



INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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Q: WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS AND WHY SHOULD WE MANAGE THEM?

A: A plant is defined as being invasive when it moves beyond its native geographic range, establishes where it did not previously occur and dominates new habitats in a negative way.

While they vary in degree of harm, invasive plants cause damage to the environment, economy and society.

Q: DO INVASIVE PLANTS IMPACT BIODIVERSITY?

A: The variety of lifeforms on earth, which is known as biodiversity, provides humanity with many biological and ecosystem services that enable us to live sustainably. When local biodiversity is stable, we are better able to endure the impacts of disasters such as fire and flood. By managing invasive plants, we help to reduce one of the largest threats to biodiversity.

Q: IS MOWING A GOOD METHOD TO CONTROL INVASIVE PLANTS?

A: The answer is, yes and no. Mowing does suppress invasive plants which propagate by seed production, especially if the mowing takes place prior to "seed set" on the target species.

Most of our invasive plants spread fully or partially by rhizomes, however, and many species can be spread by mower blades and equipment.

Q: WHY ARE HERBICIDES SOMETIMES USED TO MANAGE INVASIVE PLANTS?

A: Although there are many different strategies to manage invasive plants, sometimes the use of herbicides is the best option given the location, infestation size and the invasive plant of concern.

While impacts to other species, time savings and cost are all important, it is key for a licensed pesticide applicator to choose the most effective herbicide product that is approved by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. By following the product label instructions, risks are mitigated and herbicide performance on the targeted plant is optimized.

Q: WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE INVASIVE SPECIES ALONE?

A: Left unchecked, invasive plants and other invasive species pose threats to sustainability and biosecurity by impacting our economy, the environment and human health. By preparing for and responding to invasions, we see great benefits to reductions in invasions.

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