

Top 10 Invasive Plants of the Upper Arrow Lakes

Invasive non-native (alien) species are considered the second largest threat to biodiversity (e.g. extinction of species) in the world, and have been likened to biological pollution. Because invasive plants are brought to Canada, either accidentally or intentionally, they have no natural predators to keep them under control. They spread rapidly, forming dense patches over huge areas, and choke out native plants. Since animals rarely eat these species, infestations can impact wildlife habitat, agricultural pastures, and rangeland. You can help by learning to recognize these plants and control them on your property.



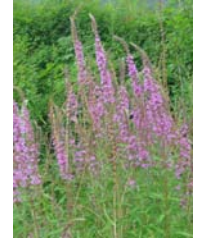
Sulphur cinquefoil
takes over grasslands.



Blueweed
can spread quickly and is only known just south of Nakusp.



Orange hawkweed
forms dense mats and spreads from gardens. Also yellow hawkweeds.



Purple loosestrife
infests wetlands and impacts amphibian and bird habitat—patch in Fauquier.



Hoary alyssum
is toxic to livestock - known from only a few patches in Edgewood and on Hwy 6.



Knotweed
also known as “false bamboo”, is planted as a garden ornamental and spreads into riverside habitats. Known only from a few patches in the Edgewood area.



Scentless chamomile
invades agricultural land. It looks like daisy but with “chipmunk tail” leaves. Known in Edgewood and Burton.



Common tansy forms dense patches and outcompetes native plants. Currently found in small patches along roadsides.



Scotch broom
spreads from gardens and forms dense thickets. Nakusp is heavily infested.



Knapweed
impacts wildlife habitat including critical winter range. Although spotted knapweed is common in the West Kootenay, meadow and brown knapweed are only known from the Upper Arrow.

The **Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC)** is a local non-profit society that formed to:

- educate and raise awareness about invasive plants
- prevent the further introduction and spread of these species
- coordinate effective weed control measures
- develop an inventory of invasive plants in the region
- share information and provide a source of expertise

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