



Some Local Invasive Plants & How To Get Rid Of Them

For more info, check out www.saltspringconservancy.ca

- Disposal Sites** -Ivy & Blackberry –call Jan Slakov at 537-5251 to arrange a drop-off time, and her goats will eat it!
 -Scotch Broom – May/June only – call Jan Steinman at 653-2024 (his goats eat it)
 -Giant Hogweed - take to Laurie’s Recycling & Waste Ltd. in strong, labeled bags
 -Please note: Blackburn Transfer Station does **NOT** accept any invasive plant species
 -the SSI Conservancy and PARC hold an annual drop off, usually in May (for all except Giant Hogweed)

Invasive Plant / Identification	Recommended Removal Method	Recommended Disposal Methods
<p>English Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) - dark evergreen, leathery, alternate, prickly leaves. Female plants can produce red berries. Grows 7 to 10 m tall, with smooth grey bark. Can be confused with Oregon Grape (which has opposite leaflets) or non-invasive hollies.</p>	<p>Pull or dig up small plants when soil is moist. Cut larger plants at the base, below the root crown, and damage stump with an axe to reduce re-sprouting. Monitor roots and surrounding area for new sprouts, and keep cutting them back until the plant dies.</p>	<p>Put berries into garbage to avoid spreading seeds. Stems and leaves can be piled to rot, but watch for re-sprouting and layering. Branches can be eaten by goats (above). Caution: Holly berries are toxic so keep them away from children.</p>
<p>English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) and Irish Ivy (<i>Hedera hibernica</i>)- vigorous woody evergreen perennials. Juvenile form is a creeping ground-cover vine with leaves usually 3-lobed. Adult reproductive form has erect, shrubby stems with diamond-shaped leaves and tight clusters of small white flowers developing into purple or black berries. Ivy usually develops seeds when it grows up trees or structures.</p>	<p>Prevent seed production and protect trees and shrubs by cutting vines from a 1 m. wide band around the trunk and 1 m. out from base. Upper vines may be left to die, especially on trees that are dead and at risk of falling. Pull or roll up vines on ground. Use hand trowels to remove as much root as possible, minimizing soil disturbance and damage to other plant species. Caution: Wear gloves when working, as ivy sap may cause skin irritation.</p>	<p>Goats love to eat ivy so call Jan (above). Or thoroughly dry vines and pile them to rot on pavement or tarp so roots won't re-sprout. Avoid spreading seeds, and put seeds in garbage. Stem and root fragments can regenerate in soil, so monitor the area for re-growth. <u>Or</u> solarize by dampening all plant parts, putting into heavy black plastic bags, sealing, & placing in hot sunny spot. Turn occasionally until plants completely die, rot and become mush, then put into compost pile.</p>
<p>Giant Hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) –perennial up to 6 m tall with deeply incised compound leaves up to 1.5 m across. Stem varies from purple to green with purple blotches, with distinctive bumps with stiff white hairs along it. In fall the plant dies back til spring. After a few years it blooms in summer, with large (up to 1 m across) umbrella-shaped clusters of small white flowers, and later many winged seeds. NB: Hogweed can cause severe damage to skin and eyes.</p>	<p>Professional removal is recommended. Cut plant roots 10 - 15 cm below soil surface with sharp knife or narrow shovel. Minimize soil disturbance. Don't use a weed-whacker. Monitor site for 3-5 years to remove any new growth. If plant bloomed, do not transfer any soil within 4 m as it may contain seeds. Dispose of or wash tools, gloves and clothes thoroughly with soap and water. Caution: Prevent skin contact. Use goggles and heavy, water-resistant gloves and coveralls.</p>	<p>Put plant parts in double plastic bag marked to indicate that contents can cause skin damage. Take to Laurie’s Recycling and Waste. Do not compost these plants. First Aid: If sap contacts skin, wash carefully with soap and cold water. Keep exposed areas out of sunlight for at least 48 hours. If blistering or rash develops, consult a physician. If sap gets into eyes, flush with large amounts of water, use sunglasses and consult a physician at once.</p>
<p>Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) and Scotch Broom (<i>Cystus scoparius</i>) Both are vigorous perennial shrubs 1 to 3 metres tall with tap-root, woody stems, small evergreen leaves, and bright yellow pea-like flowers. Hairy seed-pods ripen from green to dark brown or black. Mature gorse has long thick spines.</p>	<p>Pull stems thinner than a pencil when soil is wet. Avoid disturbing soil by placing feet beside plant while pulling, and tamping down after. Large plants and those growing on rock should be cut at or below ground surface with loppers or pruning saw, ideally during bloom before seed-set or during a drought. Monitor area for 3-5 years. Professional help rec. for large gorse.</p>	<p>Take care to avoid spreading seeds. Fresh cut broom with no seeds can be fed to goats. Or take cut plants in strong garbage bags or on tarps in covered loads to Invasive Plant Drop-off Day. Plant fast-growing shade trees or shrubs to reduce re-growth as broom & gorse thrive in sunny locations. Caution: Cuttings are very flammable, and leach toxins into soil.</p>
<p>Himalayan Blackberry (<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>) – perennial with robust prickly canes, large rounded or oblong leaves, small white or faintly pink flowers with 5 petals, in clusters of 5-20. Shiny fruits up to 2 cm diameter, round to oblong, green changing to red and ripening to black, with many seeds.</p>	<p>Cut back or mow at least twice a year – in June at early flowering and in September to exhaust root systems. Till and re-seed area with native grasses, and repeat cutting or mowing. In small patches dig out roots in winter and spring. Monitor treated area regularly and cut back canes as required.</p>	<p>Take care not to distribute plant parts, particularly in streams or ditches. If no seeds are present, canes may be piled as cover for birds and small animals. Monitor for re-sprouting and re-rooting. Or take it to feed Jan’s goats! (see above)</p>

