

## Other ways to lend a helping hand

### Report invasive plants

Download the 'Report a Weed' App from [reportaweedbc.ca](http://reportaweedbc.ca) to identify and report invasive plants.

### Join a stewardship group

Several stewardship groups organize invasive species removal parties in local parks.

Visit [meetup.com](http://meetup.com) and join the 'Metro Vancouver Ecological Restoration Team' or the 'Lower Mainland Green Team'.

### Learn more about invasive plants

Go to [metrovancover.org](http://metrovancover.org) and search "invasive species"

Check out [ismcv.ca](http://ismcv.ca) for more information from the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver.

Visit the City of Pitt Meadows website at [pittmeadows.ca](http://pittmeadows.ca) and search "invasives".



# Help Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants



## What is an invasive plant?

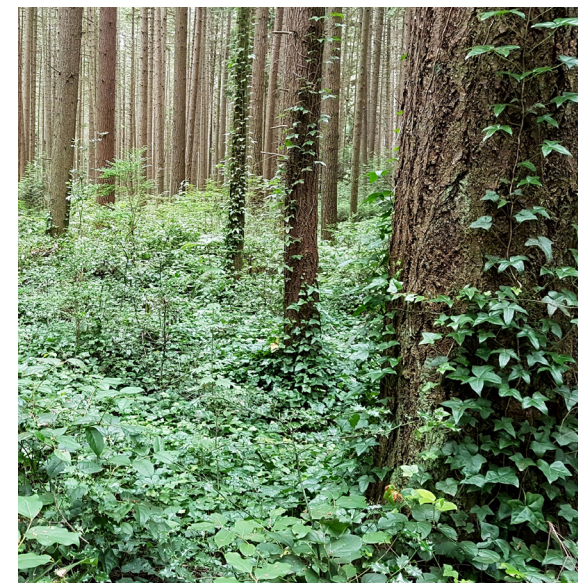
Many plants have been introduced to this region from other continents. Some of these plants are considered 'invasive' because the predators and diseases from their native regions are not here to keep them under control, so they spread rapidly and can cause many problems.

## Why are invasive plants a problem?

In some cases, invasive plants:

- damage sensitive ecosystems, alter stream flows, and increase soil erosion
- are toxic to people and animals
- are highly flammable and increase the risk of wildfires
- reduce crop yields and harm livestock
- displace traditional food or medicinal species used by Indigenous peoples
- damage buildings and pavement
- are costly to manage

In fact, municipalities in Metro Vancouver spend over \$2 million per year controlling 11 priority invasive species.



## How can you help?

### Choose garden plants wisely



Research new plants for the garden to avoid picking an invasive species. (Yes, some are still sold in garden stores.)

Check out [growgreenguide.ca](http://growgreenguide.ca) for non-invasive plant and garden design suggestions.

### Keep invasive plants under control



Keep fast-spreading invasive plants such as ivy, periwinkle and yellow archangel contained. Consider hiring a professional to control highly invasive species such as knotweeds and giant hogweed.

Be sure to replace invasive plants with a non-invasive alternative.

### Put yard waste in its place



**Do not** place invasive plants in your backyard composter as the temperature will not become hot enough to completely destroy the seeds and roots.

To reduce the spread of invasive species, please dispose of yard waste and soil appropriately.

Do not place aquarium or home pond plants in any ditches or streams. Please place them in your City green waste cart for proper disposal.

# Common Invasive Plants in Metro Vancouver

! Toxic - Don't touch!

## Garden and aquarium escapees



## Others

