

An ***invasive plant*** is any non-native plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems. Invasive plants have the capacity to establish quickly and easily, especially on disturbed sites, and can cause widespread negative economic, social, and environmental impacts.

**If plants appear to be growing out-of-control on sites that have had soil disturbance, chances are they are invasive species.** Use a field guide or send a photo or specimen to a provincial invasive plant specialist or your regional invasive plant/species committee for identification.

Forestry activities affect invasive plant establishment in two major ways:

- As a **vector** - Seeds and plant parts hitchhike in caked-on mud or get carried in to new places on boots and clothing, equipment, vehicles, and road-building materials.
- As a source of **soil disturbance** – Exposed soil is an invitation to the establishment of invasive plants.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

There are eight practices that can be utilized in various forest activities and that can have considerable impact on the spread and establishment of invasive plants.

1. ***Incorporate known invasive plant sites into development plans and report new sites as they are discovered.***  
Early in the development planning process, consult the map display module of the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) online database for known invasive plant sites ([www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/application.htm](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/application.htm)). Inspect work sites and report the size and location of new infestations. Plan activities so they won't create new or spread existing infestations (see other Best Practices).
2. ***Avoid infested sites for staging, parking, and log sorting, both in the bush and storage yards.***  
Roadsides, landings and storage yards are frequently already infested with invasive plants. Vehicles, equipment, and logs can pick up plant parts and seeds, especially in muddy conditions, and carry them to new locations.
3. ***Work in un-infested sites before moving to infested sites.***  
Work sites can be widely infested by invasive plants, partially infested, or invasive plant-free. As vehicles, equipment, and clothing are

vectors for seeds and plant parts, schedule work activities to begin in the most pristine sites first and end in the most infested sites last.

4. ***Clean equipment before moving to a new work site or region.***

Remove seeds and plant parts within existing infestations or designated wash sites to prevent spread to new sites. Avoid moving unclean equipment to a new work location. Carefully bag and dispose of seeds or plant parts picked from your clothes, boots, or equipment.

***Cleaning With Water:*** Pressure washing all mud from vehicles and equipment is best. Prevent run-off from contaminating waterways and riparian areas. Wash within existing infestations or use designated wash sites to concentrate run-off. Alternatively, temporary sumps can be used and then buried when decommissioned.

***Cleaning Without Water:*** Before departing infested sites, visually inspect vehicles and equipment and remove any lodged plant parts found. Knock off mud with a shovel, broom or use your boots (then knock out the boot treads).

Equipment relocated from other regions may be importing new problem plants to your area. Request that such equipment be cleaned before transport.

5. ***Inspect and ensure fill and erosion-control materials are free of invasive plants before transport and use.***

Use only clean fill material from an “invasive plant free” source. Regularly inspect material sources (e.g. gravel pits) for invasive plants and record and report any infestations. Use “Certified Weed Free” straw or hay for erosion-control. Such bales will be labelled and/or have colour-coded twine.

6. ***Minimize soil disturbance and maintain native vegetation.***

Minimize unnecessary soil disturbance. Every cut made by bladed equipment into previously undisturbed soil and vegetation increases the likelihood of infestation by invasive plants. A cover of native vegetation is the best defence against problem plants.

7. ***Re-vegetate disturbed sites as soon as possible.***

Road and bridge construction/deactivation sites, landings, and bladed trails are most likely to host new or expanding infestations if not re-vegetated quickly. Increase the shade levels or fill in growing space with non-invasive ground-cover and/or overstory plants.

To quickly achieve planned closed canopy tree cover on cut blocks: minimize planting delay, plant trees in high density, use large or fast-

growing stock, or fertilize at time of planting.

Establish ground-cover promptly by seeding with mixtures that are free of weeds, locally adapted, non-invasive, and quick to establish (e.g. native species or non-native but non-invasive grass mixtures such as Common No.1 Forage Mixture or better).

Request a “Certificate of Seed Analysis” and reject seed lots containing invasive species listed under the WCA Regulation or FRPA Invasive Plants Regulation (see “For More Information” on p. 65). Sow seed in the early spring or late fall for best germination results. Monitor to ensure successful establishment and re-seed as necessary.

**8. Promptly control infestations resulting from forestry activities.**

Remove invasive plants prior to seed set to prevent build-up of seed banks that will take years to control. Prioritize treatment of roadsides and landings to reduce inadvertent movement of seeds and plant parts by vehicles and equipment. Monitor to ensure control efforts are successful and re-treat if necessary. Contact the provincial Invasive Plant Specialist in your area (see below) to determine the best treatment approach.

### Reporting Invasive Plants

It is critical to report new infestations! Fast treatment of new infestations is key to stopping the spread of invasive plants. Unusual plants that appear to be taking over or growing out of control should be reported to:

- Central and West Kootenay – Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) Phone 250-352-1160
- Website: [www.ckipc.ca](http://www.ckipc.ca) E-mail: [info@ckipc.ca](mailto:info@ckipc.ca)
- Alternate contact ISCBC 1-888-933-3722

**Please report the following information:**

1. Species (include a photo whenever possible)
2. Size and density of infestation
3. UTM coordinates or directions to site
4. Reporter’s contact information

*(Thank you to Invasive Species Council of BC “Best Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants During Forest Management Activities – A Pocket Guide for British Columbia’s Forest Workers” 2013 Edition.)*