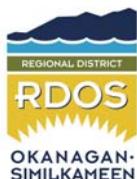


# GARDEN FUGITIVES

*You Can Help Stop the Spread of Aggressive Ornamentals*



**Yellow Iris**  
(*Iris pseudacorus*)



Produced by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

## IMPACT

Invasive plants are highly destructive and difficult to control. They aggressively out-compete and displace desirable vegetation, including both native and garden species. Once established, invasive plants will often persist for many years, disrupting natural habitats and costing landowners time and money to control. Invasive plants:

- **Decrease biodiversity**
- **Destroy wildlife habitat and crowd out native plants, including rare and endangered species**
- **Reduce crop yields and quality**
- **Create fire and traffic hazards**
- **Lower property values**
- **Hinder the aesthetic appeal of the landscape**
- **Reduce soil stability and water quality**
- **Puncture, poke and scratch due to spines, burs and prickles**

**Purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*) invades and destroys wetland. Since it arrived from Europe over a century ago, the weed has infested wetlands across North America.



Avoid creating the environmental disaster above by planting non-invasive alternatives to purple loosestrife, including: Blazing Star (*Liatrix spicata*), Russian Sage (*Perovskia*) or Fireweed (*Epilobium spp.*). Note: these species prefer dry to moderate soils; they will not tolerate frequent flooding.

## What Can You Do?

- Assess the potential invasiveness of plants prior to planting
- Check the origin and distribution of the plant outside of its native range
- Do not purchase legislated noxious weed seeds or plants
- Remove plants that are creeping or reseeding outside of their intended area
- Do not allow invasive plants to produce and disperse seeds
- Substitute invasive plants for less aggressive species - preferably native plants
- Do not compost weeds – dispose of mature plants at your local landfill for burial

To learn more about invasive plants in the Okanagan-Similkameen contact the Regional District office at (250) 492-0063 or toll free at 1-877-610-3737 or link to the following websites:

[www.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.bc.ca)

[www.weedsbc.ca](http://www.weedsbc.ca)

[www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca](http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca)

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# HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Ornamental plants escaping from the garden can have a devastating impact on our natural habitats and the plants and animals they support. There are dozens of aggressive, non-native species currently infesting areas of the Okanagan-Similkameen. Many of these, including **Yellow Iris** (cover) – a very showy iris that is rapidly spreading in the region – were first introduced to the region due to their ornamental appeal. You can prevent further establishment of yellow iris by planting non-invasive iris species (*Iris ensata*, *laevigata*, *versicolor*, *robusta*) or native cattail (*Typha latifolia*). This page provides a few examples of other aggressive ornamental species currently infesting areas of the Okanagan-Similkameen. Check out the non-invasive alternatives featured below each species; species native to the Southern Interior are underlined.



**Sea Buckthorn**  
(*Hippophae rhamnoides*)



- Western Mountain Ash (*Sorbus scopulina*)
- Hawthorn (*Crateagus spp.*)
- Red Elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)



**Baby's Breath**  
(*Gypsophila paniculata*)



- German Statice (*Limonium tartaticum*)
- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)



**Common Tansy**  
(*Tanacetum vulgare*)



- Canada Golden Rod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Golden aster (*Heterotheca villosa*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



**Tamarisk**  
(*Tamarix spp.*)



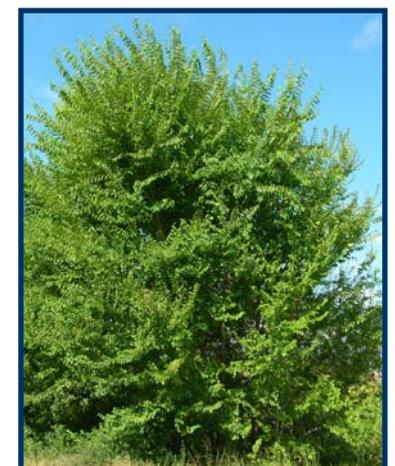
- Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)
- Apache Plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*)



**Russian Olive**  
(*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)



- Wolf Willow (*Elaeagnus commutate*)
- Weeping Pear (*Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula')



**Siberian Elm**  
(*Ulmus pumila*)



- Rock Elm (*Ulmus thomasii*)
- Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)