

IAP Reference Guide - Part I

Module 1.2: Understanding the IAP Program & Legislative Requirements

In this module, you will learn about:

- The IAP Program & its intent;
- Provincial legislative requirements; and,
- Federal legislative requirements.

Program Overview & Intent

What are Invasive alien plants?

Invasive alien plants are non-native plants that have found their way into British Columbia. They are both an ecological and economic problem for our province. Without the insect predators or plant pathogens that naturally control them in their native habitats, they can quickly spread out of control. In Europe, many of these plants evolved in an ecosystem filled with disturbance while our native plants evolved with minimal disturbance. These non-native plants may have an advantage over our native plants on disturbed sites. Often, they exhibit aggressive growth and out-compete crops and native plant species, adversely affecting economic and natural resources. The resulting invasion can reduce recreational and crop values, displace native vegetation (and therefore forage for wildlife and livestock), reduce biodiversity, and damage native ecosystems. Invasive plants are often referred to as “weeds” and are introduced and spread mainly by humans, as well as by wind, water, livestock, and wildlife.

Invasive plants do not constitute a separate biological category, however, they do have varying characteristics that permit them to rapidly invade new areas and out-compete native plants for light, water, and nutrients. Some of these characteristics include:

- Early maturation;
- Profuse reproduction by seeds and/or vegetative structures;
- Seed dormancy ensures periodic germination and prevents seedlings from sprouting during unfavorable conditions;
- Adaptations for spread with crop seeds, by natural agents, and by humans;
- Prickles, spines, or thorns that can cause physical injury and repel animals;
- The ability to parasitize other plants;
- Seeds that are the same size and shape as crop seeds, which makes cleaning difficult;
- Root or rhizomes with large food reserves;
- Survival and seed production under adverse environmental conditions; and,
- High photosynthetic rates.

Problems caused by invasive alien species have increased dramatically in recent decades, due in part to an increasing human population. Population growth leads to greater disturbance of the land, increased demand for food and fiber, overuse of public land for recreation and commercial production, increased international travel, and globalization of world trade. All of these encourage the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species.

The Invasive Plant council of BC defines invasive plants as: “Any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems.”

What is the intent?

The Ministry of Forests and Range' Invasive Alien Plant program is designed to minimize the spread of/or eliminate invasive alien plant species not native to North America which are threatening the province's forest and range resources. It is recognized that, once widely established in B.C., it is impossible to eradicate these invasive plants. In this case, the intent is to bring these plants into equilibrium with our native species at an acceptable economic and ecological level. The program is conducted using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, using all available tools at the program's disposal.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

IPM uses a combination of mechanical, chemical, and biological methods to control invasive plants. The long term objective of IPM is to control invasive alien plant problems through preventative measures and biological control. However, in the short term, IPM recognizes the need for both mechanical and chemical methods to ensure vegetation management in BC.

Who do we work with?

The program works cooperatively with provincial, national, and international governments and non-government agencies concerned with invasive alien plant control.

Provincial Legislative Requirements

There are numerous acts, regulations, policies, and guidelines which the Ministry of Forests and Range must comply with in the management of invasive plants in BC.



An overview of the most important Provincial Legislation is discussed below.

For additional information on Statutes and Regulations in BC, visit: <http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/>

Provincial Acts

- **Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA)** - FRPA governs how all forestry and range practices are conducted in BC. (For more information visit: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frpa/part5.htm#section47>)
 - Section 47 of this act states the following: “A person carrying out a forest practice or a range practice must carry out measures that are (a) specified in the applicable operational plan, or (b) authorized by the minister to prevent the introduction or spread of prescribed species of invasive plants.”
- **Administrative Remedies Regulation** – this regulation specifies the remedies for contraventions of FRPA.
 - The maximum penalty for a contravention of FRPA section 47 is \$20,000.
- **Invasive Plants Regulation** – this regulation specifies which plants are classified by MoFR as invasive plant species in BC.
- **Forest Planning and Practices Regulation** – under FRPA, section 17 of this regulation states the following regarding invasive plants:
 - “For the purpose of section 47 [invasive plants] of the Act, a person who prepares a forest stewardship plan must specify measures in the plan to prevent the introduction or spread of species of plants prescribed in the Invasive Plants Regulation, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the person's forest practices.”
 - The maximum penalty for a contravention is \$10,000.

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- (For more information visit:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/forplanprac/fppr.htm#section17>)
- **Range Planning and Practices Regulation** – under FRPA, section 15 of this regulation states the following regarding invasive plants:
 - “For the purpose of section 47 [invasive plants] of the Act, a range agreement holder who is required to prepare a range use plan must specify measures in the plan to prevent the introduction or spread of species of plants prescribed in the Invasive Plants Regulation, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the holder’s range practices.
 - The maximum penalty for a contravention is \$10,000.
 - (For more information visit:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tasb/legsregs/frpa/frparegs/rangeplanprac/rppr.htm#section15>)
- **Weed Control Act** – outlines the obligation to control designated noxious weeds, not necessarily with pesticides, by the land occupier as designated by Ministry of Agriculture and Land (MAL), ‘Noxious weeds’ are those invasive plants designated as noxious in this Act. (For more information visit:
http://www.gp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/W/96487_01.htm)
- **Integrated Pest Management Act** (formerly the **Pesticide Control Act**) – prohibits the application of pesticides, including herbicides, from Crown land except under a Pesticide Use Permit by a licensed pesticide applicator. Also lays out requirements for the handling, storage, disposal, and sale of pesticides. (For more information visit:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ipmp/pestact/index.html>)
- **Environmental Management Act** – outlines the process for appeals of pesticide use.
- **Wildlife Act** – establishes criteria for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- **BC Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act** – provides information regarding the storage and transportation of pesticides.

Federal Legislative Requirements

There are numerous federal legislative requirements that must also be adhered to in the management of invasive plants.



An overview of key Federal Legislation is discussed below.

- **Plant Protection Act** – describes the requirements for the introduction of biocontrol agents into Canada.
- **Pesticide Control Products Act** – summarizes the registration and availability of pesticides. Prohibits application under unsafe conditions.
- **Migratory Birds Convention Act** – describes the requirements to protect migratory birds from pesticides.
- **Fisheries Act** – establishes criteria for the protection of fisheries and fish habitat from pesticides.
- **Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act** – provides information regarding the storage and transportation of pesticides (and other dangerous goods).

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- **Food and Drugs Act** – describes restrictions on pesticide use on livestock forage and where livestock will be consumed by humans.
- **Waste Management Act** – outlines procedures for the disposal of pesticide wastes.
- **Seeds Act** – An Act respecting the testing, inspection, quality, and sale of seeds. (For more information visit: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/S-8/C.R.C.-c.1400/178415.html>)
 - **Seeds Regulation** – provides guidelines for the content of noxious weed seeds in crop seed, and transportation of crop seed in Canada.

Municipal By-Laws

There may be municipal by-laws which you must also comply with in the management of invasive plants in BC. Ensure you check with your local municipality for information about these.