

LANDSCAPING BEST PRACTICES

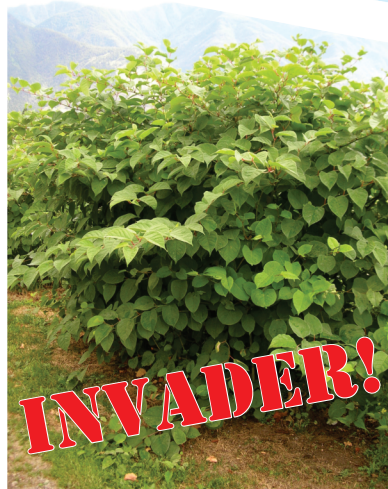
to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants



Invasive plants are non-native species that have been introduced to an area outside of their natural range. Without the natural balance found in their native environments, these plants can rapidly spread and out-compete native plants, ornamental species and agricultural crops.

The result: significant environmental, economic and social impacts.

People, animals, vehicles and equipment can inadvertently carry seeds and other reproductive parts of invasive plants. Disturbing soil and existing vegetation during landscaping, construction and property maintenance can also create conditions for invasive plants to thrive. Once invasive plants move in, they can become sources of seeds that further promote spread. Prevention practices can greatly reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plants.



Japanese or Bohemian Knotweed
Fallopia japonica or Fallopia x bohemica

Plant a
friendly
alternative
→



Red-osier dogwood
Cornus stolonifera

Property owners and land occupiers must comply with the provincial Weed Control Act (www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/legislation.htm) and follow any relevant local bylaws. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has a Noxious and Destructive Insect and Pest Control Bylaw, to help control tree fruit pests, invasive plants and related pests. Complaint and enforcement policies vary by jurisdiction – check with your municipality or regional district for more information.

If Caught Early...

invasive plants can be relatively inexpensive to control or eradicate. If left untreated, a small area of invasive plants can quickly spread. Large areas of invasive plants can be difficult and very costly to remedy, as it may take several years of repeated treatment to be effective. If neglected, invasive plants may ultimately take over a property and reduce its value.

“Many invasive plants are deceptively beautiful with brilliant flowers. Some are knowingly sold as ornamental species for our gardens. It’s important to choose plants wisely. Generally we encourage gardeners to be wary of plants promoted as fast spreaders or vigorous self-seeders.”

– Lisa Scott, Executive Director, OASISS

The best methods to control invasive plants need to be matched to the type of plant and its life cycle or means of spreading. For example, most annual plants spread by seed, have small roots and do not need to be hand pulled; they can simply be cut at ground level before they produce seeds. Perennials, plants that return year after year, often have deep or creeping roots; the whole root system must be removed for effective control. A member of the OASISS team may be available to conduct a visit of your property to help provide specific information and solutions.



Don't Be A Carrier

- ✓ Check your shoes, vehicles and equipment for seeds or plant parts
- ✓ Be aware of where you use and store equipment, the cleanliness of tools, and where you park your vehicle (seeds can travel on tires)
- ✓ Use mulch, soil, gravel, fill and plants that are not contaminated with invasive plants
- ✓ Properly dispose of all invasive plant material

Disposal of invasive plants and noxious weeds is FREE at all landfills in the RDOS

1. Keep invasive plants separate from other plants and compostable material
2. Transport invasive plants in bags or well contained to ensure no plant parts escape
3. Tell landfill attendants that you have invasive plants
4. Unload into designated area - never place with yard waste. Dispose as garbage

How you can help

1. Minimize soil disturbances and retain natural vegetation as much as possible
2. Stay informed – learn about the invasive plants in your neighborhood or region
3. Educate others – share information – seek advice
4. Select non-invasive plants for your landscaping - know what you grow
5. Report sightings of new occurrences of invasive plants to OASISS
6. Avoid and discourage dumping of plant material in natural areas, and composting of invasive plants
7. Engage in responsible horticultural practices – avoid using and spreading invasive plant material, contaminated fill/mulch/aggregate material
8. Use appropriate methods to prevent seed production and control the spread of invasive plants



Be Plantwise

It's now easier than ever to be invasive plant free!

Download the mobile app, or visit the website at www.beplantwise.ca

Make your next landscaping project "Plantwise" with expert-suggested, non invasive plants suitable for every growing zone.

Get Advice

For more information about invasive species and management advice contact:
 Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Species Society
www.oasiss.ca

