

Educational Campaign on invasive exotic plants used in horticulture

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Environment Canada's Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP)*

Gardening while protecting our wetlands!

In our country, horticulture remains one of the leading vectors for the introduction of invasive exotic plants. Escaping from gardens, some species quickly colonize surrounding wetlands. Plant seeds or fragments are not only



scattered by the wind, water, and animals but

by the horticulturists themselves. Unaware of the impact on native flora, gardeners help spread these plants by multiplying them or disposing of specimens in nature, without taking appropriate precautions.

Purple loosestrife: Caroline Savage,
Canada Environment



Invasive plants have an impact on a number of levels:

- 1) by replacing native species, they significantly reduce biodiversity
- 2) by modifying the habitat, they have a direct effect on local fauna
- 3) they impede navigation and the use of the site for recreational purposes
- 4) they generate high economic losses, since their control and the restoration of the environmental are quite costly.



Eight particularly aggressive species warrant our attention: the water chestnut, Japanese knotweed, flowering rush, purple loosestrife, European frogbit, reed canarygrass, common reed, and the European water milfoil. In order to protect our wetlands, we should avoid purchasing, transplanting or multiplying these plants. If you choose to remove them from your garden, make sure you dispose of them in a definitive manner (by drying or burning them).



Keep your eyes open!

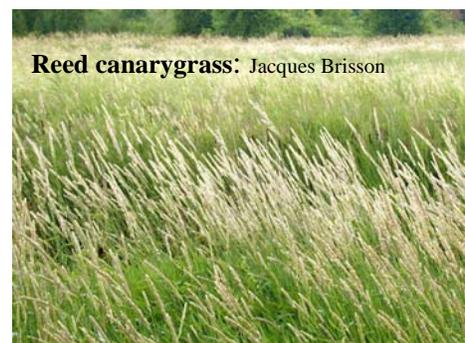
And heed the following general tips:

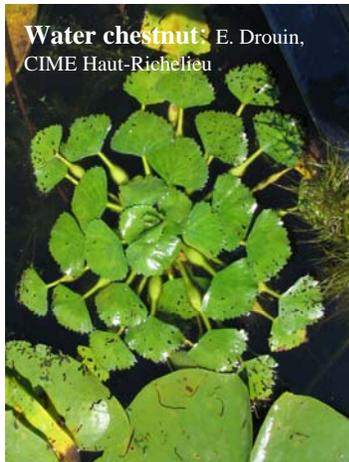
- 1) Avoid transplanting these species in gardens or aquariums.
- 2) Eliminate or control these plants. Repeated cutting and harvesting can limit their growth, but you could risk spreading them by multiplying fragments or disseminating seeds. If you attempt to get rid of them, make sure you get them all (inflorescent stems, roots). Don't throw them out in nature and be particularly vigilant if you live near a waterway.

3) Avoid composting these plants at home. It is preferable to dispose of them in a definitive manner by drying (stems), intense heat or fire (roots, rhizomes, inflorescent stems, seeds).

4) Choose and cultivate non-invasive species.

5) Check and clean gardening equipment (trencher, mower, agricultural machinery) after use in an infested sector.





Water chestnut: E. Drouin,
CIME Haut-Richelieu

6) Furthermore, if you are travelling on or near waterways, remember to clean your canoes, boats, motors, trailers and ATVs before moving on to another waterway.

7) Other species are knocking at our doors. Be vigilant!

Full-colour documents and replacement suggestions for each of these plants are available from the Town of Rosemère's Technical Services and Public Works Department. Contact the Town's eco-consultant, at 450 621-3500, ext. 3305, if you believe your property holds invasive plants, of which you would like to dispose.

Info:

Nature-Action Québec, 450 536-0422, www.nature-action.qc.ca, scotenaq@bellnet.ca
120 Ledoux Street, Beloeil, Qc J3G 0A4

Union Saint-Laurent Grands Lacs, 514 396-3333, www.glu.org, usgl@glu.org
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