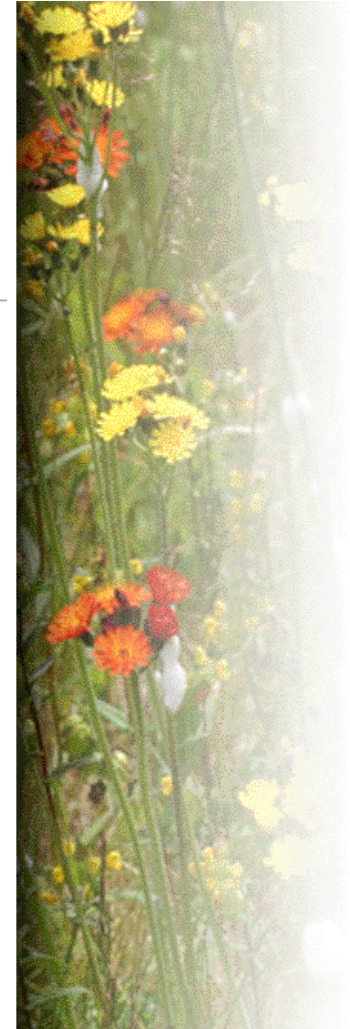




Welcome to the B.C. Invasive Plant Core Ranking Process

- Large Management Area Ranking Process
- Local Management Area Ranking Process



The **Invasive Plant Core Ranking Process** is a tool that will help land managers make invasive plant management decisions. The intent of the tool is to assist land managers in the identification of

1. invasive plants that should be actively managed, and
2. invasive plants that should be watched.

The Invasive Plant Core Ranking Process is publicly available but has primarily been developed for use by regional invasive plant committees, agencies (private and government), non-government organizations and professionals. It is expected that those using this process have a background in invasive plant management, and a basic knowledge of invasive plant biology and ecology.

The Core Ranking Process can be used at all scales - provincial, regional or individual land parcels - but is most applicable at the regional scale, such as regional districts, invasive plant committee regions or Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests Regions.

The ranking process will give a relative ranking that is replicable within a specific land base, and will help land managers identify the top three, five or ten species for management based on their available resources. Although it can be used by individuals, prioritizing regional species should be completed by a group familiar with invasive plants and the region.

The Invasive Plant Core Ranking Process will identify a species that is new or extremely limited in the management area, but it is not yet linked to an Early Detection Rapid Response (**EDRR**) protocol.

Invasive plant species that are new to a management area should be reported to a Provincial Invasive Plant Specialist.

Provincial and regional invasive plant specialists are located in the BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations. New species can also be reported online via the [Report a Weed](#) tool, in the Invasive Alien Plant Program ([IAPP](#)).

Some land managers may wish to add supplemental criteria to meet specific objectives and needs. Examples of potential supplemental criteria have been drafted; however, they are still under development and will be finalized pending future funding. For more information on supplemental criteria, please contact the IPCBC or the BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations.

THE NEW BC INVASIVE PLANT CORE RANKING PROCESS IS NOW POSTED ON THE IMISWG WEBSITE:

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species>

Directions for use of the BC Invasive Plant Core Ranking Process:

- If you are ranking species for a very large management unit - or the entire Province - click the **Large Management Area** button at the top of the screen. If you are ranking species for a smaller management unit, such as a regional district or a specific site, click the **Local Management Area** button.
- The Core Ranking Process lets you rank up to five species at one time. Enter the names of the invasive plants being ranked in the boxes at the top of the questionnaire; these species names will be repeated above each question as you proceed through them.
- The questions are divided into four categories: **Biology** (3 questions), **Ecology** (7 questions), **Species Impact** (3 questions), and **Management Potential** (6 questions).
 - Question nr. 11, in the Species Impact section, consists of 4 parts and all 4 must be answered. However, if you replied 'No' to question 9 for any of your species, then none of the parts in question 11 should be answered (if you replied 'No' to question 9, then the answer options in question 11 will automatically be disabled for that species).
 - Question nr. 16, in the Management Potential section, consists of 2 parts and these must both be answered by everyone.
- Each of the 4 categories begins with an *"Additional Resources"* section that contains a link to a page which supplies additional information and links to useful websites. This page will open in a separate window and will not interfere with your questionnaire. There is also an explanatory note below most questions with additional information to supply in-depth clarification.
- To complete the Core Ranking Process and receive a score, you must answer all 19 questions; if one or more questions remain unanswered, you will be prompted to verify your answers when you click the **Calculate Total Scores** button at the end.
- The ranking score totals for the species that you run through the process reflect their species' respective risk indicators; the higher the score, the greater the risk. The scores are **not** a percentage of anything, but a comparative risk indicator.
- If you would like to keep your results, you can click the **Print My Results** button. This will open your computer's print dialog box, from where you can choose to print the document, or save it as a pdf document.
- Once you are finished, and want to rank additional species, simply click the **Clear Scores / Reset Form** button at the bottom of the questionnaire and start again.

