliva sessilis*)



- Low-growing winter annual plant that forms dense, carpet-like mats close to the ground
- Has a shallow, fibrous root system
- Leaves are small, finely divided, and carrot-like
- Flowers are small, green to yellow, hairy, and grow at the base of the leaves
- Seed heads produce 5–10 hard seeds, each with a thick, horn-like spine
- Reproduces only by seed
- Seeds readily attach to footwear, animals, equipment, and can puncture skin
- Forms dense mats in lawns, pastures, high-traffic areas, and disturbed sites

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)



- Annual grass growing 10–60 cm tall
- Leaves are narrow, soft, and lightly hairy, giving the plant a fine textured appearance
- Seed heads are drooping with long, slender awns that turn reddish-purple as they mature
- Plants dry early in the season and often form dense, highly flammable stands
- Spreads exclusively by seed
- Each plant can produce dozens to hundreds of seeds that germinate readily in disturbed soils
- Common along roadsides, rangelands, open forests, and disturbed sites where it forms dense patches and displaces native vegetation

Common bugloss (*Anchusa officinalis*)



- Tap-rooted biennial plant growing 30–80 cm tall
- Leaves are long, narrow, pointed, and covered in stiff hairs, giving them a rough, fuzzy feel
- Young flowering stems are tightly coiled like a fern fiddlehead and slowly straighten as flowers open
- Mature flowers are small, bright purple with white centres
- Spreads mainly by seed and occasionally by root fragments
- Nut-like seeds that form in groups of four
- Grows in patches along field edges and pastures

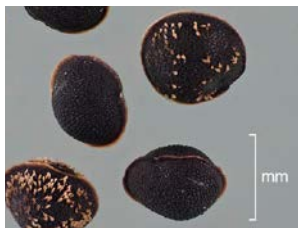


Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)



- Biennial tap rooted plant, growing a large rosette
- Dark green, heart-shaped, grooved leaves in year one, and producing flowering stem between 1–3 m tall
- Distinct seed heads, rounded hooked barbs that attach to clothing, hair, and animals, in year two
- Flowers are pink-purple in colour, closely resembling thistle flowers
- Exclusively spreads by seed
- Widespread across B.C., common in forage fields, pastures, corrals, and field edges
- Prefers moist, fertile soils and areas with reduced competition

Corn spurry (*Spergula arvensis*)



- Annual plant with a slender taproot, growing 15–60 cm tall
- Stems are thin, weak, and highly branched
- Leaves are green, very narrow and thread-like, growing in rings around the stem, with a rounded upper surface and a shallow groove underneath
- Small, white flowers with five petals
- Reproduces only by seed
- Seeds are small, black, and lens-shaped
- Establishes readily in disturbed soils, cropped fields, and forage systems

Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)



- Perennial low-growing plant producing flowering stems from 15–45 cm tall
- Leaves are divided into three rounded leaflets with shallow teeth along the edges
- Spreads through root runners up to 100 cm long, producing new stem at each node; often grow in dense mats that crowd out desirable forage species
- Bright yellow flowers with 5–9 petals about 2 cm across
- Spreads by seed and by creeping stolons that root at the nodes
- Dominant in the southwest, coastal regions, and moist to wet, disturbed areas of B.C.
- Seeds can be viable for 80 years

Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)



- Perennial to short-lived biennial plant producing upright, flowering white to pale pink in colour stems, typically 30–100 cm tall
- Stems are rough and branching
- Leaves are deeply divided, with larger leaves at the base and smaller leaves along the stem
- Single pink-purple, thistle-like flowers at the ends of branches
- Spreads only by seed
- Common in forage fields, pastures, and disturbed areas

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)



- Perennial vine with arrow-shaped leaves
- Trumpet-shaped flowers that vary in colour from white to pink
- Spreads extensively through vegetative rhizomes and seeds with 50+ year viability
- Widespread across B.C., commonly found in forage fields, pastures, roadsides and disturbed soils

Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)



- Short-lived perennial plant with a deep taproot and upright, hairy stems
- Forms a basal rosette of coarse, hairy leaves that are feather-shaped with uneven lobes
- Large, clover-like flowers that range from violet to pink, growing on long, mostly leafless stalks above the foliage
- Spreads mainly by seed
- Grows as scattered plants or patches in grasslands and disturbed sites
- Common in pastures, hay fields, field margins, and roadsides

