

**British Columbia Ministry of Forests
Invasive Alien Plants Program**

Inventory Standards - Interim for 2005

1. Pre-field inventory organization:

- 1.1. Gather maps showing biogeoclimatic classification, roads, water features, utility corridors, and land status that will be required for the area to be inventoried. In the field, information will be recorded on forest cover maps of a scale of from 1:15,000 to 1:50,000 depending on availability and appropriateness.
- 1.2. Review all available information and records for the target species.
- 1.3. Characteristics of the target species will be investigated, including the plants:
 - size and growth form
 - distinguishing characteristics to discern it from similar plants
 - flowering period for the area
 - shade tolerances (full, partial, none)
 - soil pH range and preferences (acidic; neutral; alkaline)
 - soil moisture range and preferences (xeric (dry); mesic (moist), hydric (wet), hygric (very wet))
 - soil texture (coarse grained, fine grained and organic)
- 1.4. A summary of the pre-field organization information reviewed must be kept on file.

2. Field sampling:

- 2.1. All new confirmed ground sightings will have a *Site and Invasive Plant Inventory Record* (Appendix #2) completed on site for all of the form's mandatory fields. All previously inventoried sites should be updated with the new information added to the database.
- 2.2. All location co-ordinates will be made with a resolution of less than ten metres (<10m) (e.g. using a GPS).
- 2.3. All co-ordinates will be taken using the UTM system with the datum noted. The preferred datum is NAD 83, otherwise WGS 84.
- 2.4. All recorded sightings that have not previously been geo-referenced and mapped in the MoF database will be re-confirmed on the ground.
- 2.5. All fieldwork will be carried out during a time of year appropriate for easy sighting of the target species.
- 2.6. Within the defined inventory area all roads accessible by a four-wheel drive vehicle that cross potential habitat will be checked for occurrences of invasive plants. Plants on both sides of the road will be identified as far as can be seen from the road, or as defined for specific inventory projects.
- 2.7. In addition to 2.6 all major disturbances including but not limited to landings, log sort yards, burned areas, gravel pits, air strips, landfills, parking lots, construction or maintenance sites and recreational sites and trails within the potential habitat will be checked.
- 2.8. A record will be kept by log or by map, including the date, of all roads and areas traversed during the inventory.
- 2.9. When an invasive plant site is found, all susceptible habitat within the prescribed distance of that site will be checked based on the "inventory search distance around known sites" parameter under column E in the *Vector Matrix Table* (Appendix #1), or as defined for specific inventory projects.

- 2.10. As a general rule, invasive plant occurrences that are continuous, that is where gaps between plants are less than 100 meters, are recorded as one site. Where invasive plant occurrences have gaps between invasive plants that are greater than 100 meters they are recorded as separate sites.
- 2.11. For weed sites of 0.2 hectares or less, the co-ordinates of the mid-point of the infestation will be recorded.
- 2.12. When invasive plant sites are greater than 0.2 hectares the perimeter of the site will be directly captured in a digital format (e.g. GPS) or plotted to a defined scale map or aerial photo for later digitizing.

3. Recording:

- 3.1. All *Site and Invasive Plants Inventory* records must be electronically entered into the Ministry of Forests' Invasive Alien Plants Database with all mandatory fields completed.
- 3.2. Digitised shape files must be supplied to the Regional staff member responsible for uploading into the provincial database. The files must comply with the Ministry of Forest's standards for the Ministry of Forests' Invasive Alien Plants Database.
- 3.3. A copy of all field notes and maps must be kept.