

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

WHY CONTROL WEEDS?

- Invasive species, including plants and other organisms, are the second most significant cause of extinction worldwide, after habitat loss.
- Controlling invasive plants is essential to maintaining a healthy, flourishing ecosystem.
- Invasive plants can move into an ecosystem and begin to dominate and outcompete the native plants in the ecosystem.
- Domination of weeds results in reduced quality of habitat for wildlife, reduced economic value of crops, and can even cause health issues such as allergies.
- We also have a legal obligation to control invasive plants under the Alberta Weed Act.



WHAT IS A WEED?

Invasive plants are species that are introduced to places outside their natural range, where they establish and disperse and have a negative impact on ecosystems and local biodiversity.



METHODS

You may be wondering how we manage invasive plants. This depends on the type of invasive species we are trying to control. See specifics for different weeds on the following pages.

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IDENTIFICATION



Canada Thistle

How to Identify: prickly leaves, 30-150 cm tall flowers twice, in both early spring and late summer/fall

How to Control: Cut at the base; do not pick. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.



Common Tansy

How to Identify: yellow button-like flowers in clusters, many stems per plant, grows up to 150 cm tall, flowers July-Sept

How to Control: Pull out roots if possible, or cut. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.



White Cockle

How to Identify: White hairy flower on a pinkish bulb, hairy leaves and stem, 20-80cm tall, flowers May-Sept

How to Control: Pull or cut. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF WEED CONTROL

The Alberta Weed Control Act requires landowners to take responsibility for their own land, by monitoring and controlling the invasive species found there

Invasive weeds are a common problem at EALT's lands, often due to previous disturbance. They are the most costly, time-consuming management issue.

We rely heavily on volunteers to manually remove invasive weeds, to keep our costs down, and to manage weeds in the most environmentally friendly way possible.



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Leafy Spurge

How to Identify: heart-shaped, yellowish-green flowers in small clusters, 40-90 cm tall, flowers May-June

How to Control: Pull, including entire root if possible. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.



Yellow Toadflax

How to Identify: Bright yellow flowers in spikes, alternately arranged; plant grows 1-3 feet tall, flowers June-Sept

How to Control: Pull or cut. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.



Oxeye Daisy

How to Identify: White rays, yellow center unpleasant odor, single flower on stem, 20-70 cm tall, flowers May-Sept

How to Control: Pull, including entire root if possible. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.

IMPORTANT NOTES

If you are unsure of the plant species, do not remove it. Only remove an invasive plant if you can positively identify it.

Before removing invasive plants from an area, walk around the plants and look for any ground nesting birds. Do not disturb an active nest.



PREVENT SPREAD

After removing invasive plants, be sure to clean your clothes and shoes to prevent the spread of these invasive species.

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Purple Loosestrife

How to Identify: purple flowers growing along four-sided stems, can grow up to 200 cm tall, flowers June-Aug

How to Control: Dig up entire root and plant. Dispose of entire plant in garbage bag.



Orange Hawkweed

How to Identify: Orange, ray flower, clusters of 5-30 flowers, stem contains milky juice; 30-90cm tall, flowers June-Oct

How to Control: Dig up entire root and plant. Dispose of entire plant in garbage bag.



Tall Buttercup

How to Identify: Yellow flower with greenish center, 5 notched petals, up to 100 cm tall, flowers in mid-May

How to Control: Pull or cut. Dispose of flower in garbage bag. If not flowering, discard plant on the ground to decompose.

WHAT ABOUT DANDELIONS?

There are so many dandelions found in the capital region, so why aren't dandelions on our list of weeds to control?

Dandelions are not required to be controlled under the Alberta Weed Control Act, so we do not have an obligation to control these on our lands.

Also, dandelions are a really good early food source for pollinators! Dandelions bloom before many other plants, so they are important for pollinator survival in spring.