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)



- Perennial, sprawling vine with a fibrous root system
- Long, arching canes that can grow up to 5 m tall and extend up to 12 m in length
- Stems are thick and covered in sharp thorns and can root where they touch the ground
- Leaves are large and rounded, usually grouped in fives during the first year and threes in later years
- Small, white to pink flowers with five petals followed by shiny, round, black berries about 2 cm long
- Spreads by roots, rooting cane tips, stem fragments, and seed
- Birds and mammals spread seeds over long distances
- Forms dense, thorny thickets that restrict movement of people and wildlife
- Thickets can produce thousands of seeds per square metre

Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)



- Annual to short-lived perennial plant with a single deep taproot, producing upright flowering stems typically 30–80 cm tall
- Stems and leaves are grey-green and covered in rough, star-shaped hairs
- Upper leaves wrap around the stem
- Clusters of small white flowers with slightly notched petals
- Spreads only by seed
- Toxic to horses when in fresh hay
- Grows in patches and can quickly disburse in forage fields from a lack of predation
- Widespread across B.C. interior, common in forage fields, hay lands, roadsides and dry distributed sites

P

Hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)



- Biennial tap root
- Spreads through seed
- Grows up to 1.5 m tall from a woody taproot, with rough, branched stems in the upper portion.
- Leaves have prominent veins and smooth edges (reaching 30 cm), becoming broader at the tips and tapering to the stem
- Reddish-purple flowers that have five petals and hang in small clusters
- Seeds contain four, distinct, grey-brown coloured nutlets that are covered in short hooks/barbs that attach to hair, fur, clothing — Toxic to livestock, particularly horses
- Prefers dry, well-draining sites with disturbance to establish
- Thrives in forest sites and recently logged openings despite being shade-tolerant and a weak competitor

Knotweeds (*Reynoutria* spp.)



- Rapidly growing perennial plants with hollow, bamboo-like stems that range from 1–5 m tall depending on species (Japanese, Giant, Bohemian)
- Leaves are green and vary from broad and shield-shaped to long and narrow
- Small clusters of greenish-white to pale pink flowers along the stems in mid to late summer
- Plants die back in winter, leaving dense stands of dry stems
- Leaves are green and vary from broad and shield-shaped to long and narrow
- Spreads primarily through rhizome fragments

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Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)



- Perennial herb with an extensive root system, producing upright stems 30–90 cm tall
- Leaves are narrow, smooth, and blue-green
- Flowers are small and yellow-green, surrounded by showy, leaf-like bracts that give the plant its bright colour
- Stems release a milky white sap when broken
- White latex sap causes severe skin irritation, blistering, and temporary blindness if contacted with eyes
- Ingestion by livestock causes weakness, diarrhea, and potentially death
- Spreads by seed and aggressively by deep, creeping roots
- Forms dense patches that crowd out desirable forage species
- Common in pastures, hay fields, roadsides, and disturbed areas

Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)



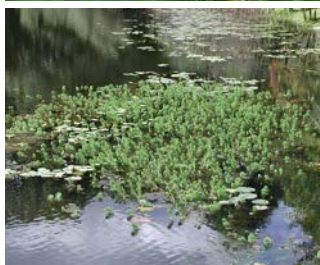
- Perennial that grows 10–60 cm tall
- Creates thick, dense mats/ground cover with hairy basal rosettes and hairy stems
- The stem contains a milky latex when broken
- Spreads by seed and extensively by fibrous roots with rhizomes
- Red-orange flowers that cluster in 5–30 at the end of stems
- Common in pastures, hay fields, roadsides and disturbed grasslands

Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)



- Perennial flowering plant growing 20–80 cm tall
- Upright stems with daisy-like flowers that are 2–5 cm wide
- Flowers have white, ray-shaped petals surrounding a bright yellow centre
- Leaves are green, wavy-edged, and clasp the stem
- Spreads by seed and by creeping roots
- Forms scattered plants or dense patches in grasslands and disturbed areas
- Common in pastures, hay fields, roadsides, and field margins

Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)



