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What are *invasive plants*?

Invasive plants are non-native plants that have been introduced to British Columbia where we lack the insect predators and plant pathogens that help keep them in check in their native habitats.

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Why should I care?

These plants out-compete native vegetation and spread quickly if left untreated. They destroy food sources and take over important habitats for native plants and animals. Some are even hazardous to human health.

The District's *Invasive Plants Strategy* was approved in June 2014, providing a five-year strategy to manage and control invasive plants in West Vancouver. Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed are priority invasive plants in the District.

Please take a minute to familiarize yourself with these plants.

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Ways you can help

It will take all of our efforts to control the spread of invasive plants in the District. Here are some ways that you can help in your day-to-day life:

Don't dump garden waste. Dispose of all your garden waste and hanging baskets—including soil, dead plants and clippings—either into your compost or yard trimmings collection (except for knotweed and hogweed, which require special attention and care).

Keep your plants under control and choose them wisely. If you have fast-spreading invasives like ivy or lamium, please keep them cut back and contained. Better yet, don't plant them in the first place. Instead, choose native plants.

Help us control the spread. For removal of knotweed and hogweed, it is strongly recommended that you hire a professional.

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For more information

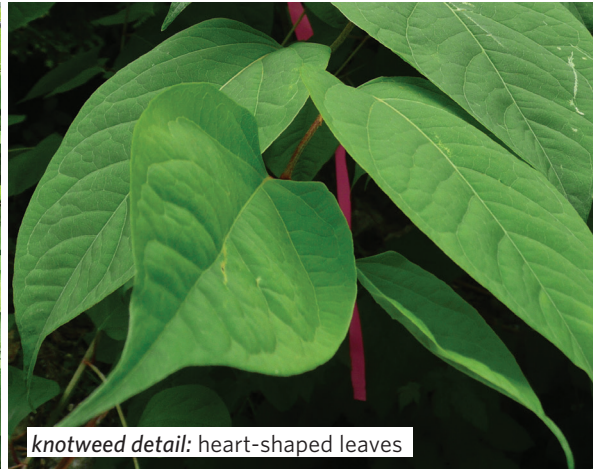
To find out more about invasive plants in Metro Vancouver, visit the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver website at iscmv.ca or visit our website at westvancouver.ca/invasiveplants.

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Invasive Plants

in West Vancouver





Knotweed Species

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Knotweed is a bamboo-like plant with heart-shaped leaves and long, hollow stems. It easily reaches heights of 1-5 metres and grows showy plumes of small green-white flowers. It can grow just about anywhere, roots easily and spreads quickly and aggressively.

THE RISKS: This aggressive invasive crowds out native vegetation, dominates stream beds, increases soil erosion, degrades habitat, and because of its extensive root system, it can sprout new plants well away from the original plant. It can grow through asphalt and get into foundations where it becomes difficult to access and treat.

WHAT TO DO: *Do not remove manually.*

Manual removal is ineffective and may cause further spreading. Knotweed should be treated by a professional using pesticide application. Contact a professional with a current BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate who can submit a pesticide ban exemption form to the District. The process is simple and free; obtain a pesticide ban exemption form by contacting the Parks Department at either 604-925-7275 (PARK) or parks@westvancouver.ca.

DISPOSAL: It is okay to put dead knotweed stems in your curb-side green waste pickup. **Do not compost knotweed** at home because it will sprout new plants that will be very difficult to eradicate.

Giant Hogweed

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: This invasive can reach heights of five metres or more. Its large bracts of white flowers bloom in summer. Giant Hogweed leaves are very large and have coarse, jagged edges. The hollow stalks have purple blotches with streaks or spots and stiff hairs. Hogweed is typically found on riverbanks and along roadways but is opportunistic and will grow where it can.

THE RISKS: Giant Hogweed outcompetes other plants and reduces habitat for wildlife. It produces up to 100,000 seeds per plant and spreads rapidly.

RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH: *If sap comes in contact with skin, it can cause extreme dermatitis in the presence of sunlight that can lead to scarring, rashes and blistering. The sap can also cause temporary or permanent blindness if it gets into the eyes.*

WHAT TO DO: Giant Hogweed should only be removed by a professional due to its toxicity. If you remove it yourself, do so when it's young, before it

flowers. Ensure you wear goggles, gloves and protective clothing. Cut the root crown 3-4 inches below the soil surface.

DISPOSAL: Double-bag it and place it in the garbage. **Never compost Hogweed and do not place in your green waste; this plant is dangerous to humans. It should go in the garbage only.** Once it flowers, you should contact a professional to avoid spreading the seeds.

Other invasive plants

IVY: Ivy is a climber that chokes out other plants, takes over large areas and smothers natural ecosystems. Not surprisingly, ivy can be difficult to control.

LAMIUM: Common in hanging baskets, lamium acts like ivy and smothers native plants. It is extremely persistent and is often introduced by dumping the contents of hanging baskets or other garden waste into the environment.

SCOTCH BROOM: This flowering shrub and prolific seed producer grows year-round and can release substances into the soil that prevent establishment of native plants. It also reduces wildlife habitat.