

# Invasive Species Policy

Invasive plant species are of particular concern in the District of Highlands, given the mild climate combined with fertile soils and abundant precipitation. Many invasive plant species thrive in these conditions and adversely affect natural species biodiversity by displacing native species. In recognition of this current and ongoing threat, the District has developed a policy for controlling invasive species within its jurisdiction and based on the following objectives:

- To prevent the introduction and spread of new invasive species.
- To encourage and enable the removal of invasive species on public and private lands.
- To promote the use of native plant species.

In order to meet these objectives the District will implement the following initiatives:

## Best Management Practices for Control of Invasive Species

Invasive species can be grouped into four management categories based on their current level of establishment in a particular region. Each of these categories, described in Table 1, is associated with one of four preferred management approaches, which are Prevent, Eradicate, Contain and Control. A list of priority species for each category within the Capital Regional District is also given in the table as determined by the Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CIPC 2012a).

Table 1: Invasive species management categories and priority species found within the Capital Regional District.

Category	Level of Establishment	Management Method	Species
Prevent	Species not known to occur in the region but are likely to establish if introduced.	Eradicate if found. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).	Cordgrass ( <i>Spartina spp.</i> ) Eurasian Water-milfoil ( <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> ) Kudzu ( <i>Pueraria Montana</i> ) Russian Knapweed ( <i>Acroptilon repens</i> )
Eradicate	Species known to occur in limited distribution and low density.	Eradicate.	Common Reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> ) Dalmatian Toadflax ( <i>Linaria dalmaticab</i> ) (B) Garlic Mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> ) Giant Hogweed ( <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> ) (T) Giant Mannagrass ( <i>Glyceria maxima</i> ) Knotweed, Japanese ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ) Milk Thistle ( <i>Silybum marianum</i> ) Orange and Yellow Hawkweed ( <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> ) Policemans Helmet/Himalayan Balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) Spotted Knapweed ( <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> ) (B)
Contain	Established	Contain existing	Carpet Burweed ( <i>Soliva sessilis</i> )

	infestations found in portions of the region.	infestations and prevent spread to un-infested areas.	Common Tansy ( <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> ) Giant Reed ( <i>Arundo donax</i> ) Gorse ( <i>Ulex europaeus</i> ) Poison Hemlock ( <i>Conium maculatum</i> ) (T) Purple Loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> ) (B) Yellow Archangel ( <i>Lamiastrum galiobdolon</i> ) Yellow Flag Iris ( <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> )
Control	Established infestations common and widespread throughout the region.	Focus control in high value conservation areas only. Use biological control, if available.	Bur Chervil ( <i>Anthriscus caucalis</i> ) Burdock Species ( <i>Arctium spp.</i> ) Butterfly Bush ( <i>Buddleja davidii</i> ) Canada Thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) (B) Daphne/Spurge-Laurel ( <i>Daphne laureola</i> ) (T) Diffuse Knapweed ( <i>Centaurea diffusa</i> ) English Holly ( <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ) English Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> ) Himalayan Blackberry ( <i>Rubus armeniacus</i> ) ( <i>discolor</i> ) Oxeye Daisy ( <i>Leucanthernum vulgare</i> ) Periwinkle Species ( <i>Vinca spp.</i> ) Scotch Broom ( <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> ) St. John's Wort ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> ) (B) Tansy Ragwort ( <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> ) (B) Wild Chervil ( <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> )

(B) = Invasive plants with biological control agents available

(T) = Invasive plants which pose potential human health and safety hazards

Source: CIPC, 2012a & b and CMN, 2012.

The District of Highlands will develop and maintain its own priority list of invasive species occurring within its jurisdiction. The District will collaborate with the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC), other non-governmental organizations (i.e. the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team), local and provincial agencies, and professional biologists to develop and maintain this list. The [Core Ranking Process Questionnaire](#) (see Resources section below for website addresses) may also be used to assess the risk posed by each species. This list may also include animal invasive species such as the Eastern Grey Squirrel, American Bullfrog and European Starling.

The District will also compile tips for identification and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for control for each of the priority species. Many BMPs have been developed by various organizations and these should be referred to. These sources are available online and include, but are not limited to, the provincial government website [Weeds BC](#), non-governmental organization websites including the [Coastal Invasive Plant Committee](#) and the [Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team](#), and other local governments websites including the [District of Saanich](#) and the [City of Victoria](#).

