



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Invasive Plant Best Practices

Tailgate Sessions:

For Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Contractors and Staff

Background: The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoT) in cooperation with the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC) has developed 6 tailgate sessions for roadside maintenance contractors and MoT field staff. Each session explains the invasive plant problem, encourages best practices for a specific maintenance activity, and identifies three locally important roadside invasive plants. Each tailgate session can stand alone, or can be delivered as a part of the series.

Sessions are intended for inclusion in a regular safety meeting or other standard staff gathering. They can be run indoors using the PowerPoint presentation or outdoors in a site displaying a target invasive plant.

The trainer should be a regional weed coordinator, MoT staff person, or contractor with a solid understanding of invasive plants.

Group size should be a maximum of 20 people, and most should be field staff. Be careful to read the crowd for comprehension when discussing biodiversity, monocultures, plant features for ID, and other technical/scientific items like plant spread. You may have to make terminology simpler to appeal to the entire group.

Time needed should be roughly 30 minutes. More time may be required to field questions, or if adding more than three key plants of concern. Keep in mind that most groups won't want a presentation to run for more than 30 minutes!

Goals: Your primary goals are to show the group the identified best practices for the management activity, and to provide incentive to change. Another goal is that the group becomes able to identify at least three key species in their operating area.

Research and Slide Modifications: You will need to do a small amount of plant research and slide modifications prior to delivering the presentation in order to tailor the presentation to your specific part of the province. Please review the powerpoint slides prior to the session to ensure you have made all the necessary additions to the presentation.

Outdoor Delivery: Select a safe site, with minimal distractions or roadside traffic. Site should exhibit a selection of invasive plants you will cover, and will also represent the maintenance activity discussed. Use the notes from the PowerPoint slides to direct the presentation. You can print copies of the slides for the audience, or use the designated flipchart posters to support the talk. Flipchart posters are available from the Invasive Plant Council of BC.

Where you would normally review “Slides 10-12: What’s Gone Wrong Here? “, ask the question with respect to an actual situation you can look at in the field. For example: someone parked his truck in a small infestation of knapweed; there is an invasive plant growing in or adjacent to a nearby ditch; one of the participants has mud caked all over the undercarriage and tires of their vehicle. Ask the group which best practices could have been or should be applied to each situation.

For “Slide 13: Plants of Concern”, try to highlight plants you can see on site. Point out the different stages of growth, if possible. Ask each person to find a specific plant that is present, and be sure to correctly dispose of any plants that are pulled.

Materials Needed: Before you deliver the presentation, collect the following resources:

1. Regionally specific carabiners (ask the RWC for enough for your group, or contact IPC).
2. Useful T.I.P.S for key plants of concern (contact IPC for enough for your group).
3. (Optional) IAPP map printout of the area (one from RWC or MoT).
4. Printed notes view of the presentation to see your speaking notes/suggestions.
5. Evaluation form for instructor.
6. PowerPoint presentation for your maintenance activity.
7. Copy of Environmental Best Practices for Highway Maintenance Activities 2010 (for your reference).
8. Operational Best Management Practices for Managing Invasive Plants during Roadside Maintenance Activities – Table 2 (optional for each participant).
9. MoT Best Practices Guide (enough for each participant).
10. IPCBC posters for key issues, best practices diagrams, key species, if hosting the session in the field.
11. Flipchart
12. Projector

Please contact IPC BC or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure if you have any questions about the presentation and to request additional training materials.