

HOMEOWNERS GUIDE

to invasive plants in Antelope-brush grassland

One of the most critically endangered plant communities in Canada is the Antelope-brush grassland. It is found mainly on the east side of the Okanagan Valley, from Osoyoos to Skaha Lake. This habitat is characterized by the large, often gnarled looking antelope-brush shrub which is covered in thousands of fragrant yellow flowers in the spring. Perennial bunchgrasses, a variety of wildflowers and well spaced ponderosa pine trees grow in this habitat. Rare species including Behr's Hairstreak butterfly, Tiger Salamander, Great Basin Spadefoot, Lark Sparrow and a variety of snakes, call this plant community home.

One of the primary impacts to the antelope-brush plant community 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



Puncturevine
Tribulus terrestris



Longspine sandbur
Cenchrus longispinus



Dalmatian toadflax
Linaria dalmatica



Baby's breath
Gypsophila paniculata

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

How you can help prevent the spread.

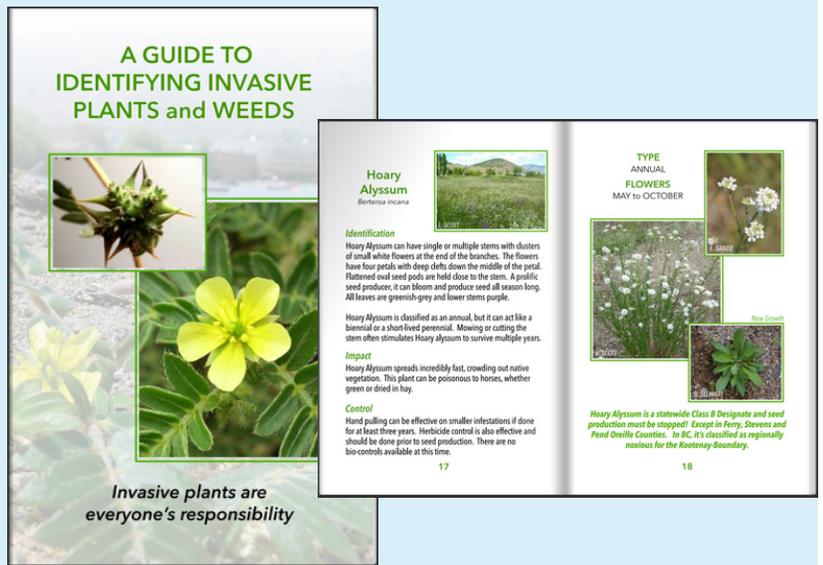
Be invasive-wise

- 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

GET ADVICE

For more information about invasive species contact:

www.oasiss.ca

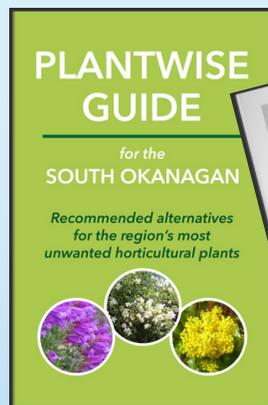


Learn to identify invasive plants

- Visit oasiss.ca/homeowners and download our *Guide to Identifying Invasive Plants and Weeds*
- Visit www.oasiss.ca and browse through the species profiles

Don't plant invasive species

- Download our *Plantwise Guide* www.oasiss.ca/homeowners
- Be suspicious of plants promoted as “fast spreaders” or “vigorous self-seeders” as these are often invasive plants.



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