Stop the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species

**Prevention**

When purchasing pets, know what species are permitted in the province. Understand the long-term commitment you are making. If you have an unwanted pet, be sure to find a new home, rather than releasing it into the wild.

To reduce the potential for the introduction of invasive plants and plant pests, gardeners can choose local materials including, compost, topsoil, native and locally grown plants.

Gardens can prevent the escape of aggressive native garden pests by ensuring all propagules, including seeds, are completely destroyed when being removed from the garden.

When purchasing plants, biological controls and pollinators contact the Wildlife Division as a permit is required to bring many of these agents into the province.

**Detection**

Help detect the presence of invasive alien species by:

- **Examining materials you choose:** Fruits and vegetables have been known to contain exotic insects, amphibians, and reptiles.
  - Check plant purchases for weeds or bugs.
  - Check wooden crates and other packaging for hitchhiking invertebrates; their contents or eggs.

- Prudently dispose of any hitchhikers to ensure they are not released into the natural ecosystem. Notify wildlife officials when disposal is difficult or you suspect the organism is dangerous.

- Participate in volunteer monitoring programs which can assist in the discovery of new exotics.

**Invasive Alien Species**

Harmful exotic species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, economy, and/or society, including human health.

- **Exotic Species:** Plants, animals and microorganisms existing in habitats beyond their natural distribution. Their introduction is usually caused by humans or human activities but may not become invasive. Also known as non-native, alien and non-indigenous species.

- Become familiar with local species so that you can recognize exotics. If interested, the provincial General Status Program can provide complete lists of exotic species for some taxonomic groups.

- Learn the law: Current provincial legislation prohibits the importation of most animals, without prior consultation with the Wildlife Division. The release of any animal into natural ecosystems is prohibited.

Prior to applying for an import permit, learn as much as you can about the organism. Consider what impacts it may have on the ecosystems of this province.

For information on legislation, permits and the programs mentioned above please contact the Wildlife Division (709) 637 2026.

---

The zebra mussel was first shellfish populations, clogging pipes, causing recreational and commercial activities. As a result, some taxonomic groups are linked to common milkweed ingestion. (Photo by Matt)(Photo by Matt)(Photo by Matt)(Photo by Matt)

Stop the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species

**Prevention**

When purchasing pets, know what species are permitted in the province. Understand the long-term commitment you are making. If you have an unwanted pet, be sure to find a new home, rather than releasing it into the wild.

To reduce the potential for the introduction of invasive plants and plant pests, gardeners can choose local materials including, compost, topsoil, native and locally grown plants.

Gardens can prevent the escape of aggressive native garden pests by ensuring all propagules, including seeds, are completely destroyed when being removed from the garden.

When purchasing plants, biological controls and pollinators contact the Wildlife Division as a permit is required to bring many of these agents into the province.

**Detection**

Help detect the presence of invasive alien species by:

- **Examining materials you choose:** Fruits and vegetables have been known to contain exotic insects, amphibians, and reptiles.
  - Check plant purchases for weeds or bugs.
  - Check wooden crates and other packaging for hitchhiking invertebrates; their contents or eggs.

- Prudently dispose of any hitchhikers to ensure they are not released into the natural ecosystem. Notify wildlife officials when disposal is difficult or you suspect the organism is dangerous.

- Participate in volunteer monitoring programs which can assist in the discovery of new exotics.

**Invasive Alien Species**

Harmful exotic species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, economy, and/or society, including human health.

- **Exotic Species:** Plants, animals and microorganisms existing in habitats beyond their natural distribution. Their introduction is usually caused by humans or human activities but may not become invasive. Also known as non-native, alien and non-indigenous species.

- Become familiar with local species so that you can recognize exotics. If interested, the provincial General Status Program can provide complete lists of exotic species for some taxonomic groups.

- Learn the law: Current provincial legislation prohibits the importation of most animals, without prior consultation with the Wildlife Division. The release of any animal into natural ecosystems is prohibited.

Prior to applying for an import permit, learn as much as you can about the organism. Consider what impacts it may have on the ecosystems of this province.

For information on legislation, permits and the programs mentioned above please contact the Wildlife Division (709) 637 2026.