## **Prevention of Invasive Species**

The spread and introduction of invasive species will be prevented using BMPs developed by the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC). These general [prevention TIPS](#) are available online and target the following user groups: gardeners, outdoor enthusiasts, boaters and anglers, travellers, transportation and utility workers, and natural resource and field workers. These practices will be implemented by District staff and will be made available to the public through the District's website to encourage their implementation.

## **Management of Invasive Species on Private Lands**

The District will develop a public education program wherein the list of priority invasive species will be distributed to residents and businesses. "Alerts" containing information on new invaders will be distributed as needed to encourage the Early Detection and Rapid Response to these "Alert" species.

An Invasive Species page will be added to the District's website to provide information to residents and businesses on invasive species. The priority species list and Best Management Practices will be made available on the website, as will links to other websites mentioned in this Schedule.

An incentive program will be implemented to support the prevention and management of invasive species on private lands. Incentives such as partially subsidizing herbicides and loaning materials for removal will encourage landowners to manage invasive species on their land. Municipal fee structures (i.e. free disposal of invasive species and other yard waste) will ensure correct disposal of invasive species and will discourage uncontrolled dumping of yard waste potentially containing invasive species in uninfected areas.

The District will work with utility companies operating within its boundaries and will ensure that vegetation management works on their lands follow Best Management Practices and support the removal of invasive species.

## **Management of Invasive Species on Public Lands**

The District will support the removal and control of invasive species on District-owned lands. The District may appoint a staff member as an invasive species manager to oversee and coordinate these works. This staff member will develop partnerships with other local government agencies and non-governmental organizations to coordinate efforts. This person may also inventory invasive species on District-owned lands and parks.

Data for all species and sites being managed may be uploaded to the Invasive Alien Plant Program ([IAPP Application](#)) for data-sharing and tracking purposes. This is particularly important for new invaders receiving Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) treatment.

Field staff and contractors will be trained in the identification and removal of priority invasive species using Best Management Practices. EDRR treatments to new infestations will be encouraged.

Public works along roadways and in parks and protected areas will follow recommended Best Management Practices developed by the ISCBC for [Invasive Plants on Roadsides](#) and for [Invasive Plants in Parks and Protected Areas of BC](#). Roadways are one of the largest vectors for transmittal for invasive species.

### **Invasive Species and Development**

All new development permit applications will be required to include Best Management Practices for preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species. Invasive species are not to be introduced to development sites and bare/disturbed soils are to be revegetated as quickly as possible following development. Landscaping and revegetating with non-invasive and native species will be encouraged.

### **Use of Native Plants**

Through the public education program, the use of invasive species will be strongly discouraged. A link to the ISCBC's [Grow Me Instead brochure](#) will be made available on the District's website.

Local nurseries will be encouraged to carry non-invasive and preferably locally-sourced plants and to avoid carrying invasive species.

### **References**

Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC). 2012a. CRISP: Regional Invasive Plant List. [http://www.coastalinvasiveplants.com/images/stories/CRISP/crisp%20invasive%20plant%20species%20list%20july%202012\\_2.pdf](http://www.coastalinvasiveplants.com/images/stories/CRISP/crisp%20invasive%20plant%20species%20list%20july%202012_2.pdf). Accessed January 7, 2013.

Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (CIPC). 2012b. Priority Invasive Plants. <http://www.coastalinvasiveplants.com/invasive-plants/priority-plants>. Accessed January 7, 2013.

Community Mapping Network (CMN). 2012. Invasive Species Atlas. <http://cmnmaps.ca/invsp/>. Accessed January 7, 2013.

### **Resources**

BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) and Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC). 2012. Core Ranking Process Questionnaire for Local Management Areas. <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/CalculatorSMA.htm>. Victoria, BC.

City of Victoria. 2012. Invasive Species. <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/parks-rec-culture/parks/natural-areas/invasive-species.html>. Victoria, BC.

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District of Saanich. 2012. Invasive Species Brochures. <http://www.saanich.ca/living/natural/resources/invasivebrochures.html>. Saanich, BC.

Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT). 2012. Invasive Species. [http://www.goert.ca/publications\\_resources/invasive\\_species.php](http://www.goert.ca/publications_resources/invasive_species.php). Victoria, BC

Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC). 2012. Prevention TIPS. <http://www.bcinvasives.ca/you-can-help/prevention-tips>. Victoria, BC.

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Weeds BC. 2002. Browse by Common Name. <http://www.weedsbc.ca/browse.html>. Victoria, BC.