

# Keeping Yukon Natural

## Recommendations for Garden Centres and Landscapers



Oxeye Daisy escapes from ornamental plantings and will reduce the crop value in hay fields. Photo: Andrea Altherr

### What's the problem?

**Invasive species are non-native species that have the potential to cause undesirable or detrimental impacts on people, animals, or the ecosystem. These species often reproduce quickly and are very persistent. Most non-native species introduced into the Yukon will not become invasive due to their inability to adapt to the cold climate and nutrient poor soils. However, invasive species that do become established often excel in these conditions due to their ability to outcompete boreal species. Changing climatic conditions in the North such as warmer winters and wetter summers may further increase the extent and rate of spread of invasive species.**

The potential for a horticultural plant to become invasive is often not considered when importing plants for commercial sale or landscaping. Horticulture has been identified as one of the main pathways

for introduction of invasive species. These plants can quickly spread out from the garden or public areas into natural forested areas. With a changing climate more plants may become aggressive growers. Displacing native species through introduction of invasive species has the potential to harm native pollinators and reduce biodiversity. Many boreal pollinators have evolved symbiotic lifecycle relationships with specific native species and rely on one another to complete their lifecycles.

### Best practices for garden centres and landscapers

The most cost effective and efficient response in invasive species management is prevention at the garden centre. Garden centres and landscapers can play a pivotal role by educating customers and providing and promoting varieties that are not aggressive growers.

*Yukon contains many areas of natural wilderness, and by caring and doing our part, the ecological integrity of the territory can be maintained.*

## What can I do as a business owner?

- learn about plants that are less likely to invade natural areas;
- use Yukon's *Grow Me Instead* guide as a reference.
- grow, purchase, and promote recommended alternatives to invasive plants;
- label non-invasive plant stock;
- sell soil that is certified weed free and sterilized;
- work with stakeholders to identify existing and new invasive plant species;
- as a landscaper avoid leaving bare soil patches, as these areas are prone to invasive species establishment;
- reseed areas using native seed species that reflect the site-specific conditions; and
- don't dispose soil and plants into natural areas.

*Garden centres and landscapers can play a pivotal role by providing and promoting varieties that are not invasive.*



Think about introducing Lady Beetles. Unfortunately, Lady Beetles available in stores are non-native species which act aggressively and compete with native species. Photo: Carmen Wong

## Two high risk invasive species to avoid in your business

### Oxeye daisy

*Leucanthemum vulgare*

Oxeye daisy seeds may be sold in garden centres as a "wildflower mix" and the plant is popular with gardeners due to its vibrant, colourful appearance. Oxeye daisy tolerates

a wide range of environmental conditions, has high drought tolerance and can be found in fields, roadways, open forests, and disturbed areas. Oxeye daisy is inedible to livestock and alters pasture productivity by forming large colonies and displacing native grass vegetation. Garden centres can help limit the spread of oxeye daisy by being aware of the contents of imported wildflower mixes or promoting wildflower mixes that incorporate non-invasive daisies.



Caragana has the ability to escape cultivation and will spread into adjacent forested areas. Photo: Andrea Altherr

### Caragana

*Caragana arborescens*

Caragana is a perennial, woody shrub that can grow up to four metres tall. It is commonly planted as a hedgerow or windbreak, and is tolerant to drought and poor soil nutrients. Caragana has fragrant, bright yellow flowers that develop into long, bean-shaped pods containing many seeds. When seeds mature they explode open, ejecting the seeds away from the parent shrub. Patches of caragana can encroach into woodlands and forest edges, shading out tree saplings and forming dense monocultures. Prevention of caragana spread is essential. Machine brushing and mulching of caragana will help to reduce the size of infestations, however many years of control may be needed to reduce the spread of seeds.

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Report invasive species to [info@yukoninvasives.com](mailto:info@yukoninvasives.com) OR  
use the reporting form at [www.yukoninvasive.com](http://www.yukoninvasive.com) OR  
submit your observation to [www.iNaturalist.org](http://www.iNaturalist.org)

Email: [info@yukoninvasives.com](mailto:info@yukoninvasives.com)  
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