

# Weed Watch

*Spread the word...not the weeds*

One of the most common invasive plants reported in the City of Cranbrook is Spotted Knapweed. The Regional District of East Kootenay Invasive Plant Program provides education and support for people dealing with invasive plants (like knapweed) on their property. This publication is intended to give you an overview of how we can help!



## Know Your Enemy

Hairy, deeply cut leaves with purple (sometimes white) flowers. Just below the flower head there's a black tipped fringe that gives a spotted appearance. A highly competitive weed, it can survive in a range of conditions. Plants can produce 140,000 seeds per square metre. Although seeds are usually spread in the immediate area of the plant, they can also be carried by foot, by animals and on the undercarriage of vehicles.

## What Are Invasive Plants?

Invasive plants are all around us and pose a serious threat to wildlife, the economy, recreation and the environment. You may have also heard of them referred to as noxious weeds.

Knapweed is one of dozens of invasive plants found in BC.

Once invasive plants become established, they are very difficult to combat and can have long-term, devastating effects. They can destroy recreational areas and opportunities, impact agriculture, clog waterways used for swimming and boating, choke out native plants, destroy habitat, increase fire hazard and decrease land values.

Invasive plants are opportunists and look for openings in the landscape to

become established. If disturbances can be quickly re-vegetated with natives species, the opportunity for invasive plants to become established is reduced. Whether you are digging a basement or re-designing your garden and flower beds, please keep this in mind.

It is your responsibility to help control invasive plants on your property. Under the City of Cranbrook's Unsightly Premise Bylaw, land owners must deal with any invasive plants on their property.

As City of Cranbrook residents, you are part of the RDEK and we are here to help.



## The RDEK and East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council Can Help

Some of the services the RDEK Invasive Plant Program provides include: education and awareness, program planning and land owner support related to invasive plants, such as knapweed.

This service is available to anyone in the East Kootenay, including those who live in the City of Cranbrook.

The RDEK also sits on the Board of Directors for the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council (EKIPC), where it represents the interests of RDEK taxpayers.

Together, the RDEK and EKIPC oversee the Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP). Through NIPP local land owners, occupiers and managers can receive guidance, resources and financial support necessary to manage invasive plants on private lands.



Neighbourhood  
**INVASIVE PLANT**  
Program

Some of the support available through the Program includes sprayer loan outs, new invader rebates, cost sharing rebates, and herbicide rebates.

This program is primarily managed and administered through the RDEK by Environmental Services Staff.

Brochures regarding this program are available at Cranbrook City Hall and you can contact the RDEK at 250-489-2791 for more information. You can also visit the EKIPC website: [www.ekipc.com](http://www.ekipc.com)