

DIY Weed Pull Toolkit

Protect your neighbourhood from invasive species

Organize your own family, neighbourhood, or community weed pull! This guide will provide the tools to get you started. Let's get our hands dirty!



Step 1: Learn to identify these invasive plants

Sweetclover

What it looks like: Sweetclover is an annual or biennial plant in the pea family that can grow 2 m tall but is usually less than 1 m. It has a long smooth stem, its leaves grow in 3 leaflets, and it produces white or yellow flowers in the summer. It often has a deep taproot.

Where to find it: Sweetclover is widespread throughout southern Yukon. It is known to invade gravelly, well-drained soils such as roadsides, waste areas, and river banks and bars.



Bird Vetch

What it looks like: Multiple weak stems and compound leaves with tendrils (that allow the plant to attach to other plants or objects) characterize this perennial plant. The distinct purpleish/blue flowers are arranged in a one-sided spike and turn into dark seed pods once matured.

Where to find it: It is found in most Yukon communities, including Whitehorse, Dawson, Watson Lake, and Haines Junction. It is known to invade undisturbed sites, including spruce forests and south-facing slopes.



Hawksbeard

What it looks like: With small, dandelion-like yellow flowers, this annual plant grows a single, sometimes branched stem from a small taproot that is easily pulled. Basal leaves are stalked and toothed; stem leaves are stalkless and mostly linear.

Where to find it: This plant occurs throughout Yukon along all major highways. It has been found over 1 km from roadways and along rivers. It does not compete well in undisturbed sites.

Note: This plant goes to seed after it has been pulled. Be sure to bag it and put it in the landfill!





Oxeye Daisy

What it looks like: This is a shallow-rooted perennial daisy. It has large white flowers and yellow centers. It is similar to another invasive, scentless chamomile, but lacks the dill-like leaves and fibrous roots.

Where to find it: It is often planted in wildflower mixes, and has been reported from scattered locations throughout southern Yukon.

Note: If pulling this plant, be sure to bag it and put it in the landfill, as it can go to seed even after it is pulled.

Step 2: Gather your supplies

We recommend you bring the following supplies with you:



Step 3: Make a plan

Before you head out, consider the following:

- **How will I pull safely?** Make sure to consider traffic, and watch pets and children closely. Consider using reflective vests if pulling along roadways.
- **Who owns the land?** Make sure you are on public land; always seek the landowners permission if you are on private property
- **Am I sure it's an invasive plant?** Make sure to confirm the plant is one of Yukon's invasive species before you start pulling it up. Use the iNaturalist app to identify and report invasives!
- **How will I dispose of the invasive plant material?** Dispose of invasive plant material in the landfill, not in natural areas or compost bins.

Step 4: Time to pull!

You are ready for your DIY Weed Pull - good luck and have fun!

General Information

- It is best to pull when plants are in flower but have not yet gone to seed - in the Yukon this is usually in mid-July
- Repeated pulling of invasive plants can be an effective way to manage populations. Plants may require repeated pulling in the same year if more bloom after pulling, or else pulls should be repeated the following year.



Don't forget to take pictures and report any findings at [iNaturalist.ca](https://www.inaturalist.ca).

For support in organizing your own weed pull, email outreach.yisc@gmail.com.



www.yukoninvasives.com

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