

Invasive species are moving across BC and Canada at a rapid pace:

- In Canada, invasive species include at least 27% of all vascular plants, 181 insects, 24 birds, 26 mammals, 2 reptiles, 4 amphibians, several fungi and molluscs, and 55 freshwater fish.

Cost of invasive species:

- The estimated annual cumulative lost revenue caused by just 16 invasive species is \$13-\$35 billion.
- Invasive species that damage the agricultural and forestry industries result in an estimated \$7.5 billion of lost revenue annually.
- Estimated crop losses in BC cost the agriculture industry over \$50 million annually. Species such as knapweed infest rangelands, reduce forage quality and out-compete desired species.
- Invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss, and are a greater threat to native species than pollution, harvest, and disease combined.

Be PlantWise – Choose non-invasive plants for your garden

- The horticulture industry is a key pathway for the introduction of invasive species. Many invasive plants are sold to customers, escape cultivation and are now invasive in BC. Examples include purple loosestrife, English ivy, yellow flag iris, yellow archangel and Russian olive.
- **PlantWise** (<http://bcinvasives.ca/resources/programs/plant-wise>) is a prevention based program designed for the horticulture industry and consumers. The PlantWise message is a positive one that encourages people to choose only safe, non-invasive plants for their gardens. A new **phone app** (<http://beplantwise.ca>) makes this easier than ever.
- **Grow Me Instead** (<http://bcinvasives.ca/resources/publications/grow-me-instead-booklet>) is a popular resource available from the Invasive Species Council of BC. It illustrates 26 'unwanted' horticulture invasive species frequently found in gardens around BC and suggests alternative species to plant instead.



Responsible agriculture practices are critical for invasive species prevention and management

- Invasive weeds are of great concern to any rancher or farmer as they crowd out crops, consume fertilizer and water, reduce crop yields and many are unpalatable or toxic to livestock e.g. **Tansy ragwort** (*Senecio jacobaea*).
- Often livestock won't eat invasive plants but feed on native plants, reducing competition for the invasive plants, allowing them to grow and spread. **Leafy spurge** (*Euphorbia esula*) impacts hay crops and limits available forage for livestock by up to 50%.
- The agriculture industry in Canada has lost an estimated \$2.2 billion a year due to invasive species through reduced crop yields, increased pest management expenses, and overall market losses.
- Invasive plants cause increased maintenance costs to public parks and private property, devaluing real estate. E.g. the explosion of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) in Manitoba has caused a \$30 million reduction in land values.



IT'S NOW EASIER THAN EVER TO BE INVASIVE-PLANT-FREE!



Our new user-friendly mobile app and website, www.beplantwise.ca, easily shows users how to choose expert-suggested, non-invasive plants for every growing zone.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ISCBC:

www.bcinvasives.ca | info@bcinvasives.ca | 1-888-933-3722 | #100 - 197 North 2nd Ave., Williams Lake, BC V2G 1Z5 | ISCBC Charity Registration #856131578RR0001