

HOMESOWNER'S GUIDE

to invasive plants in wetland ecosystems

Wetlands are lands saturated with or covered by shallow water for part or all of the year. They vary from large complexes connected by creeks to small, seasonally flooded wetlands that dry out in the summer and fall. Wetlands act like natural sponges, absorbing water to prevent floods and slowly releasing water during drought. Plant species adapted to wetlands include cattail, bulrush and a variety of sedges and rushes. These unique plants purify the water by removing pollution and sediment. Wetlands support a diversity of insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals. Rare species include Blotched Tiger Salamander, Great Basin Spadefoot, Western Painted Turtle and a variety of snakes, dragonflies and bats. Unfortunately, over 85% of the Okanagan's low elevation wetlands have been lost due to residential and commercial development, conversion to agriculture and invasive species.

One of the primary impacts to wetland ecosystems is invasive plants.

Invasive plants are not indigenous to Canada and lack the natural enemies that keep them in check in their native habitats. They are competitive, spread quickly, and can be difficult to control.

How do I control invasive plants?

- Identify the species on your property and understand their biology and life cycles.
- Map the outbreak and areas of disturbed soil that are prone to invasion.
- Consider vectors of spread that may be moving invasive plants around your property.
- Develop a plan that considers a variety of strategies including manual control, chemical treatment, biological control and seeding (or planting). Using a single management practice will not result in effective control.
- Implement your plan and monitor the results
- Contact OASISS or another specialist if you need advice.
- Be patient and diligent - it may take repeat treatments to effectively control the plants.

Common Invasive Plants



Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria



Yellow Flag Iris
Iris pseudacorus



Teasel
Dipsacus fullonum



Canadian Thistle
Cirsium arvense

For a more extensive list of invasive plants in the Okanagan-Similkameen, check out: www.oasiss.ca



How you can help prevent the spread.

Learn to identify invasive plants

- Download our [Guide to Identifying Invasive Plants and Weeds](#)
- Visit www.oasiss.ca and browse through the species profiles



Be invasive-wise

- Minimize soil disturbance
 - Retain natural vegetation as much as possible
 - Seed or re-plant disturbed areas with native plants or non-invasive drought-tolerant species
- Use mulch, gravel or fill that are not contaminated with invasive plants
- Properly dispose of invasive plants
 - Do not put them in compost or yard waste
 - Take to the landfill and inform attendant you have invasive plants
- Avoid wildflower and bird seed mixes
 - These often contain seeds of invasive plants
- Educate your neighbours
- Host an invasive plant removal event in your community

Don't plant invasive species

- Download our [Plantwise Guide](#)
- Be suspicious of plants promoted as "fast spreaders" or "vigorous self-seeders" as these are often invasive plants.



GET ADVICE

For more information about invasive species contact:

www.oasiss.ca



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 Okanagan and Similkameen
 Invasive Species Society

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