

## What are invasive species?

Invasive species are any non-native life form (plant, animal, fungus etc.) that can be harmful to humans, animals or ecosystems. They arrived here with human settlers and have no natural enemies to keep them controlled. These species can easily establish and aggressively compete with native life forms.

## Why are they a threat?

The impacts associated with the introduction and spread of invasive species are not unique to one industry, organization, or community – all citizens, regions and industries are affected. They have widespread negative, environmental, social (health and safety) and economic impacts. These impacts are often permanent and restoration can be extremely difficult and expensive, if not impossible - **Prevention is key!**

Invasive plants can poison people and animals, damage infrastructure, and are estimated to cost BC's agriculture industry \$50 million per year. Invasive species are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after land use change. Also, very few native plants, animals, or other life forms use invasive species for food or habitat. In our area the general trend is that invasives are increasing, mainly due to human activity. **When you move anything around, there are always unintended consequences.**

## What can I do?

- Learn to identify and control invasives using methods suitable to site and species
- Avoid growing and composting invasive plants
- Clean equipment, tools, vehicles, pets and footwear before leaving an infested area
- Do not release pets or aquarium contents into the wild.

### REPORT SIGHTINGS:

[www.ssisc.info](http://www.ssisc.info), 604-698-8334, or [ssinvasives@gmail.com](mailto:ssinvasives@gmail.com)

The **Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC)** is a non-profit society made up of volunteer members representing public and private organizations, agencies and industries. Members are committed to reducing the negative impacts caused by invasive species.



The SSISC works on the southwest coast of British Columbia in the Squamish-Lillooet Region District electoral areas C & D, which includes Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton and D'Arcy. It works in cooperation with all the independent invasive groups across BC and the Invasive Plant Council of BC.

For more information or to report sightings:

### Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council

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## You Can Help

# Stop the Spread of Invasive Species



Photos: a) European death cap; b) Himalayan balsam; c) European garden spider; d) spread by corridors; e) black rat; f) broom weed pull; g) curled pondweed; and h) hogweed crew.

# Invasive species in the Sea to Sky corridor:

Note: not a complete list.

## Terrestrial Plants



**Periwinkle and lamium**

(*Vinca sp.* and *Lamium sp.*)

Spread aggressively and choke out native plant and animal species. They are common garden escapees.



**Spotted knapweed**

(*Centaurea stoebe*)

Quickly reduces forage and habitat and is of major concern in the Pemberton area.



**Japanese knotweed**

(*Fallopia japonica*)

Increases soil erosion, alters waterways and degrades habitat for fish and wildlife. A high priority along Squamish streams.



**Yellow flag-iris**

(*Iris pseudacorus*)

Restricts water flows, affecting irrigation canals and flood control ditches. All parts of this plant are poisonous.

## Other Invasive Species



**Brown bullhead or brown catfish**

(*Ictalurus nebulosis*)

Has been identified in Pemberton as a problem in small ponds connected to ditches where it can decimate other life.



**Bullfrog**

(*Rana catesbeiana*)

Compete with and prey upon native species. They will eat just about anything: birds, rats, snakes, lizards, turtles, fish, other frogs, and especially each other.



**Scotch broom**

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

Increases wildfire risks and is a serious competitor to conifer seedlings. Allergy sufferers curse its pollen.



**Giant hogweed**

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

A highly toxic plant that can cause severe burns and blindness. Similar native plants will never grow as large. Report immediately.



**Eurasian watermilfoil**

(*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Crowds out native plant species, impacts fish and hinders recreation.



**Didymo or rock snot**

(*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Reduces salmon spawning habitat, alters species composition and depletes dissolved oxygen in the water due to decomposition.



**Green crab**

(*Carcinus maenas*)

A threat to shellfish due to its voracious appetite and aggressive competition. A high alert species around Squamish – report immediately.



**Grey squirrel**

(*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Displaces local species and not yet established in Whistler or Pemberton. Can be black or grey.

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