- Herbaceous aquatic plant that grows along and above the water surface
- Stems spread sideways and produce upright shoots that resemble small, feathery trees rising to 30 cm out of the water
- Leaves are finely divided and feathery, arranged in rings around the stem
- Plants are reddish-orange below the water surface and grey-green above
- Spreads by vegetative stolons and broken plant fragments
- Even very small fragments can re-sprout and form new plants
- Forms dense mats in slow-moving water
- Common in ditches, pond margins, lake edges, and wetlands

Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)



- Annual plant with a deep taproot and reddish-green stems that grow outward along the ground, forming thick, low mats
- Leaves are small and paired along the stems
- Single, yellow flowers with five petals that develop into hard, spiny burrs as they mature
- Spreads only by seed, with seeds remaining viable in soil for up to five years
- Each burr breaks into five segments, each bearing two sharp spines and containing up to 20 seeds
- Burrs readily attach to tires, footwear, animals, and equipment and can puncture skin and rubber
- Common in dry, disturbed areas including field edges, pastures, gravel areas, and high-traffic sites
- Toxic to livestock

Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)



- Tall, robust perennial grass growing 1–2 m in height, forming dense, single-species stands that exclude native vegetation
- Leaves are flat, wide, and rough-textured; stems are hollow and round; a distinguishing feature is the white, striped or pale green leaf midrib
- Spreads aggressively by both seed and underground rhizomes; rhizome fragments readily regenerate new plants, making mechanical control difficult
- A serious pest of hay fields, pastures, riparian areas, and ditches; dense stands reduce hay quality and yield, and are largely unpalatable to livestock once mature
- Alters wetland hydrology and reduces biodiversity by outcompeting native sedges, rushes, and other wetland plants; dense stands can impede water flow in drainage ditches and irrigation channels
- Widespread throughout B.C., particularly in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, and other moist, low-elevation areas; favours riparian zones, wet meadows, roadsides, and disturbed agricultural land

P**Rush skeletonweed** (*Chondrilla juncea*)

- Deep tap-rooted perennial plant growing up to 1 m tall
- Basal rosette of leaves early in the season, followed by upright, wiry stems
- Upper stems are smooth and mostly leafless, giving the plant a bare or skeletal appearance
- Lower stems and rosette leaves are covered in dense hairs
- Small, yellow flowers, like dandelion flowers, grow singly along the stems
- Spreads by seed and by regrowth from the deep taproot
- Forms scattered plants or dense infestations once established
- Common in pastures, rangelands, perennial crops

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Scentless chamomile

(*Tripleurospermum inodorum*)



- Also known as scentless mayweed or Wild chamomile
- Annual to short-lived perennial plant with a fibrous root system, growing up to 60 cm tall
- Stems are erect and branched
- Leaves are finely divided and carrot-like, arranged alternately along the stem
- Small, daisy-like flowers with white petals and yellow centres at the ends of stems
- The entire plant is scentless when crushed
- Reproduces only by seed
- A single flower can produce up to 300 seeds, and one plant can produce up to 1 million seeds
- Forms dense patches in disturbed soils, pastures

Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)



- Biennial tap-rooted plant, forming a large, flat rosette in the first year and producing tall flowering stems up to 3 m in the second year
- Leaves are large, irregularly lobed, light grey-green, and densely covered in woolly hairs
- Stems are thick, spiny, and winged
- Large, globe-shaped purple flowers at the ends of stalks, 2-8 cm in diameter
- Reproduces through numerous wind-dispersed seeds viable in soil for years
- Deep taproot regenerates shoots if cut, requiring complete removal for control
- Common along field edges, pastures roadsides, and disturbed sites

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Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

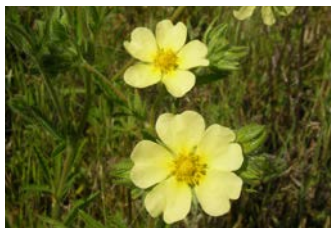
- Biennial to short-lived tap-rooted perennial
- Upright, branched stems grow up to 1.5 m tall
- Leaves are deeply lobed, alternate and slightly hairy
- Flowers are pinkish-purple with black tipped bracts giving the name “spotted”
- Reproduces by seed only but is allelopathic, meaning it produces a toxin that hinders the growth of adjacent plants/species
- Found in disturbed, sunny sites including roadsides, pastures, rangeland, and forest edges; avoids shaded forest interiors

Stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*)



- Winter annual or short-lived perennial plant with a shallow taproot
- Forms a low basal rosette of finely divided fern-like leaves
- Flowering stems grow upright or spreading, typically 10–50 cm tall
- Small pink to purple flowers with five petals
- Seed pods develop into long, corkscrew-shaped awns resembling a stork's bill that drill in soil, fur, clothing and skin
- Reproduces only by seed
- Forms dense patches in dry, disturbed areas, pastures, roadsides, and fields
- Germinates in fall or early spring and sets seed quickly

Sulphur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)



- Perennial plant with a spreading root system
- Upright stems 30–75 cm tall
- Leaves are hairy and divided into 5–7 separate, toothed leaflets arranged like fingers on a hand
- Flowers are pale yellow, often described as sulphur-coloured, with five, heart-shaped petals
- Spreads by seed and by roots
- Grows in scattered plants or patches in grasslands and disturbed areas
- Often confused with graceful cinquefoil (*P. gracilis*), which is shorter and has white, woolly hairs on the undersides of the leaves

Tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*)



- Biennial or short-lived perennial with taproot
- Can grow up to 1.2 m tall
- Alternate, deeply lobed leaves that are dark green
- Yellow flowers with ray petals grow in flat-topped clusters at the ends of stems
- Toxic to livestock, most commonly fed through contaminated hay as animals mostly avoid it
- Spreads through seed and sometimes through vegetative growth if roots have been damaged or severed
- Common in pastures, hay fields, roadsides, logged areas and distributed soils across coastal and southern B.C.

P**Velvetleaf** (*Abutilon theophrasti*)

- Annual plant with a single taproot, growing up to 2 m tall
- Stems are upright and densely covered in soft, velvet-like hairs
- Leaves are large, heart-shaped, alternate, and covered in short, soft hairs
- Small, yellow flowers at the point where the leaf stalk meets the stem, either singly or in small clusters
- Plants give off a strong, unpleasant odour when crushed
- Reproduces only by seed
- Seeds can remain viable in soil for up to 50 years
- Establishes quickly in disturbed soils and cropped or forage fields

Wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)



- Biennial with large, deep taproot
- Can grow 0.5–2 m tall with stems that have hair on the lower portion and smooth on the higher.
- Leaves are dark green and fern-like with white flowers
- Five petals that grow in umbrella-shaped clusters at the top of the plant
- Spreads by seed but can resprout from cut crowns
- Common in forage fields, pastures, roadsides, ditches and riparian areas across B.C.
- Often mistaken for poison hemlock

Yellow bedstraw (*Galium verum*)



- Perennial herb with an extensive creeping root system, producing upright to spreading stems up to 120 cm tall
- Stems are slender and four-sided with rounded edges
- Leaves are narrow, stiff, and covered in short hairs, arranged in rings around the stem
- Long clusters of many small, bright yellow flowers on branched stems
- Common in pastures, hayfields, roadsides, grasslands, and distributed sites
- Thrives in dry to moderately moist soils, and is tolerant of poor soil conditions

P

Yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*)



- Perennial sedge growing from underground tubers, producing a single upright stem up to 90 cm tall
- Stems are smooth, waxy, and triangular
- Leaves are narrow, shiny yellow-green with a strong mid-vein and grow mainly from the base
- Yellow-brown flower clusters made up of small spikes at the top of the stem
- Spreads by underground rhizomes and tubers, and by seed
- Tubers can remain in the soil and produce new plants in future years
- Grows in expanding patches, especially in wet or irrigated areas

INVASIVE INSECTS



Spotted lanternfly nymph (*Lycorma delicatula*)

Apple clearwing moth

(*Synanthedon myopaeformis*)



- Adults have a slender, dark blue-black body and a distinct orange-red band across the abdomen
- Wings span 20–25 mm, mostly transparent with dark borders, giving a wasp-like appearance
- Larvae are dirty-white, legless caterpillars 15–20 mm long with a reddish-brown head and hardened plate behind the head
- Pupae are pale yellow-brown and about 15 mm long
- Overwinters as larvae beneath the bark of host trees
- Larvae tunnel under the bark from the base of the trunk into branches
- Entry points include pruning cuts, graft unions, knots, wire damage, and other wounds
- Most associated with apple trees in interior and Okanagan regions
- Attacks domesticated apple trees; in Europe, also recorded on pear, mountain ash, hawthorn, and sea-buckthorn

Apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*)



- Adults have a black body with yellowish head and legs with green eyes. Smaller than a house fly, about 5 mm long
- Larva are 6.5–8 mm long, maggot-like and white in colour with no legs
- Overwinters under host trees with adults emerging in late June to early July until early October
- Females lay eggs in ripening fruit and will move between host trees
- Females can lay up to 500 eggs over its lifetime of 2–4 weeks
- Eggs hatch in 3–7 days with larva burrowing into the fruit and maturing for 13–50 days (temperature dependent)
- Usually when fruit has dropped to the ground, mature larva will exit and burrow to overwinter. Larvae left in fruit and not burrowed will likely not survive the winter
- Primarily attacks apples and hawthorns; also found in crab apple, sweet and sour cherry, plum, and pear

Brown marmorated stink bug

(*Halyomorpha halys*)



- Adult insects are about 1.5 cm long with a broad, shield-shaped body that is mottled brown in colour
- Key identifying features include two white bands on the antennae, a single white band on each leg, and alternating black and white markings along the edge of the abdomen
- Feeds by piercing and sucking plant tissues, causing catfacing damage to fruits
- Overwinters in sheltered areas, often entering wooden buildings and structures
- Can gather in large numbers indoors during colder months
- Feeds on a wide range of plants including fruit trees (apple, peach, pear, cherry, grape, berries), vegetables (corn, tomato, pepper, beans), field crops (soybean, corn), and ornamental trees

European chafer (*Amphimallon majale*)



- Adults 1–1.5 cm long
- Wing covers are light brown
- The underside of the thorax is covered in white, fluffy hairs
- Adults emerge for a short period in June, typically 1–2 weeks, to mate and lay eggs
- Larvae are white, C-shaped grubs that live underground, measuring 0.5–2.5 cm long, with a tan head capsule, three pairs of short legs near the head, and grey colouring on the last two body segments
- Overwinters in soil as larvae
- Larvae feed on roots below ground throughout summer and fall
- Common in turf, lawns, pastures, and grassy areas
- Larvae feed on the roots of lawn and turf grasses including bluegrass, ryegrass, and fescue; adults cause minimal plant damage

Grey tortrix moth (*Cnephasia stephensiana*)



- Recently found in B.C.'s Lower Mainland
- Adults are greyish white with about 18–22 mm wingspan
- Larvae range in colour from yellowish-brownish black and are ravenous eaters with a wide-ranging diet
- Larvae emerge and feed in spring to mid-June with adults flying in July and August
- Overwinters as larvae and becomes active in spring during early forage growth
- Larvae feed inside rolled or tied leaves, causing twisted foliage, ragged leaf edges, and reduced early-season forage growth when infestations are heavy
- Larvae feed on over 120 plant species, including forage crops, legumes, and a wide variety of weedy and herbaceous plants

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)



- Adult beetles are about 1 cm long with a rounded, oval shape and a hard, shiny metallic green body with brown wing covers
- A defining feature is six pairs of white hair tufts along each side of the abdomen, a pattern unique among beetles in B.C.
- Larvae are white, C-shaped grubs that live in soil and feed on roots
- Adults emerge in summer and feed on leaves, flowers, and fruit
- Spread through adult flight and hitchhiking, as well as infested soil and plants with roots and soil attached (eggs and larvae)
- Eggs are laid underground, where the developing larvae feed on root systems until pupating
- Adults feed on over 400 plant species, including grapes, berries, fruit trees, and ornamental plants

Northern giant hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*)



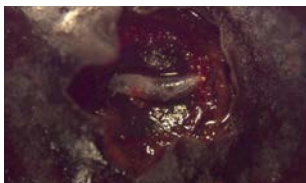
- Very large hornet, the largest in the world, with adults measuring 2.5–5 cm long
- Head is bright orange with large jaws and dark eyes
- Thorax and wings are dark brown; abdomen has bold black and orange bands
- Typically nests in underground cavities or occasionally in tree stumps within forested areas.
- Native to South and East Asia and not established in British Columbia
- Likely introduced through international shipping and cargo movement
- Predatory species that feeds on other insects, including bees

