



## Invasive Plants Identification and Measures

### PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OR SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS.

Invasive plant infestations may compete with natural forest vegetation and tree seedlings for resources, lead to erosion and water siltation, increase fire hazards, and reduce landscape aesthetics. They can also severely degrade riparian zones, forage production, and habitat quality for wildlife and species at risk. Reduced sight-lines along resource roads and exposure to certain plant species can endanger worker safety. Once established, invasive plant infestations displace native vegetation, resulting in areas that are less biologically diverse, and more costly to treat. The Seaward (tlasta) BCTS 2017-22 extended to March 2024 Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) has committed to preventing the introduction and spread of **priority** invasive plants (see following pages for these plants).



**Report all Priority Invasive Plants to your Supervisor and to BCTS**

**Measures:** (Consistent with BCTS Seaward (tlasta) Forest Stewardship Plan 2017-2022 extended to March 2024, Part IV: Measures to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Plants).

#### 1. Identify and report:

- a. Ensure staff and personnel can **identify priority invasive plants**,
- b. **Report all infestations** of **priority** invasive plants to BCTS upon discovery: take a picture, document location and estimate size of infestation or number of plants.

#### 2. Mitigate conditions suitable for establishment:


- a. **Minimize ground disturbance** in areas prone to invasive plants
- b. **Map areas of exposed soil** (>0.1ha excluding road prism) so grass seeding can be undertaken (if required).

#### 3. Reduce spread of existing infestations:

- a. **Know location of existing priority invasive plants** in or near development area, follow any operational instructions, or have a plan to reduce spread.
- b. **Flag infestations** for easy identification by others to help limit spread.
- c. **Do not brush or mow priority invasive plants** during road maintenance activities, unless required for safety purposes,
- d. **Clean all ground based equipment** of soil and plant material before moving or transporting from an infested site to a new site (including same "site," different location), and
- e. **Inspect material sources** (e.g. rock pits) for infestations prior to use to ensure clean fill and rock.








# BCTS Seaward (tlasta) Priority Invasive Plants: Identification and Measures

## Identification of Priority Invasive Plants:

Species		Habitat	Identification
<p><b>Knotweeds</b> (Giant, Himalayan, Bohemian, and Japanese)</p> <p><i>**All knotweed species are treated similarly. ID of each species is not required**</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in moist to wet areas – ditches, riparian areas</li> <li>• Frequent on Vancouver Island, but less frequent on the central /mid-coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, woody, bamboo like shrub</li> <li>• Grows to 1-5m in height</li> <li>• Stems are green to reddish-brown and hollow, growing in thickets</li> <li>• Leaves vary in shape (see picture) 10cm to 40cm long</li> <li>• Flowers – small white/green grown in branch clusters along stem and leaf joints. June – Sept.</li> <li>• Seed: Aug. – Oct.</li> </ul>



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Species				Habitat	Identification
<b>Scotch Broom</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common on roadsides, cutblocks and disturbed areas</li> <li>• Throughout coastal and southern BC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evergreen shrub</li> <li>• Bright yellow pea-like flowers, sometimes with red markings</li> <li>• Flat seed pods have fine hairs on edge</li> <li>• Flowers: Feb. - July</li> <li>• Seed: April – Oct.</li> </ul>
<b>Yellow Flag Iris</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in ditches, shallow ponds, marshes and along still and slow-moving water courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial herb</li> <li>• 1m-1.5m tall</li> <li>• Leaves flattened and sword-like</li> <li>• 0.5-1m in length</li> <li>• Showy yellow flowers with three sepals</li> <li>• Flowers: June – July</li> <li>• Seeds: July – Sept.</li> </ul>
<b>Purple Loosestrife</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thrives in moist meadows, ponds and ditches</li> <li>• Frequent on S. Vancouver Island and common in the lower Fraser Valley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-3m height</li> <li>• Stiff smooth square stem</li> <li>• Purple flowers in a dense terminal spike</li> <li>• Flowers: June-Sept.</li> <li>• Seed: July – Oct.</li> <li>• <b>Note: Sometimes confused with <i>fireweed</i></b></li> </ul>

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Species			Habitat	Identification
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Giant Hogweed</b></p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers damp, rich soils.</li> <li>• Found along roadsides, ditches, riparian areas and disturbed sites.</li> <li>• <b>Warning: Leaves and stem contain highly toxic sap that can burn skin.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large upright plant, up to 5m in height.</li> <li>• Flowers are clustered and white with umbrella-shaped heads up to 80cm in diameter.</li> <li>• Leaves dark green, toothed and deeply cut into 3 large segments. Stiff hairs on underside.</li> <li>• Stems hollow, ridged, green; some with reddish-purple spots.</li> <li>• Flowers: May – July</li> <li>• Seed: June - July</li> <li>• <b>Note: Similar to the smaller native cow parsnip (&lt;2.5m).</b></li> </ul>