

## **BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR GARDEN CENTERS RECEIVING INSECT AND PLANT SAMPLES FROM THE PUBLIC**

Knowledgeable staff at garden centers are an important resource to the public for identification of plants and plant problems. To prevent the public from introducing and spreading plant pests (insects, mites, fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes and weeds) to garden centers, consider the following:

### **ALL STAFF MUST BE INFORMED OF THE GARDEN CENTER'S POLICY REGARDING RECEIVING PUBLIC SAMPLES**

#### **If the garden center does not want the public to bring in specimens for identification of insect and plant problems:**

- Place signage at the entrance of the facility to inform customers of this policy.
- Explain that for biosecurity reasons, the garden center does not allow the public to bring plants into the facility.

#### **If the garden center is willing to assist the public in identification of plant problems:**

- The specimens must be contained in a plastic bag that is free of holes to prevent any pests from being released into the facility.
- Place signage at the entrance to the facility to inform customers that any specimens must be contained.
- Have plastic bags available for those customers that do not bring their samples contained.
- Receive specimens in areas that are located away from live saleable plants, preferably close to the entrance of the facility where the area can easily be cleaned after the sample is examined.
- Ensure the public does not track, or otherwise bring soil into the garden centre.
- The examination area should be supplied with sanitation supplies for cleaning the table top and any tools used to examine the specimen.
- After examining the specimens, collect the debris, seal it in the sample bag, and clean the examination area.
- **WASH YOUR HANDS AFTER EXAMINING SPECIMENS AND BEFORE RESUMING ANY WORK IN THE GARDEN CENTER.**
- Provide customers with the BCMAL factsheet '**BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR THE PUBLIC BRINGING INSECT AND PLANT SAMPLES TO GARDEN CENTERS.**'



**Food Safety and Quality Branch  
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**

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## **How to Submit a Suspected Invasive Alien Species (Exotic/Non-native Pest) Sample to the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory.**

Samples should be accompanied by PDL-FORM.110. Suspect Invasive Alien Species Form. The submitter's signature is required. This form is currently available at the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands office in Abbotsford or at the website listed below.

Plant Diagnostic Laboratory  
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land,  
Abbotsford Agriculture Centre  
1767 Angus Campbell Road  
Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3  
Tel: 604-556-3001 or 1-888-221-7141  
Fax: 604-556-3154  
[www.al.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/lab.htm](http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/lab.htm)

Please contact the Plant Diagnostic Lab for further information on submitting a sample.

For information on the Invasive Alien Species that are of a concern to BC, please visit the following websites:

Invasive Species	<a href="http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/nonnativepests.htm">www.al.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/nonnativepests.htm</a>
Invasive Alien Species in Canada	<a href="http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=220">www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=220</a>
Canada Food Inspection Agency	<a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca">www.inspection.gc.ca</a>
Invasive Plants (Weeds)	<a href="http://www.weedsbc.ca">www.weedsbc.ca</a>
Infobasket	<a href="http://www.infobasket.gov.bc.ca">www.infobasket.gov.bc.ca</a>