

Capital Region Invasive Plant List

How to use this list: This list identifies the invasive alien plant species of concern in the capital region. All species on the list are considered a priority for management depending on context. Species have been placed in categories based on such factors as known distribution, values or assets threatened, management objectives and management viability. Each category has a different management approach and objective, and a unique colour. Icons are used to show key values and assets that each species threatens.

The four categories and their management objectives, criteria, considerations, and processes are as follows:

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region	
Definition	Species not yet known to occur in the capital region but likely to establish if introduced.
Considerations	May occur in nearby regions and/or on their Prevent or “Watch” lists.
Process	Monitor and consult with provincial Inter-ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) and nearby jurisdictions. If a species is discovered in a single location or very isolated locations in the capital region that is not on any other Prevent or Eradicate lists, send information to IMISWG for direction. For species not known to occur in the capital region or adjacent jurisdictions, rely on input from subject matter experts and IMISWG.
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region	
Definition	Species occurs in the capital region with few known infestations of limited extent.
Considerations	Is eradication feasible with available resources?
Process	Actively seek all occurrences in the region and respond quickly to eradicate them.
CONTAIN (CN) — Eradicate infestations outside containment areas and strategic control within.	
Definition	Species infestations exceed the resource capacity to eradicate from the capital region but preventing infestation expansion is possible.
Considerations	Regional eradication is not feasible due to extent and/or location of populations but populations can be contained. Infestations targeted for containment should be discrete such that a containment line can be drawn around it.
Process	Consider known occurrences, map them and draw containment (isolation) polygon around them, and eradicate any plants that occur outside the polygon.

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context, e.g., land use objectives, values or assets threatened	
Definition	Species is widespread in the capital region and can no longer be contained or eradicated from the region.
Considerations	Eradication at the landscape level is not feasible. However, control measures are warranted where assets such as wildlife, ecosystems, recreation, and infrastructure (e.g., gravel pits) are threatened. Eradication or active suppression may be feasible at a local level considering but not limited to such criteria as mechanisms for spread, degree of threat, values threatened, and resource capacity.
Process	Evaluate at a local level on a case-by-case basis

Specific Values Icons and Listing Codes

Where applicable, icons are used to indicate specific values or assets that the species threatens, e.g., aquatic ecosystems, fire hazards, forest/woodland ecosystems, sports fields, gravel pits.

	Human health		Forest / woodland
	Animal health		Landscaping material sites (e.g., gravel pits, soil dumps, fill sites)
	Aquatic ecosystem (wetland, riparian), coastal dune ecosystems		Linear infrastructure (e.g., roadsides, boulevards, hydro corridors, pipelines)
	Coastal bluff / rock outcrop		Meadows, grasslands, old fields, pasture and rangelands
	Fire hazard		Sports fields, developed parks and beaches

If a species is also on a provincial and/or CRD priority list and/or has a CRD alert sheet, codes have been added as follows:

BCP = Provincial Prevent **BCE** = Provincial EDRR **BCC** = Provincial Contain or **BCC(r)** if Provincial Regional Contain
BCT = BC Provincial Priority Invasive Species list 2024 (subsequently updated in July 2025, after the RISP list update was completed)

CRDp = CRD high priority species list. Source: [CRD Invasive Species website](#)

CRDa = CRD species alert sheet. Source: [High Priority Species Alert Sheet](#) (no date)

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Jointed Goatgrass		BCE
	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>	Camelthorn		BCP
	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Meadow/Slender Foxtail	 	BCP
	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>	American Beachgrass		
	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Common Bugloss		BCC(r)
	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	Hoary Alyssum	  	BCC(r)
	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Slender False Brome	  	BCE
	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian / Shore Thistle	 	BCP
	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender-flowered Thistle	 	BCP
	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Round Leaf Bittersweet	 	
	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Purple Starthistle	 	BCP

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	Iberian Starthistle		BCP
	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed		
	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Starthistle		BCE
	<i>Centaurea virgata</i> ssp. <i>squarrosa</i>	Squarrose knapweed		BCP
	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Rush Skeletonweed		BCC(r)
	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Plume Thistle		BCC(r)
	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	Common Crupina		BCP
	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Purple Nutsedge		BCP
	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water Hyacinth		BCE
	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Baby's Breath		
	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>	Saltlover		BCP
	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>	Texas Blueweed		BCP

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed		BCE
	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Hydrilla		BCP
	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Black Henbane		BCE
	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Woad		BCE
	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious		BCC(r)
	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress		BCC(r)
	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Perennial Pepperweed		BCE
	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Floating Primrose-willow		
	<i>Milium vernale</i>	Spring Millet Grass		BCP
	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	Two-leaf Watermilfoil		
	<i>Odontites serotina</i>	Red Bartsia		BCP
	<i>Peganum harmala</i>	African Rue		BCP

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water Lettuce		BCE
	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>	Kudzu		BCP
	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean Sage		BCP
	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary		BCP
	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	Clary Sage		BCP
	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silverleaf Nightshade		BCP
	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass	  	BCP
	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	Smooth Cordgrass		BCE
	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	English cordgrass		BCE
	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>	Dense-flowered Cordgrass		BCE
	<i>Spartina patens</i>	Saltmeadow Cordgrass		BCE
	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water Soldier		BCP