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<p>Knotweeds (<i>Fallopia species</i>)- large 2-5 m. tall perennials with bamboo-like green or reddish stems, bright green smooth-edged leaves 2-25 cm wide, spikes of feathery white flowers in late summer. Plant dies back in fall and sprouts again in spring.</p>	<p>Cut stems close to the ground every two weeks during growing season until plant dies (up to 5 years). Paint cut stems with castor oil. <u>Or</u> completely cover plants and patches with black plastic. Monitor for 5 years. Be very persistent, and cautious, as new plants can grow from even the smallest stem or root fragments. Professional help recommended for effective eradication.</p>	<p>NB: Avoid spreading stem or root fragments in soils, streams or compost as they will regrow & spread easily. Thoroughly dry all plant parts & pile to rot on pavement or tarp. <u>Or</u> dampen all plant part, put into heavy black plastic bags, seal & place in hot sunny spot. Turn occasionally until plants completely die & rot. Monitor area where mush is emptied.</p>
<p>Periwinkle (<i>Vinca minor and V. major</i>) - perennial, evergreen herb with trailing somewhat woody stems up to 2 m long. Shiny, oval, dark green or variegated leaves are opposite, flowers violet to blue (or white) 2-3 cm wide in spring.</p>	<p>Remove by hand, pulling the above- ground portion of the plant and digging out roots. Stem and root fragments can regenerate in soil, so regularly monitor the area for re-growth and repeat. Periwinkle can also be mowed or cut back to control its spread.</p>	<p>Thoroughly dry plant parts and pile them to rot on a tarp or pavement so roots won't re-sprout. <u>Or</u> dampen all plant parts, put into heavy black plastic bags, seal, and place in hot sunny spot. Turn occasionally until plants rot & become mush, then compost.</p>
<p>Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)– perennial growing to 2.5 m tall growing in damp areas. Square reddish purple stems, opposite leaves, spikes of bright pinkish purple blooms in summer. Each mature plant can produce over 2 million tiny seeds per year.</p>	<p>First cut flowering spikes into a plastic bag to prevent seed dispersal. Pull or dig the plants out and ensure that all root fragments are removed to prevent re-growth. Older plants have large roots that can be eased out with a garden fork. Remove as much of the root system as possible, since broken roots may sprout new plants.</p>	<p>Thoroughly brush off clothes and equipment before leaving the infested area. Put all plant pieces in strong paper bags burn <u>or</u> take to Laurie's Recycling in strong, labelled plastic bags. Composting is not advised, as seeds may not be destroyed and the thick, woody stem and roots take a long time to decompose.</p>
<p>Spurge Laurel (<i>Daphne laureola</i>) - long-lived evergreen shrub growing 60-180 cm tall, similar to Rhododendron in appearance, with clusters of oblong, waxy leaves, light greenish-yellow flowers in early spring, green poisonous berries ripening to black by summer.</p> <p>NB: All parts of this plant are toxic, and many people experience severe skin irritation and blistering on contact with leaves or sap. Eating any part, including bark and berries, can be fatal.</p>	<p>Caution: Prevent contact with skin and eyes. Wear gloves, long sleeves and goggles. Wash hands, clothes and gloves after working. Remove plants before they form seeds if possible. Small plants can be pulled up when soil is moist. As much as possible, try to avoid disturbing the soil. Larger plants must be cut beneath the mineral soil surface, below where the brown stem changes to orange, or they will re-sprout. Often stems lie along the ground in the duff layer and need to be pulled up to find where they are rooted before cutting.