

Know the Invaders!

One of the first steps to preventing the spread of invasive species is being able to identify them. Below are some high priority species for our area:

Photo credit: Ancaudub43, Wikimedia Commons



Knotweed

Photo credit: F. Geller-Grimm



Giant Hogweed

Photo credit: B. Stewart



Blueweed

Photo credit: L. Scott



Yellow Star Thistle

Photo credit: USDS APHIS Wildlife Services



Feral Pigs

Photo credit: L. Scott



Puncturevine

Visit **CKISS.ca** to learn more about the other high priority species for the Kootenays.



Photo credit: E. Bates



Play Clean Go

Help Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants and Animals

- Arrive with clean gear
- Stay on trails
- Burn local firewood
- Before leaving the recreation site remove mud and seeds from your shoes, gear, vehicle and pets

Report Invaders

- Contact **CKISS.ca**
- Use 'Report-Invasives BC' & 'Report-a-Weed' Apps
- Call **RAPP line 1-877-952-RAPP** to report illegal dumping of garden waste on crown land
- Call provincial hotline **1-888-WEEDSBC**

For more information



1-844-352-1160

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Protect the Kootenays

from terrestrial invasive species!



Thinking of planting knotweed? Think again! Knotweed is VERY invasive! It can degrade wildlife habitat and damage infrastructure. Even a small fragment of knotweed can create a new infestation. Let's work together to prevent the spread!



Photo credit: Commons Wikimedia

What are Terrestrial Invasive Species?

► **Terrestrial Invasive Species** are **non-native plants and animals** that are introduced into an ecosystem where they **do not belong**. They are extremely competitive and lack natural predators that keep them under control. They spread quickly and bring harmful

impacts to ecosystems, your health and wallet! **Human behaviour is the #1-way invasive species are introduced & spread.** You can make a difference. Learn what simple actions you can take to help protect the Kootenays!

How do they spread?

Photo credit: J. Vogel



Planting invasive species & improper disposal of garden waste

Even though some invasive species look beautiful they can quickly take over a garden.

Knotweed roots can grow up to 2m deep & 20m laterally. As a result knotweed can grow through the foundation of your home!

Photo credit: L. Scott



On dirty vehicles, recreation equipment clothing & your pets

Some small plants and seeds can easily "hitchhike" on your outdoor gear from one recreational site to another.

Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species to your favourite recreation spot?

Photo credit: Pixabay/WDnetStudio



Moving firewood from one location to another

Firewood can be infested with insects, eggs or fungi spores. If you move firewood you might also be moving invasive species.

Do you know where your wood came from?

Photo credit: A. Glass



What are their impacts?

Environmental

- Degrade wildlife habitat
- Reduce biodiversity & cause extinction of endangered species
- Displace native plants & animals

These infant painted turtles were suffocated by roots of invasive plants.

Photo Credit: USDA Forest Services



Economic

- Increase taxes & maintenance costs
- Increase wildfire hazard risk to homes & infrastructure
- Reduce crop quality & yield
- Reduce property values

Invasive plants like scotchbroom & cheatgrass increase wildfire risk!

Photo credit: King County Noxious Weed Control Program



Social

- Cause health issues
- Threaten drinking water
- Reduce recreation opportunities including biking, hiking & camping

Don't touch giant hogweed! Its sap is toxic & causes burns, blisters & scarring.

What can I do to help?



Be PlantWise

- Choose non-invasive plants for your garden
- Dispose of invasive plants properly
- Visit CKISS.ca for proper disposal methods
- NEVER compost invasive species



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS.

PlayCleanGo.org

Play Clean Go

- Arrive and leave recreation site with clean clothing, gear, equipment & pets
- Stay on marked trails
- Educate yourself on high priority species in your community
- Report the invaders

Carry a boot brush in your pack!



BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT

Buy it Where You Burn it

- Buy firewood where you will burn it
- Burn it all on site, buy only what you'll need
- Don't move firewood, never take it home