The next 2 pages very briefly summarize the Invasive Plant Core Ranking Process questions.

Please visit the on-line version and come check it out!

BIOLOGY

1	Typical species reproduction is:	Sexual	Asexual 1	Asexual 2	Reproduces from both seed (sexual or asexual) and asexual 2	
2	The species typically reproduces throughout - or for a good portion of — the growing season:	Yes	No			
3	Long distance dispersal is typical, because species has features that aid movement:	Yes	No			

ECOLOGY

4	Are habitat types in the management area susceptible to invasion?	Highly susceptible	Moderately susceptible	Not susceptible or Low susceptibility		
5	What proportion of the susceptible habitat types contain the invasive plant?	100%	50%-99%	10%-49%	Less than 10%	
6	In the majority of habitats that contain the invasive plant, the species distribution is:	Low	Moderate	High		
7	Is, or will the invasive plant become a dominant or very common species on disturbed sites?	Yes	No			
8	Is, or will the invasive plant become a dominant or very common species in undisturbed habitats?	Yes	No			
9	Once established, will the invasive plant persists as the most common or dominant species?	Yes	Uncertain	No		
10	What is the potential rate of spread in susceptible habitats?	Stable	Slow/Moderate	Rapid	The rate of spread is being managed (an effective biocontrol agent has established)	

SPECIES IMPACT

11	<i>(This is a 4-part question that should not be answered if you replied 'No' to question 9 for this species)</i>					
a	Is the invasive plant known to alter waterways?	No	Uncertain	Yes		
b	Is it known to alter soil or water chemistry?	No	Uncertain	Yes		
c	Does it exclude use by animals/humans, or form an impassable barrier in recreation areas etc.	No	Uncertain	Yes		
d	Is it known to change the structure of the natural community?	No	Uncertain	Yes		
12	Does the species affect human health or safety	No	Plant or plant parts are	Plant causes discomfort	Plant is otherwise	

			lethal; toxic; poisonous or can cause severe pain or discomfort (burning, blistering)	(punctures, scraping); triggers allergies; causes skin irritations; hosts vermin or disease	problematic (fire hazard, obstructs visibility, etc)	
13	Does the species affect animal health or safety?	No	Plant is lethal if eaten	Plant is toxic and palatable	Plant contains chemicals known to be toxic to animals but is never or rarely eaten	Plant is not palatable and the competitive nature and physical properties of the plant reduce available forage
MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL						
14	Is the species included in provincial legislation? (BC Weed control act; FRPA Regulation; BC Community Charter)	Yes	No			
15	Does the species occur on neighbouring jurisdiction lists of highly invasive species?	Yes	No			
16	Is the species new, or are recorded occurrences limited?					
a	Outside of the management area, the species is new to the province, or recorded occurrences are limited to less than 5 Regional Districts:	Yes	No			
b	Species is new to the management area, or recorded occurrences are limited to less than 5 general geographic areas OR an area that amounts to less than 10% of the overall susceptible area:	Yes	No			
17	Is the species present in neighbouring jurisdictions (gov. region, RD, or province or state)	Yes	No			
18	Has the species been successfully managed in another jurisdiction?	Yes	Uncertain	No		
19	What is the potential for eradicating the species, or drastically reducing the long-term impact of the species using current, acceptable methods?	Short term (less than 5 years)	Medium term (5 to 10 years)	Long-term (more than 10 years)	Once the invasive plant has established the species growth characteristics make eradication unlikely. Requires long-term management strategies for containment.	