



**Invasive Species  
in the Williams Lake Watershed  
AGM May 23, 2023**

## Invasive Species WLCC AGM 2023

- HRM Community Grant funded a WLCC information program about invasive species.
- Why focus on invasive plants? They harm and even destroy ecosystems, and choke small waterways that feed Williams Lake.

# Invasive Species WLCC AGM 2023

New introductory 1-page guide to Invasive Plant Species is available online

## Invasive Species in the Williams Lake Watershed

The watershed is the area that supplies Williams Lake with all its water. This land includes a variety of diverse habitats, from wetlands and meadows to local streets and homes.

**The great cycle of life**  
For tens of thousands of years plants and animals have adapted to the unique environment of the watershed. From the high granite barrens with their sparse soil and harsh conditions to the woodlands and seasonal wetlands, a wide variety of plants have created thriving ecosystems that support a rich diversity of bird, insect and animal life. Plants of the watershed are uniquely suited to withstand cycles of drought and rainfall, and to regrow after periodic burns from forest fire. They form a community that is self-sustaining over time.

**The problem with invasive species**  
What happens when plants or animals from far away regions are introduced? Such alien species can damage local habitats where animals nest, and the food sources they rely on. Some invasive species multiply rapidly to crowd out native species. They compete at the level of roots to steal nutrients and moisture. They also interrupt the relationship of plants with the fungal soil organisms that help them access food.

**Four steps to fighting invasives**  
How you can help  
1. Learn to identify invasive species  
Find helpful information at the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council: [NSInvasives.ca](http://NSInvasives.ca)  
2. Remove or cut invasives back  
Some invasive species must be handled carefully.  
3. Avoid buying or planting species known to be alien or invasive  
Ask at garden centres or check Latin names before purchasing.  
4. Be a native plants ambassador  
Share your knowledge about invasive species with friends and neighbours.

**Why worry?** These are the types of damage that may be caused by invasive species  
**Loss of biodiversity**  
Diversity is when healthy habitats support a wide variety of plants and animals, with living things in balance. If native trees and bushes are replaced by an invasive species like Multiflora rose, that is a loss of biodiversity.  
**Degradation of natural habitats**  
Serious environmental effects include loss of food sources, soil depletion and erosion, loss of water quality and arrival of new diseases.  
**Economic impacts**  
Invasive plants can cost huge amounts to eradicate once established. Negative effects can be felt on recreation, tourism, public utilities, and even property values.  
**Dangers to health**  
Some invasives are toxic to eat, or poison the soil, threatening the health of wild animals, pets and also people.

**The best time to deal with invasive species?**  
As soon as you spot an invasive species, that is the best time to deal with it effectively. Waiting allows the invasive species to grow stronger, to become more entrenched in the landscape, to spread to neighbouring areas, and to do more damage.

**Many hands make light work**  
Funding: HRM Community Grants Program  
Map provided by Patricia Manuel  
Photo courtesy of David Patriquin  
Graphic design: pmh-Interworks

**Find out more – get involved!**  
Visit us at [WilliamsLakeCC.org](http://WilliamsLakeCC.org)  
Or see our partner organization at [BacklandsCoalition.ca](http://BacklandsCoalition.ca)

**Invasive Japanese Knotweed**  
Choking a riparian area

**Native Huckleberry, Broom Crowberry, and Jackpine**

**Helping to Protect Nature's Delicate Balance**



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Invasive Japanese Knotweed choking a riparian area



## Four steps to fighting invasives

How you can help

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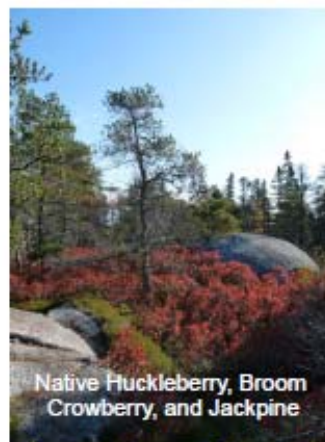
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Some invasives are toxic to eat, or poison the soil, threatening the health of wild animals, pets and also people.

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As soon as you spot an invasive species, that is the best time to deal with it effectively. Waiting allows the invasive species to grow stronger, to become more entrenched in the landscape, to spread to neighbouring areas, and to do more damage.

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Helping to Protect Nature's Delicate Balance

# Invasive Species WLCC AGM 2023

Follow-up series of printable pocket-size Fact Sheets  
The first on Japanese Knotweed



**It may look pretty**   
**but it doesn't belong...**



**Alias** Fleece Flower  
Japanese/Mexican Bamboo  
*Fallopia japonica*  
*Polygonum Reynoutria*


**ID** 1-3m tall hollow woody stems  
Lg oval pointed flat-based leaves, alternately arranged  
Blooms July-Aug, sprays of small white flowers

**Impact** Grows in thick clumps in urban areas & on  
riverbanks, blocking sunlight from native species  
Very fast growing - up to 8 cm/day! Spreads easily

**What to do** Cut stems at ground, excavate entire root system  
(2m+ deep), or tarp the area to "cook" the root system  
(leave for 3 growing seasons)  
Continually mow/cut new growth at least monthly

**DO NOT COMPOST**  
Seal plants/roots in black plastic, dry  
in direct sun (1 week), then double bag  
for HRM garbage pick up or burn



 Brought to you by the Williams Lake Conservation Company - [williamslakecc.org](http://williamslakecc.org)

# Invasive Species

## WLCC AGM 2023

### Knotweed Facts:

- Crowds out every other plant species, including ones that animals and birds depend on
- Extremely fast growing (up to 8 feet per year) and fast spreading by underground rhizome
- Almost impossible to eradicate
- must be mowed down, dug out, with roots smothered & poisoned

## Invasive Species WLCC AGM 2023

### Why worry? Here is what The Guardian says about the Knotweed crisis in Britain:

- British home owners must declare if there is Knotweed on their property
- If a sold property has undeclared Knotweed owners can be sued for tens of thousands
- Some mortgage lenders have stopped financing properties that have Knotweed
- One man spent £10,000 to have all the Knotweed and underlying soil removed
- In Britain they recommend that highly toxic glyphosae be applied every year for 7 years to kill Knotweed
- Rhizomes can lay dormant for up to 20 years, then re-sprout.

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### **We are definitely concerned - Knotweed is in the Williams Lake watershed:**

- Stands of Knotweed line Lawsons Creek at the entrance to the Shaw Wilderness Park
- Large patches of Knotweed border the McIntosh Run Community Trail
- We all need to be aware, and make efforts to combat, the spread of Knotweed.
- More Fact Sheets on other invasive species are planned.





**Knotweed at High Head Trail access road**