

Invasive Plant Removal and Ecosystem Restoration on Sea Island

Introduction

Invasive plants are non-native plants that, after introduction, spread and destroy native habitats by outcompeting native plants - often by forming dense stands. The negative impacts that invasive plants have on ecosystems are very difficult to reverse once these plants become established.

To address this, the Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR) has been removing invasive plant species and replanting with native species for several years. By taking action to improve fish and wildlife habitat, protecting Fraser River water quality, and enhancing Pacific salmon habitat - YVR is proud to be the first airport in the world to achieve [Salmon-Safe certification](#).

YVR encourages Sea Island businesses that are responsible for landscaping, to support YVR's ecosystem restoration efforts by removing invasive plants and replanting with native plants. This is especially important if you have dense stands of invasive species on your property.

Targeted Areas and Species on Sea Island

YVR has been focusing primarily on natural and semi-natural areas throughout Sea Island (see *Appendix A - Example Photos*).

Invasive species that are present on Sea Island include:

- Himalayan blackberry
- English ivy
- Japanese knotweed
- Scotch broom
- Common tansy
- Yellow lamium
- Canada thistle

A full list of Regulated Invasive species in BC can be found at the Invasive Species Council of BC website (see *Useful Resources*, next page)

Japanese knotweed



Knotweeds are a top-ten invasive species for control in BC. Because they have the ability to reproduce vegetatively through root and stem tissues, management options must be evaluated on a site-by-site basis with proper disposal to prevent further spread. Eradication requires a dedicated, multi-year, planned approach with professional input.

Mechanical control (e.g., mowing and manual removal) on its own is not an effective management tool.

More information can be found at:
<https://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/knotweed/>



Recommended Practices

- **Contact a professional landscaping companies that have experience in plant identification and ecosystem restoration.**
- In line with Salmon-Safe practices, most removal should be done using manual or mechanical methods. **Chemical control should be used only as a last resort and in specific situations (e.g., not be permitted near water/riparian areas) and may require special permits or training. If you are unsure, please contact environment@yvr.ca.**
- Identification of invasive species must be confirmed prior to removal to avoid removing beneficial (i.e., native) species as well as ensuring that the identified invasive plant is managed property
- Removal areas should be replanted with appropriate native plant species from local nurseries to maintain soil stability and restore productivity. Please contact environment@yvr.ca for a list of plants that will work well in landscaped environments.
- Invasive plant removal along streams and dikes must be scheduled in growing season to ensure replanting will restore vegetative cover to minimize bank erosion and sedimentation.
- Manual or mechanical removal of invasive plants must include roots and above ground plant to ensure plant fragments do not remain on-site to propagate new plants.
- Removal of invasive plants may need to occur at specific times to be most effective and to minimize accidental spreading of seeds (e.g., Scotch broom)
- Ongoing maintenance is often required to ensure success and prevent re-colonization.

Useful Resources

- Questions? Contact the YVR Environment Department: environment@yvr.ca
- More information about YVR's Salmon-Safe Certification: <http://www.yvr.ca/en/about-yvr/environment/salmon-safe>
- BC Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulation: http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/loo72/loo72/10_66_85
- Invasive Species Council of BC website: www.bcinvases.ca
- Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver website: www.iscmv.ca



Appendix A – Example Photos



Himalayan blackberry along ditches and waterways



Common tansy along ditches



Stands of Scotch broom and ground cover of English ivy



English ivy climbing trees