

## BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR THE PUBLIC BRINGING INSECT AND PLANT SAMPLES TO GARDEN CENTERS

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

### Before the visit:

- Call the garden center to see if they will look at the specimen. Some garden centers do not want specimens brought to them.
- Enclose the entire specimen (whole plant, flowers, leaves, stalk and roots) in a clear plastic bag. The plants should be alive with symptoms of the problem. Insects should be killed by freezing and placing them in a container. Double bagging should be considered when the sample has edges that can tear the bag. Bagging protects against the inadvertent release of pests and diseases at the garden center.
- Change from gardening attire to street attire to avoid bringing any soil, or plant pests from your garden to the garden center on your clothes. Wash your hands and **change your shoes**.
- Bring the specimen to the garden center as soon as possible after collection. Keep it out of direct sunlight and do not leave it in a hot vehicle.
- Park your vehicle in designated parking areas
- Take the wrapped specimen directly to the receiving area of the garden center.
- Samples that are suspected exotic/non-native pests (Invasive Alien Species) should be submitted to the Plant Diagnostic Lab (no fee). Please see back of this form for instructions.

Watch for announcements of Plant Clinics that are held in local garden centers throughout the province by Master Gardeners.



Food Safety and Quality Branch  
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
May 2006

## **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 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>