

Garden Tips

Invasive plants in gardens

What is an invasive plant?

An invasive plant is not native to a particular ecosystem and poses negative impacts on humans, animals and ecosystems.

The success story of invasive plants:

- They produce a large number of seeds
- They tolerate many soil types and weather conditions
- They spread easily and efficiently
- They grow rapidly, allowing them to displace slower growing plants
- They spread rampantly when they are free of the natural checks and balances found in their native range

Effects of invasive plants

- *Displace native plants
- *Reduce biodiversity
- *Alter wildlife habitat
- *Decrease land productivity



Cosmos is an alternative to oxeye daisy

Oxeye daisy is a popular garden plant but can spread easily and can take over parts of your backyard!

Try cosmos to replace oxeye daisy in your garden.

Do not share oxeye daisy from your garden with your friends. Oxeye daisy can reproduce by seeds and creeping rhizomes.

Prevention is the most cost effective and efficient way to combat invasive plants



Purple loosestrife is a pretty ornamental but has the potential to escape from your garden and to invade wetlands. One single purple loosestrife plant can produce between one and three million seeds each year.

What can I do?

- Learn about invasive plants in your area.
- Choose plants wisely, plant non-invasive or native plants in your garden
- Remove invasive plants from your land
- Deadhead (cut) flowers, seed pods and berries of known invasive plants
- Dispose of garden waste properly. Don't recycle garden debris with weeds into natural areas
Dispose of invasive weeds in garbage bags and bring to the landfill
- Do not buy "wildflower mixes" unless you know for sure that they do not contain invasive species
- Do not share invasive plants or seeds with your friends
- Only transplant plants elsewhere if you know they aren't invasive
- Use "weed-free" soil.
- Notify your garden center if you find them selling a plant that is known to be invasive.
- Get involved with efforts to control invasive plants.

Many invasive plants started out as garden plants because they are pretty or grow fast and cover up bare spots. Not all the introduced plants are invasive. Learn the ones that should not be planted. The cost of controlling invasive plants will increase as they spread.

Do not plant a problem

List of plants to avoid in your garden:

These species are known to escape from cultivation and become invasive.

- Butter& eggs or toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
- Caragana or Siberian pea shrub (*Caragana arborescens*)
- Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
- Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- Creeping bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)
- Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)
- Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)
- Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
- Field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)
- Honeysuckles (*Lonicera tatarica*)
- Golden virgin's-bower (*Clematis tangutica*)
- Hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum vulgare*)
- Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
- Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- May tree (*Prunus padus*)
- Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)
- Ornamental jewelweed (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
- Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- Sweet rocket or dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*)
- Yellow king devil (*Hieracium caespitosum*)

There are several invasive grasses. Ask YISC for advice on what grasses may not be suitable.



Yukon Invasive Species Council

For more information visit:
www.yukoninvasives.com

June 2010