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)



- Not currently present in Canada
- Large planthopper with adults about 2.5 cm long
- Adults have grey, patterned front wings held tent-like over the body when at rest, hiding bright red hind wings
- The abdomen has yellow banding; immature stages resemble wingless adults and change colour from black with white spots to red with white spots as they develop
- The species is visually distinct from all native Canadian insects
- Feeds by piercing plants and sucking sap using straw-like mouthparts
- Attacks a wide range of agricultural crops, fruit trees, and woody plants
- Adults appear in late summer and lay eggs on host plants and hard surfaces through fall
- Eggs hatch in spring, with adults emerging in early summer
- Preferred host is tree-of-heaven but feeds on over 100 plant species including grapevine, hops, apple, stone fruits, walnut, and maple

Spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*)



- Small fruit fly with adults 2–3 mm long, brown in colour with bright red eyes and clear wings
- Males have a black spot on the tip of each wing and black bands on the front legs, while females lack wing spots and have a saw-like, egg-laying structure used to cut into fruit
- Eggs are tiny, white, and oval with two thread-like filaments
- Larvae are white, legless maggots that develop inside fruit
- Pupae are brown, football-shaped, and have two short breathing tubes at one end
- Serious pest of soft, thin-skinned fruit and berries
- Females lay eggs inside sound, ripening fruit before harvest
- Eggs hatch quickly, with larvae feeding inside fruit as it matures
- Attacks soft, thin-skinned fruits including cherry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, strawberry, peach, nectarine, apricot, and plum

Strawberry blossom weevil

(*Anthonomus rubi*)



- Small, black beetle, typically 2–3 mm long, with a hard, ridged body and a thin, downward-curved snout about one-third the length of its body
- Adults are active in spring around developing flower buds
- Larvae develop inside unopened flower buds and feed internally
- Larvae leave the bud when mature and pupate in leaf litter or soil below the host plant
- Larvae are small (1–2 mm long), milky white in colour, with a tan head
- Infested buds can be identified by opening dead or clipped flower buds
- Feeds exclusively on plants in the rose family: raspberry, blackberry, wild rose and Himalayan blackberry

True armyworm (*Mythimna unipuncta*)



- Medium-sized moth with adults about 2 cm long
- Adults are brown with a triangular, delta-shaped, resting posture and a distinct white spot on each forewing
- Larvae are smooth caterpillars that grow from about 4–35 mm long and feed openly on grass leaves
- Adults migrate into parts of B.C. during April–May in variable numbers, depending on weather and temperature
- Adults can live for several weeks and lay eggs in lush, green grasses
- Larval stage lasts about 1.5 months, depending on environmental conditions
- Larvae feed on grass blades and move to different parts of the plant as they grow
- New adults emerge from the soil in August–September and are active at night, often seen around lights
- Larvae feed mainly on grasses and grain crops including barley, corn, oats, rye, and wheat; pastures, hay fields, and lawns are also at risk

Western corn rootworm

(*Diabrotica virgifera*)



- Small, active beetle about 6–7 mm long
- Adults are yellow and black, with females showing three clear black stripes along the wing covers and yellow abdomens that extend beyond the wings, while male stripes often merge into darker patches
- Larvae are thin, white to cream-coloured grubs up to 10 mm long with a tan head, a dark patch at the tip of the abdomen, and six very small legs that are difficult to see without magnification
- Overwinters in soil as eggs
- Larvae feed underground on corn roots
- Adults feed on corn leaves, pollen, and silks and can move between plants
- Primarily associated with corn-growing areas
- Strongly associated with corn; larvae feed on corn roots while adults feed on leaves, silks, and pollen

Western yellowstriped armyworm

(*Spodoptera praefica*)



- Medium-sized moth with adults about 1.5 cm long and brown coloration with yellow stripes
- Front wings show a mix of light yellow, brown, and dark brown markings, while hind wings are silvery-grey
- Larvae are large caterpillars up to 5 cm long, black with distinct yellow stripes running down each side of the body and an inverted “Y” marking on the front of the head
- Pupae are reddish-brown and develop in the soil
- Adults fly from March to August
- Eggs are laid in clusters on the upper surface of leaves and covered with grey, cottony material
- Larvae feed on leaves and stems of over 60 plant species including alfalfa, clover, vegetables, ornamental plants, and grasses, and can cause rapid, widespread defoliation



