

No Rest From New Pests



Himalayan Balsam
Impatiens glandulifera



Apple infested with Apple Maggot, *Rhagoletis pomonella*



Lock up the shutters and fence-up the yard! Guard your home and garden this year from foreign pests that are ready to stake their claim on your property.

British Columbia produces a wide diversity of high value agricultural crops that contribute billions of dollars to the BC economy. British Columbia nurseries also produce a wide variety of ornamental plants that beautify public and private landscapes throughout North America. The introduction of new invasive alien pests is a serious threat to BC's agricultural and horticultural industries. They also threaten rangelands, forests, native plants and animals (biodiversity) by competing for available space and food, or by directly attacking native species.

What are Invasive Alien Pests?

Invasive alien pests include plants, animals, insects, mites, and plant pathogens (bacteria, fungi, viruses, nematodes) that are introduced to a country or region deliberately or by accident, outside of their natural habitat. If environmental conditions and a food source or host is available, introduced pests can often survive, multiply and spread. A lack of natural enemies in their new location is often an important factor allowing their population to increase unchecked.

The economic consequences of new pests may be direct, such as a decrease in crop yield or death of the host; or indirect, such as quarantine restrictions and market closures. For home gardeners this could mean more work protecting plants or containing aggressive plants. Some invasive alien pests threaten more than one plant-based sector (agriculture, forestry, horticulture). Due to the adverse impacts of alien pests to the economy and to the environment, it is essential that everyone work together to minimize the chances of introduction and spread of new pests.

Examples of Threatening Alien Invasive Pests:

Dutch Elm Disease has killed millions of elm trees across North America since its introduction from Europe. Alberta and BC are the only areas of North America that remain free of the disease. It is spread by bark beetles and people moving infested wood.

The apple maggot is present in all apple-growing regions of North America except BC. In Washington State, most infestations begin in urban apple, crabapple and hawthorn trees, threatening nearby commercial orchards. Illegal importation of backyard apples into BC from Washington increases the risk of introduction of this pest.

Yellow Starthistle and Common Crupina

are annual weeds that threaten BC from Washington, Oregon, Idaho & Montana. They are very aggressive invaders that reduce forage productivity and carrying capacity of rangelands/native grasslands for domestic livestock and wildlife.

Challenges in minimizing the risks from invasive alien species include:

- Increasing global movement of crops (in particular, fruit, nursery and floriculture), vehicles and people.
- Global warming – increasing average temperatures making our climate more suitable for pest survival.
- Finite resources for early detection and control of introduced pests.

Plant Quarantine

Control measures to prevent the establishment and spread of newly invasive pests are not always available. Therefore, the strict application of quarantine regulations and surveillance programs are essential. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has the lead role in protecting Canada from the introduction of new pests, and preventing the spread of certain pests between provinces. See the CFIA web site at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/listpescape.shtml> for a



Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*



Yellowflag iris, *Iris pseudacorus*

list of pests currently regulated by Canada. The Agency conducts annual surveys across Canada to keep track of newly introduced pests and to check for selected invasive alien species that may arrive in Canada.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (BCMAFF) administers the Plant Protection Act, the Weed Control Act and the Animal Disease Control Act to help prevent the spread of pests, weeds and plant and animal diseases. Information on these and other Acts administered by the Ministry are available at <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/fsq/legislation.htm>.

National Action Plan

Environment Canada, the CFIA, other federal and provincial departments and agencies and industry associations are jointly preparing a National Action Plan for addressing the threat of invasive alien plants and plant pests. The strategic goals of this Plan are prevention, early detection, and rapid response to new invasive alien species, and control and management of existing alien invasive species. Public participation in this National Plan is essential for the Plan to succeed.

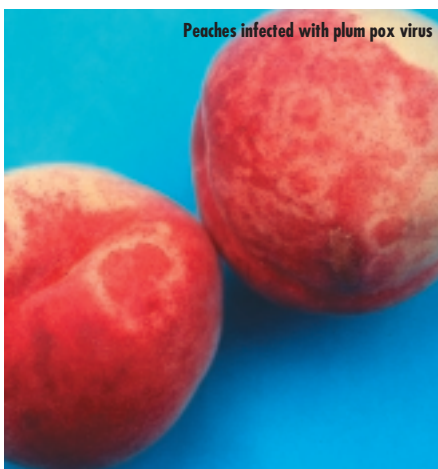
What You Can Do

Everyone has a responsibility to prevent the

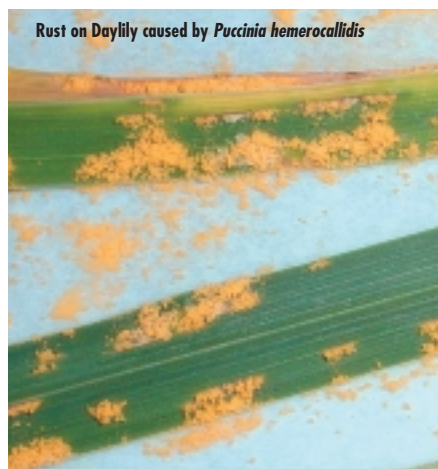
introduction of new pests, whether on the job or on vacation. Anyone importing plants, seeds, cuttings or other growing material, produce or process plant products, should be aware of and comply with import regulations. For more information visit the CFIA web site on Plant Imports www.inspection.gc.ca/english/toc/travoye_shtml#veg

You can aid in the detection of new pests by reporting any unusual plants, plant diseases, insects or mites to your local garden centre, local BCMAFF or CFIA office, or to any Master Gardener. They will forward any suspicious samples to BCMAFF specialists to determine if they are alien species. The BCMAFF web site contains pictures and information on some invasive alien species of immediate concern to BC (www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/nonnativepests.htm). Early detection and identification will greatly improve chances of eradicating alien species or slowing their spread and damage. ■

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Peaches infected with plum pox virus



Rust on Daylily caused by *Puccinia hemerocallidis*