

## Invasive plant disposal protocol – Resort Municipality of Whistler

### Overview

Invasive plants pose serious environmental, personal safety and economic threats to the Whistler area. The following protocol is designed to minimize the spread of invasive plants by promoting best practices for disposal and transport.

Some invasive plant species require very high temperatures and/or long periods of time to destroy seeds and root fragments, which can result in some invasive species surviving the composting process. In order to keep compost products invasives-free, the RMOW does **not** accept invasive plant material in the organic material (aka compost) waste stream.

1. **Separate invasive plant material from regular, clean yard waste**
2. **Place invasive plant material in a bag, or on a tarp, & seal it**
3. **Dispose as “landfill waste” at the transfer station or waste depots (see further instructions below)**
4. **Do NOT compost invasive plants**

This protocol applies to everyone in Whistler, including municipal employees, landscaping/horticulture businesses, community members and visitors, and it is intended to help facilitate the [local bylaw](#) that bans invasive plant disposal in all waste streams other than landfill/general waste. The Resort Municipality of Whistler has a partnership with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC) to promote best management practices of invasive species throughout the Corridor. A [certification course](#) designed to raise awareness of effective invasive plant management is available through the SSISC.

### Solid Waste Bylaw

Whistler has a [Solid Waste Bylaw](#), which requires invasive plant species to be separated from clean yard waste and disposed of with landfill waste. To comply with the bylaw, please ensure that invasive plant species\* are identified and disposed of separately from clean yard waste.

### Residential Disposal / Small loads:

Small loads of bagged invasive plant material can be disposed of in the ‘garbage to landfill’ bins at the [municipal waste depots](#) (Nesters Rd & Lynham Rd in Function Junction). There is no tipping fee applicable at these depots, however larger loads (i.e. more than 3 large garbage bags) will not be accepted, and will need to be taken to the [Callaghan Waste Transfer Station](#).

### Commercial Disposal / Large loads:

#### Protocol:

1. Sort:
  - Separate invasive plants\* from rest of yard waste
  - Where possible, place invasive plants in bags and seal tightly. Stickers that say ‘invasive plants – do not compost’ are available from SSISC.

- Note: Extra large loads (more than 1 pick-up truck) require a day's notice before drop off. Call the General Manager of the Whistler Waste Transfer Station (Darlye Craig) on 604-389-9920 to set up a drop off time.
2. Transport:
    - Transport load to Whistler (Callaghan) transfer station in an enclosed manner to ensure no plant parts escape
    - If invasive plants are not sealed in bags, tarps or other methods must be used to prevent any plant parts (including seeds) from escaping via transport
  3. Check in:
    - Proceed to weigh station when you reach landfill and identify that you have invasive plants to dispose of and if you have a current [SSISC Invasive-Free Certification](#).
  4. Unload:
    - Unload into designated signed area(s)
    - Extra large loads to follow directions given after calling to set up a drop off time

*\*Invasive plant species:*

- Includes those listed on the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council's invasive plant list (see <https://ssisc.ca/invasives/invasive-plants/>); or defined as invasive by the [Invasive Species Council of BC](#)
- Examples of high priority invasive plant species include:



*Giant Hogweed*



*Invasive Knotweeds*



*Scotch Broom*

**Unload areas:** Check with weigh station where the designated invasive plant and clean wood and yard waste disposal is located.

**Cost:** The cost to dispose of invasive plants is \$40/tonne at the Callaghan Transfer Station.

**Soil & fill infested with invasive seed or plant parts:** The RMOW accepts soil contaminated with invasives by appointment only. Appointments can be made by contacting the General Manager of the Whistler Waste Transfer Station, Daryle Craig, (604) 389-9920. Charges apply.

**Further Information:**

- Waster Transfer Station Information & contact information: <https://www.whistler.ca/services/waste-management/waste-facilities/waste-transfer-station>
- <https://ssisc.ca/disposal>
- Contact the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council on 604-698-8334 or at [info@ssisc.ca](mailto:info@ssisc.ca)