DISEASES/ PATHOGENS

Fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*)

Botrytis bunch rot of grape

(*Botrytis cinerea*)



- Fungal disease that infects grape clusters, producing grey mould on flowers, leaves, and fruit
- Infections develop most readily under cool, moist conditions; the fungus survives between seasons in plant debris, particularly mummified fruit left on vines or on the ground
- Spreads by airborne spores released in spring
- Spores can infect flowers, shoots, leaves, and developing fruit
- Disease risk increases with prolonged moisture and dense plant growth

Crown gall

(*Agrobacterium rhizogenes* (*Agrobacterium biovar 2*))



- Bacterial disease that primarily affects grapevines, especially in colder climates
- Causes swollen galls to form at the base of the trunk and sometimes on above-ground parts of the vine
- Young galls are soft, greenish, and creamy with no bark covering, and darken over time as they harden and develop a rough outer surface
- The bacterium may be present in other plants without visible symptoms
- Survives inside infected vines
- Spread mainly through propagation of infected planting material
- Galls often develop following cold injury or physical damage to vines

Fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*)



- Bacterial plant disease that affects members of the rose family, including apple, pear, crabapple, hawthorn, and many ornamental species
- Infections often begin during bloom in early spring
- Flowers, shoots, and young leaves wilt suddenly and turn brown or black
- Twigs and branches later appear scorched or burned, which gives the disease its common name
- Affected leaves and fruit often remain attached to the plant through winter
- Spreads unpredictably through rain, wind, insects, contaminated tools, and pruning wounds
- Early symptoms include wilted blossoms that turn brown but remain attached
- Infected fruit becomes greasy or watery, may ooze droplets of fluid, and later shrivels and turns brown and leathery
- Most common during warm, wet conditions during bloom

Grape powdery mildew (*Erysiphe necator*)



- Fungal disease that affects grapes and is the most common and widespread grape disease in British Columbia's Interior
- Early symptoms appear as white to grey-green, powdery growth on the undersides of lower leaves, then spread to shoots, flowers, fruit, petioles, and other plant parts
- Infected berries may fail to ripen properly and can crack, scar, or dry out
- Spreads by airborne spores during the growing season
- Develops under warm conditions and does not require free moisture to infect
- Can persist year to year on infected plant material

Little cherry disease

(*Little cherry virus 2* and *Western X phytoplasma*)



- Viral disease affecting cherry trees, with Little cherry virus 2 considered a higher economic concern than Little cherry virus 1
- Infected trees may show no leaf symptoms, but fruit quality is significantly affected
- Symptoms often begin on a single branch or cluster and gradually spread through the tree over several growing seasons
- Infected fruit is typically about two-thirds smaller than normal and fails to ripen properly
- Fruit is dull red, lacks flavour, and may develop flat or pointed sides
- Disease progresses slowly, spreading from branch to branch over multiple years
- Transmitted by apple and grape mealybugs
- Both Little cherry viruses are spread through grafting, including propagation and root grafting
- Not spread by pollen, seed, soil, or pruning tools

Phytophthora root rot

(*Phytophthora medicaginis*)



- Soil-borne plant disease that infects roots and crowns of forage plants, particularly alfalfa
- Infected plants show poor vigor, slow regrowth, and thinning stands
- Roots and crown tissues become dark brown to black and appear water-soaked or rotted
- Most severe in poorly drained or waterlogged soils
- Spreads through soil and water movement, including surface runoff, flooding, and contaminated equipment
- Root and crown rot reduce water and nutrient uptake, leading to stunted growth, yellowing, patchy stand loss, and reduced forage yield.

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TAKE ACTION!

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

BE PLANTWISE

Choose non-invasive
plants for your garden



PLAY CLEAN GO

Pack out what your pack into
the outdoors; clean all clothes
and gear before and after



**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**



**BUY
LOCAL
BURN
LOCAL**



DON'T LET IT LOOSE

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Call 1-888-933-3722

Report Online at gov.bc.ca/invasive-species