



NATIONAL VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE INDUSTRY

For Landscape Architects,
Landscape Contractors,
Growers, Plant Breeders,
Retailers, Suppliers,
and Specifiers



Developed in partnership by the National Horticulture Invasive Plant Working Group



VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT

We are committed to taking action to prevent the introduction and spread of high risk invasive plants. I agree to abide by the codes of conduct outlined in the document.



INVASIVE SPECIES ARE A GROWING THREAT TO CANADA’S ECOSYSTEMS AND ARE CAPABLE OF OVERTAKING AND DISPLACING NATIVE SPECIES. Over 60% of Canada’s invasive plants were intentionally introduced over the last 150 years based on their value for food, medicine, ecosystem services, as well as aesthetics. Although most introduced plants do not disrupt ecosystems, there are a very limited number of invasive plants that are ‘high risk’ and a direct threat to human health and safety, the environment, and the economy. Although the natural range of plants may shift with warming climate or time, the prime focus of this initiative is to prevent the introduction of high risk invasive plants to specific regions of Canada. There is growing public pressure, along with government regulations, that are restricting the sale and distribution of invasive plants.

By working together, the goal of the National Horticulture Invasive Plants Working Group is to support and recognize responsible leaders in the horticulture industry who adopt best practices to avoid the introduction of high risk invasive plants to specific regions. The National Voluntary Code of Conduct is intended to engage the ornamental horticulture industry and trade to improve best practices across all sectors of the industry. Accompanied by a growing demand by gardeners and developers for non-invasive species, the outcome will be a recognition program for key industry partners that will:

- Raise awareness on this issue among all sectors of the industry
- Prevent the spread of invasive plants already present in Canada
- Prevent the introduction of ‘high risk’ new plant invaders.



OUR COMMITMENT

On behalf of our company, we recognize that invasive plants are a threat to Canada’s landscapes and ecosystems and are committed to taking action to prevent the introduction and spread of high risk invasive plants. As a practitioner in the ornamental horticulture industry, we are committed to adopting the Code of Conduct and implementing best practices within our business to prevent the spread of invasive species within the urban and natural environment.

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CODE OF CONDUCT	EXAMPLE PRACTICES
1 Grow, sell and specify non-invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Phase-out or dispose of existing stocks of specific high-risk invasive species or cultivars, eliminate specification, for use in regions where they are considered a threat– Eliminate specification for use in regions where they are considered a threat– Assign one staff responsible for implementation and annual review of the Code of Conduct
2 Select and promote alternative, non-invasive varieties that are aesthetically, horticulturally, and ecologically suitable to a region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Select only non-invasive ornamentals– Consider regional invasiveness of plants– Suggest using alternatives in locally developed Grow-Me-Instead type initiatives where feasible
3 Develop and promote alternative plant material as replacements for known invasive plants through selection and breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Understand plant characteristics that make them invasive such as aggressive growth, heavy seed producers, hard to maintain, etc.– Focus breeding on non-invasive plant characteristics
4 Comply with all laws that regulate invasive plants for specific regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Comply with regulated invasive plants listed in the region where you are doing business– Review lists of regulated invasive plants exist at the national, provincial, territorial, regional and municipal levels across Canada
5 Work with regional experts and invasive species councils to remain relevant about what new species may be considered invasive”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Participate in your regional invasive species council– Become familiar with Invasive Plant Risk Assessment Tools based on biological, scientific and economic information by working with invasive species experts and conservationists– Liaise with regional experts and stakeholders to determine which species in your region are known to be invasive, or may become invasive, especially prior to new introductions
6 Label plant material correctly using both common and Latin name	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Use internationally recognized plant naming databases to find all accepted names and synonyms for both common and Latin;<ul style="list-style-type: none">– VASCAN is Database of Vascular Plants in Canada;– PLANTS Database - USDA PLANTS covers North America;– IPNI is the International Plant Names Index

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7 Provide information to your staff, clients, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Access professional associations education and training websites to find webinars, short courses, and events– Check out invasive species associations for upcoming webinars, lecture series, field tours, etc.– Invite local invasive plant experts to do short on-site toolbox meetings and education sessions with staff on invasive species issues
8 Commit to the Code of Conduct and encourage others in the industry through your supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Talk to your industry partners in other sectors who you deal with on day to day basis about the issue
9 Provide information to gardening public to use, including garden writers to promote, non-invasive plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Create and/or share publications on preventing the introduction and spread of known invasive plants available to your clients and customers such as local Grow-Me-Instead booklets, species-specific rack cards, or species-specific best management practices– Support on-site education and info sessions for customers– Include “invasive” description and warnings for plants in your catalogues
10 Dispose of unwanted stock and waste responsibly to reduce spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Determine local recommended best disposal method for specific species; liase with invasive plant expert when additional information is needed– Destroy high-risk plants in inventory, or label as invasive at point of sale– Bagging, tarping, drying are management tools for invasive plant material disposal– Dispose bagged plant parts in landfill and/or bury– Composting is not a recommended practice for reproductive plant parts
11 Implement sanitation best practices in your business to avoid unintentional introduction and spread of invasive plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Develop a written plan and have one staff responsible for implementation– Keep newly imported plants isolated until clear of all pests including seeds of other plants– Keep crop and facilities free of invasive plants– Manage source materials– Minimize soil disturbance– Keep machinery, tools, and vehicles clean to minimize spread from contaminated to clean areas

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**By signing this form, we are committed to taking action
to prevent the introduction and spread of high risk invasive plants.
I agree to abide by the codes of conduct
outlined in the document.**

Participating Business

Name

Website

Address

Phone

Email



WHO ARE WE

The National Horticulture Invasive Plant Working Group is made up of a group of stakeholders that work collaboratively together to provide tools to the horticulture industry to help reduce the spread of invasive horticulture plants across Canada.