
A Study of Yukon Invasive Species

Science

Grade 10

Overview

This lesson introduces students to Invasive Plants of concern in the Yukon in the context of course curriculum objectives.

Objectives

Students will gain an understanding of the following:

- Why invasive species (IS) are a problem: impacts on ecosystems & people
- How invasive species disrupt energy flow in ecosystems
- What “you” can do to stop them (early detection & reporting)
- Learn about the 12 species of greatest concern in the Yukon

Activities

This program, estimated to be approximately 60-90 minutes, will flow as follows:

1. Watch ~4 minute Youtube video introducing IS, major concepts
2. Discussion/ illustration of the impacts of invasive species on energy flow in a native Yukon ecosystem (see attached worksheet)
3. Show students dried plant specimens of top 10 invasive species of concern in the Yukon and briefly discuss life strategies, why they are so good at stealing all energy resources (light, water, soil nutrients)
4. Short intro to YISC Spotter’s Network & Weed pulls
5. New Yukon IS board game (about 1 additional hour will be required for this game)

Flow of the class: Students will watch the video together for an introduction to invasive species. If the weather is nice, the class could go outside for the discussion/ illustration of the impacts of IS on energy flow in a native Yukon ecosystem (see attached worksheet). Jen will display herbarium specimens (dried pressed plants) of the 10 invasive plants of greatest concern in the Yukon. Jen will then discuss the Yukon Invasive Species Council’s Spotter’s Network, the opportunity to participate in weed pulls. Show a few fun pictures of Yukon College students from the Renewable Resources program, participating. Program ends after 60-90 minutes. Another hour can be added to the program, in which our new Yukon board game is played. A professional game designer (Gaël Marchand, ED Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle) designed this game, with input from local botanists (Jen and others). Students will play in groups of 5 or 6.

Materials

Learning tools may include:

- Short Youtube video (Overview)
- Yukon Invasive Species Council brochures & pamphlets
- Herbarium specimens [dried pressed plants on paper]
- Yukon species posters illustrating energy exchange
- New Yukon IS Board game

BC Curriculum Competencies

See Attached

Key Web Resources

Yukon Invasive Species Council:

<http://yukoninvasives.com/>