

What Can You Do?

- CONTAIN CREEPING / RUNNING PLANTS. Grow plants such as vines, bamboo and grasses in **containers, and check that roots or 'runners' are not escaping through container drainage holes.**

- SHOP AT REPUTABLE NURSERIES. For more information, contact the B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association.
<http://www.bclna.com/>

- GROW ALTERNATIVE / NATIVE PLANTS. For more information, contact the Native Plant Society of B.C.
<http://www.npsbc.org/>
or a reputable local nursery.



Native species are beautiful and easy to care for. Here are a few examples of some native flowering plants. Clockwise from top left: Lupine, Pacific Columbine, Pacific Bleeding Heart, Pacific Dogwood, Beach Pea, Tigerlily, and Nootka Rose.

What Not to Do:

- DO NOT PURCHASE LEGISLATED NOXIOUS WEED SPECIES.

For a list of noxious weeds in B.C. visit:
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/invasiveplant.htm>,
www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca, or
eflora.bc.ca.

See reverse for some of the most common weeds in your area.

- DO NOT LET INVASIVE PLANTS GO TO SEED. Mow or remove them before seeds develop.

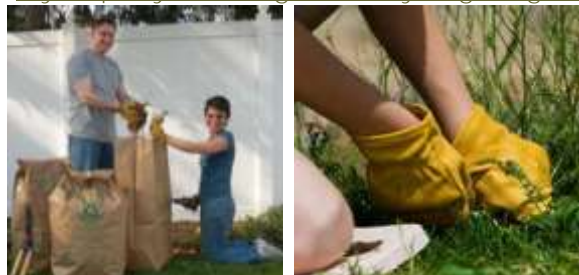
- DO NOT GROW AGGRESSIVE PLANTS IF THEY ARE NOT NATIVE SPECIES. These plants are the most likely to become a problem in the future.

- DO NOT DUMP YARD WASTE INTO NATURAL AREAS.

Use municipal yard waste facilities or properly compost waste at home. Do not compost weeds with seeds.

For more information, contact the Campbell River Compost Education Centre at (250)287-9234. or visit

<http://www.campbellriver.ca/Residents/MyProperty/GarbageandRecycling/Pages/>



greenways@greenwaystrust.ca
www.greenwaystrust.ca 250-287-3785



Yard Waste and Natural Areas

Still think it's okay to dump garden waste into natural areas?

Yard waste in the Wild:

- can smother and kill native plants.
 - is a fire hazard
 - attracts rodents
- contains plants and plant parts that are not native to local areas
- can sprout easily in the wild and destroy natural ecosystems
 - carries plant diseases



Residential plant waste is **NOT** harmless in the wild.

Top Reasons not to Dump:

1 Yard waste is a Fire Hazard. Discarded plant parts will dry out and provide the perfect place for a spark or tossed cigarette butt to ignite.

2 Yard waste attracts rodents and pests that may make their way into your yard or house.

3 Dumping yard waste into natural areas is punishable by law. If you witness someone illegally dumping, please Observe, Record and Report (ORR). Do not approach or photograph the violator. Write down descriptive information. Then RAPP!

**REPORT ALL
POACHERS AND
POLLUTERS:**
www.rapp.bc.ca
In case of
emergency, call
1-877-952-RAPP
(7277) From a cell,
call *7277
If not an emergency,
call (250)286-7630.

4 Dumping yard waste allows invasive (non-native) plants to gain a foothold in our natural spaces. Himalayan Blackberry and Scotch Broom are two well known invasive plants, but new species also pose a threat. These plants have far reaching negative impacts. Please read more about the dangers of invasive plants on the following pages.

5 Dumping yard waste makes our public areas unsightly. Who wants to go for a relaxing stroll in the woods, only to find a heap of dried out weeds?

6 Yard waste is not compost! Adding uncomposted plant material to soil causes nitrogen deficiency. As a result, plants become yellow and unhealthy, making them more prone to disease infection. This waste often contains plant diseases that then infect native plant species. Yard waste also smothers new seedlings and prevents native seeds from germinating.

Recognize Us?



Many invasive plants started as ornamental garden flowers and 'escaped' into surrounding areas. Some common examples on Vancouver Island include (clockwise from top) white morning glory, periwinkle, yellow iris, and lamium. More species have the potential to escape, so prevention is very important.



*Left:
English Ivy
smothers a
natural forest,
killing native
plants and
trees.*

*Right:
Himalayan
Blackberry
and Scotch
Broom easily
take over
disturbed
areas. Once
established,
invasives are
extremely
problematic.*



The Effects of Invasive Plants:

Invasive plants move into an area and, without natural predators, reproduce faster than native species.

Invasive Plants:

- crowd out native plants, including endangered species
- destroy wildlife habitat
- reduce crop yields (on average 10 to 15 %)
- reduce crop quality (taint food products with off flavours, toxic berries, spines, etc.)
- harbour insects and diseases that attack nearby crops and beneficial plants
- lower property value
- **reduce people's ability to enjoy nature**
- cause health problems such as allergies and asthma
- negatively impact tourism and the uniqueness of an area
- reduce soil stability and water quality
- poisonous weeds are a danger to humans, livestock, and wildlife

If you notice a plant species in your area **that looks 'new' and out of place**, report it! Report a Weed <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/>

