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Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation (CCIPR)



June 30, 2023

Subject : CFIA Response to the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation's White Paper

Dear Ms. Kavassalis:

Thank you for informing the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) of the CCIPR's white paper, *Reducing the Sales of Invasive Plants in Canada: to safeguard biodiversity and human health*. The white paper is very comprehensive and effectively highlights many issues with respect to invasive plants in Canada.

The CFIA recognizes that many invasive species present risks to Canada's environment and natural resources, including the country's agricultural and forestry sectors. As illustrated in [An invasive alien species strategy for Canada](#), invasive species are a risk that is shared among the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments and stakeholders, including industry and the public.

As part of its plant protection mandate, the CFIA adopts regulatory measures under the [Plant Protection Act](#) to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests, including invasive plants, in Canada. As discussed in your previous meetings with the CFIA, the CFIA has taken regulatory action on invasive plants since 2010. The purpose of our [Invasive Plants Program](#) is to protect Canada's plant resource base, including the environment, from pest plants. The CFIA plant directive [D-12-01](#) outlines the phytosanitary requirements to prevent the introduction and spread in Canada of pest plants regulated under the *Plant Protection Act*.

The CFIA works to continually enhance our Invasive Plant Program, for example to account for new risks or scientific information. This involves consultation processes and working with other federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial ministries of agriculture,

forestry and environment, domestic invasive species organizations, international partners, industry stakeholders and the Canadian public.

The CFIA is also actively involved in international organizations to optimize efforts against plant pests. For example, the CFIA works proactively at numerous levels in the International Plant Protection Convention and the North American Plant Protection Organization, both of which have reducing the spread of plant pests — which includes invasive species — as one of their primary purposes,

I agree that regulatory measures play a part in the fight against invasive plants. However, other tools or initiatives are also needed, ranging from education and outreach initiatives to international co-operation on border security. For example, provincial, industry or other stakeholder-led initiatives and best practices could play important roles to identify or mitigate risks presented by invasive plants.

In that regard, I encourage the CCIPR to continue to work with invasive species councils and the horticultural industry to enhance awareness of existing initiatives, such as the [Plant Wise](#) Program and the National Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Ornamental Horticultural Industry. Encouraging the Code's adoption and the use of native species may go a long way toward phasing out the availability of high-risk invasive plants in Canada.

In reviewing your white paper, I note that certain statements related to the delivery of the CFIA's plant protection mandate and international obligations were not represented accurately. I welcome a meeting with you to clarify these inaccuracies and to further discuss the invasive plants issue. I also respectfully request that you please remove all specific names of CFIA employees in your white paper and any other material you publish in order to ensure that the information they provided is appropriately attributed and verified.

I thank you for your efforts to raise awareness of invasive plants and their impacts. To arrange a meeting or if you have further questions, I invite you to contact my team by email at [CFIA-IAS ACIA-EEE@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:CFIA-IAS_ACIA-EEE@inspection.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Anthony Anyia
Chief Plant Health Officer and
Director, Plant Protection Division
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cc. Wendy Asbil, National Manager, Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Plant Programs
Cheryl Corbett, National Manager, Plant Health Risk Assessment