

Invasive Plants & Noxious Weeds

what **NOT** to plant and **WHY**

Why Invasive Plants are Regulated

- they aggressively displace native plants, which damages environments like riparian areas and harms biodiversity
- they reduce soil and water quality, lower carbon storage, affect native animals, and increase wildfire risk
- they damage economic industries such as agriculture and recreation

In Alberta, invasive plants are defined as "noxious weeds" or "prohibited noxious weeds", and need to be controlled and/or eradicated according to the Alberta **Weed Control Act**

Invasive Plants are introduced to an ecosystem with no natural means of control and spread rapidly, which damages biodiversity.

Noxious Weeds and **Prohibited Noxious Weeds** are species that spread rapidly, causing crop loss and other financial hardships.

Examples of regulated plant species in Alberta

Noxious Weed species

*(must be
controlled/
contained)*



Creeping Bell
Flower



Canada
Thistle



Baby's
Breath

Prohibited Noxious Weeds species

*(must be
destroyed)*



Giant
Hogweed



Garlic
Mustard



Common
Crupina

Here's How You Can Help Reduce The Spread Of Invasive Species

- Buy plants that are verified non-invasive
- Buy native plants instead! Check out our online guides: resilientrurals.com/climate-smart-gardening
- Clean boats and boots, as they can carry material that spreads noxious weeds
- Avoid moving firewood or food to a new area. Invasive pests may hitch a ride!
- Volunteer to help remove invasive species

FAQ

Is it possible to buy invasive plants at a greenhouse?

Unfortunately, yes. Some invasive plants are sold under common or folk names that are not regulated. It is important to verify all plants you buy are non-invasive. Also, some non-invasive plants are also considered noxious.

Are all noxious weeds and prohibited noxious weeds invasive?

All invasive plants are considered "noxious" or "prohibited noxious" based on how well established they are in an area, and if they can be eradicated. Some "noxious" and "prohibited noxious" weeds are not invasive plants.

Does every province have the same invasive species?

Not necessarily! Many invasive species (like purple loosestrife) have spread across the entire country, but each province regulates weeds differently. Please visit your government's website for more localized information.

Is there a fine for growing regulated plants in my yard?

Most municipalities will not fine you, but they will expect the plants to be removed or closely controlled. Check the rules in your city or town's bylaws, and remember, these plants come with an environmental cost.

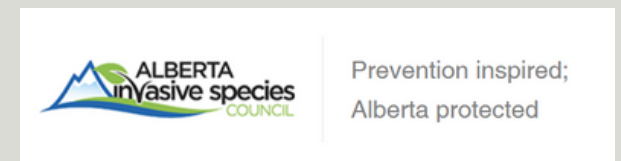
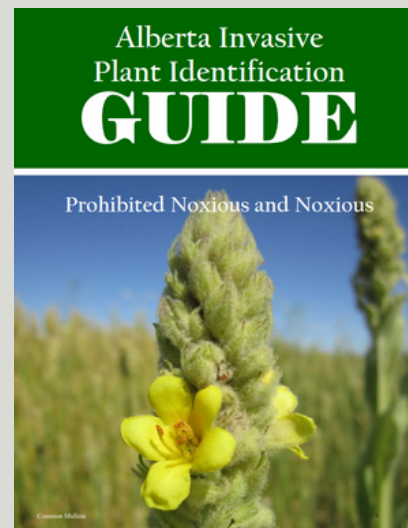


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More Authorities on Invasive Plants



Prevention inspired;
Alberta protected