</p>	<p>Put cut plants in tarps or bags to avoid spreading seeds and reduce irritation from airborne sap droplets. Allow to rot, monitor treated area & area near rotted plants & remove seedlings. Do not compost. Do not burn or chip plant parts as noxious chemicals will be released. First Aid: If any plant part is eaten, induce vomiting and consult physician immediately. If sap contacts mouth or eyes flush with large amounts of water and consult a physician. If sap contacts skin flush with large amounts of water.</p>
<p>Tansy Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) – biennial or short-lived perennial growing 20 to 120 cm tall, with one to several branching stems, alternate leaves deeply cut and ruffled or ragged-looking, daisy shaped yellow flowers in a flat-topped clusters, small ribbed seeds with cluster of white hairs. NB: contains a toxin which causes liver damage in livestock</p>	<p>Pull plants when ground is moist to completely remove root mass. Vegetative reproduction is stimulated by mowing, grazing, or leaving root fragments in soil. Periodic re-treatment will be necessary. At a minimum, remove flowers before seeds form to prevent dispersal to other areas. Seeds are often transported by people or livestock or in soil carried on equipment & vehicles.</p>	<p>If plants are hand pulled or cut prior to flowering, the plant material can be left on the site to decompose. If cut during or after flowering, all plant parts, especially the flower heads, should be bagged and incinerated, or buried deeply. Care should be taken to ensure that plant parts are not distributed during transport.</p>
<p>Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>) - trailing evergreen perennial groundcover, that climbs up to .5 m over other vegetation. Square stems, leaves opposite, slightly hairy, heart-shaped, typically variegated silvery-grey/green. Small upright yellow flowers in spring produce many seeds. Also spreads by starting new plants along runners.</p>	<p>At a minimum, remove flowers before seeds form to prevent dispersal to other areas. Some flowers may produce seeds even after cutting, so dispose of flower heads carefully. Remove plants by hand or with pitchfork, making sure to get all the roots out. Monitor area closely for the first few months and years following treatment, digging up any new sprouts.</p>	<p>Do not compost as plant easily re-sprouts. Thoroughly dry plant parts and pile them to rot on a tarp or pavement so roots won't re-sprout. <u>Or</u> dampen all plant parts, put into heavy black plastic bags, seal, and place in hot sunny spot. Turn occasionally until plants completely die, rot and become mush, then put contents into compost pile.</p>
<p>Yellow flag (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) - robust, clumping perennial herb 40 - 150 cm tall with flat leaves clasping stem at the base in a fan. Stout rhizomes, long, spreading roots and yellow iris-type flowers. Large brown seeds in large, triangular capsules. glossy green to brown. Seed pods float, thus spreading infestations throughout wetlands.</p>	<p>Caution: Contact with the resins can cause skin irritation, so wear gloves and cover skin when working. At a minimum, remove and carefully dispose of seed-heads to prevent dispersal. To remove plants dig out entire rhizome mass. Pulling or cutting plants every year for many years will weaken and eventually kill them. .</p>	<p>Leaves and stems may be composted, but don't compost, mulch or try to dry the rhizomes as they can survive indefinitely. Bury them very deeply or put in plastic bags to rot to mush. When fully decomposed, but into compost pile. Caution: Yellow Flag is poisonous to livestock and humans.</p>