PREVENT (PR) — Prevent introduction and establishment in the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Medusahead	 	BCP
	<i>Thymelaea passerina</i>	Spurge Flax		BCP
	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture Vine	   	BCC(r)
	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>	North Africa Grass	 	BCC
	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	Syrian Bean-caper		

ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	Velvet-leaf		
	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard		BCC CRDp
	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Wild Chervil		BCC(r) CRDp
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed		BCE
	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush		BCE

ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region

Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Hanging Sedge		
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Diffuse Knapweed		CRDa
<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>	Bighead Knapweed		
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Maltese Starthistle		BCE
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black Knapweed		CRDp CRDa
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Spotted Knapweed		BCC(r) CRDp
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison-hemlock		BCC CRDa
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue		
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	Yellow Nutsedge		
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White Spanish Broom		BCC(r)
<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	Portuguese Broom		BCE
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's Curse		BCP

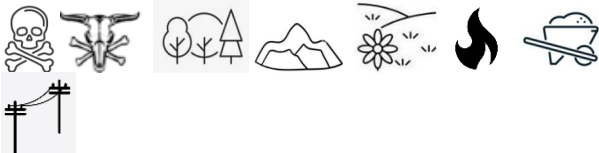
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Blueweed; Viper's Bugloss		BCC(r)
	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian Elodea		BCE
	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge		
	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy Spurge		BCC(r)
	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	Eggleaf Spurge		BCE
	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goat's Rue		BCE
	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French Broom		BCE
	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Giant Mannagrass		
	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed		BCC CRDp CRDa
	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange Hawkweed		CRDa
	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Policeman's Helmet		BCC(r) CRDp CRDa
	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	Jewelweed		

ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Koenigia polystachya</i>	Himalayan Knotweed		BCC(r) CRDp
	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian Toadflax		CRDp
	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax		CRDp
	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	Garden Yellow Loosestrife		BCC(r) CRDp
	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Yellow Floating Heart		BCE
	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch / Cotton Thistle		CRDp
	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip		BCC
	<i>Petasites japonicus</i>	Japanese Butterbur		BCC CRDa
	<i>Phragmites australis subsp. australis</i>	Common Reed		BCE
	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulphur Cinquefoil		
	<i>Reynoutria japonica var. japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed		BCC(r) CRDp CRDa
	<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i>	Giant Knotweed		BCC(r) CRDp CRDa

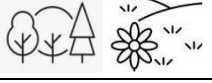
ERADICATE (ER) — Eradicate from the capital region

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Reynoutria x bohemica</i>	Bohemian knotweed		BCC(r) CRDp CRDa
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish / Rush Broom		
	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Tamarisk		BCC(r) BCT
	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	European Coltsfoot		

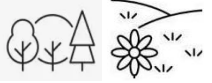
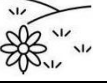
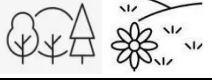
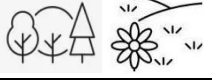
CONTAIN (CN) — Eradicate outside of containment areas and apply strategic control within.

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	European Beachgrass		
	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shiny Geranium		BCC CRDa
	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrotfeather		
	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian / Spiked Water-milfoil		

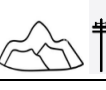
STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Bishop's Goutweed; Ground Elder		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-Heaven		BCC(r) BCT
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Crow Garlic; Field Garlic		
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Burr Chervil		
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian Arum, Orange Candleflower		CRDa
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush		
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Bachelor's Buttons		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada / Creeping Thistle		
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle		
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Wild Clematis		
<i>Cotoneaster sp.</i>	Cotoneaster		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	English / Common Hawthorn		BCT

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Cyclamen		
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom		BCC(r)
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel / Fuller's Teasel		
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine		
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Sweet / Common Fennel		BCC(r)
<i>Hedera helix</i> + <i>Helix</i> varieties	English / Common Ivy & varieties		
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebells		
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	English Bluebells		
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Aaron's-beard		
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's-wort		
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English / Common Holly		BCT

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag Iris		BCC(r) CRDa
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Tansy Ragwort	 	CRDa
<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Lamium		BCC(r)
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European Privet	 	
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Tree / Bush Lupine	 	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife		BCC(r)
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess Tree	 	BCT
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	 	
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry-laurel		BCT
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Portugal Laurel		
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan Blackberry	  	
<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	Cutleaf Blackberry	 	

STRATEGIC CONTROL (SC) — Management objective depends on context.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Specific Values Threatened	BC/CRD Lists
<i>Salix alba</i> 'Vitellina'	Golden Willow		BCT
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Blessed Milk Thistle		BCC(r) CRDp CRDa
<i>Soliva sessilis</i>	Carpet Burweed	 	CRDp CRDa
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common Tansy		BCC(r)
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Yellow Salsify; Western Salsify		
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Common Salsify		
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Chamomile	 	
<i>Typha X glauca</i>	Blue Cattail (hybrid)		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved / Lesser Cattail		
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	   	BCC(r) CRDa
<i>Vinca major</i>	Large periwinkle		
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Common Periwinkle		