



Meeting conducted via Zoom – Nov 20, 2023: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

(Please consult the PowerPoint presentation for more details. All materials will be uploaded to the members' section of the website: [https://ccipr.ca/member-materials/.](https://ccipr.ca/member-materials/))

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Land Acknowledgement and Greetings

Cathy gave a land acknowledgement. 31 of our 122 team members were available to attend our meeting.

Progress Report

Progress has been a **steady but slow increase** in partners, supporters and team members. We now post 74 organization and business logos on our website; 316 individuals have voiced support for our objectives on our website. We now have 2,000 members on our CCIPR Facebook group.

CCIPR made presentations and attended meetings with several federal departments and groups interested in preventing the spread of invasive ornamental plants including:

- B.C. Invasive Species Working Group
- Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

- Environment Canada & Climate Change (ECCC)
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
- National Master Gardeners groups
- Atlantic Master Gardeners
- South-Central Ontario Conservation Authorities (SCOCA)
- Many team members presented to garden clubs and other NGOs

We also presented to the **Invasive Alien Species National Committee**

- Received great reviews from this presentation.
- Representatives from many departments attended including DFO, ECCC, CFIA.
- DFO representatives indicated that some high-risk aquatic plants are expected to be added to the *Fisheries Act*. We believe CCIPR was instrumental in moving this forward.

Ongoing discussions with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

- CFIA has the primary authority for the regulation of terrestrial invasive plants but has not been regulating invasive aquatic plants. DFO appears to be stepping up to fill this gap.
- Wendy Asbil, National Manager Invasive Alien Species and Domestic Plant Programs Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate has provided some feedback on our white paper. In a letter to CCIPR, she states: “I would like to clarify that the CFIA’s plant health risk assessment process considers both the economic and environmental impacts of invasive plants. Environmental concerns have always been considered in this process and will continue to be an important factor when determining if an invasive plant qualifies for regulation.” Full text will be posted to our Members Page.
- Asbil goes on to state: “CFIA prioritizes species that are not yet present or present with limited distribution, so that ‘official control’ is possible.” We are continuing to challenge the CFIA’s definition of “limited distribution” and feel they are not meeting international obligations by ignoring many invasive plants in the horticultural trades that are not limited in distribution according to international definitions (IPPC [Glossary of phytosanitary terms ISPM-5-24](#)).
- Over the past ~20 years, only 21 pest plant species have been restricted/prohibited under the *Plant Protection Act* Directive D-12-01 (a few additional taxa are regulated under different directives, e.g., Directive D-01-04 prohibits rust carrying *Berberis* species).
- According to CFIA, plants that are present in Canada are the responsibility of “industry, municipal, provincial/territorial [governments?] and invasive species councils” and CFIA encourages the horticultural industry to adopt the voluntary code of conduct. It would be great if those stakeholders were able to address the problem. That is simply not the case. We know governments and councils do not have the resources (financial and knowledge) to address the problem and there is little indication that the horticultural industry as a whole is ready to adopt a voluntary code of conduct.
- We will update our white paper to reflect CFIA clarifications by the end of the year.

Thoughts on the National Conference on Horticulture and Invasive Species

- Attendance was really low for a national conference (120 attendees including 26 presenters).

- CCIPR was not invited to speak, and we did not receive a notice or call for abstracts. We concluded that they did not want to hear from us. Regulatory solutions were not discussed.
- There were some excellent presentations with information we can use:
 - \$1 in prevention saves \$53.5 in damages (global assessment by Roth Cuthbert).
 - 60% of invasive plant introductions were intentional (US hort trade assessment by Evelyn Beaury).
 - CFIA has no plans to address horticultural sales apart from education (CFIA Kristina Pauk).
 - CFIA described the risk analysis process (CFIA Alexandre Blain). There are so many "stops" that it is unlikely plants will be regulated.
 - Polling Canadians - Ken Donnelly) gave an interesting presentation on polling data. The questions and responses regarding invasive species were not consistent. The bottom line - more education is needed. They didn't ask about sales of invasive plants, regulation, or warning labels. CCIPR has discussed creating our own questions to pose to the public.
 - Some talk summaries have been posted to our [CCIPR Facebook Page](#).

Invasive Plant Councils - Are they the answer?

- CFIA maintains that education and voluntary action are key to addressing the issue of invasive plant sales.
- Cathy attended the AGM of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC). The current financial statement indicates insufficient funds to continue beyond 2024. To fund the operation, "Best Management Practices" are prepared on request and paid for by the organisation requesting them. They are not prepared based on a provincial priority list. OIPC no longer has funding for publishing and distributing [Grow Me Instead](#) Guides. (Nova Scotia/New Brunswick Council have developed a [much better guide](#).)
- Manitoba no longer has an operational plant council.
- CCIS lists ten chapters, but Manitoba is not operational. **Councils can and do provide an invaluable service.** However, they cannot function without stable funding and they cannot fill the gap the federal government has left by allowing the continued sales of high-risk invasive plants. We will continue to point this out to the CFIA and government representatives.
- We have requested CCIS provide us a list of horticultural trades that have adopted the Voluntary Code of Conduct and or requested Plant Wise Certification.

Invasive Plant Lists

- CCIS (Canadian Council for Invasive Species) has developed a list of [Unwanted Plants in Canada](#) (2022).
- As discussed above many regional plant councils don't have the capacity to develop lists and the criteria for list development is not clear and consistent across the country.
- Cathy has created a spreadsheet of plants regulated across provinces and territories as well as bordering U.S. states. Several plants pop up that are an issue in various jurisdictions. She has also updated and revised the information on our CCIPR webpage [Canadian Invasive Plant Lists](#).

- It is crucial to have a central repository for invasive plants. A database should include cultivars, correct botanical names, biological traits, distribution, history (see our white paper for key data and risk criteria).

Next steps - Take Action

- We developed **Ten Action Items** that might stir people to act (see slides or website).
- Cathy asks each team member to commit to **contact one person or organization** that could make a difference.
- Lynne Patenaude and Julianne Labreche shared how they did **outreach**. Lynne reached out to six organizations and three responded and supported our objectives. Julianne developed a "thanks but no thanks" campaign to reject the sale of invasive plants at events (See <https://ccipr.ca/resources-for-outreach/> for examples of posters).
- **Photo library**: Photos have shown to be very powerful in helping people understand that plants are indeed invasive.
 - We discussed various options on how to get photos shared in a way that reduces management, but allows access and location, plant name.
 - We are currently using a free version of gallery software on our website. A paid version may be more useful to allow people to manage their own photos. Starter version \$55/year should do what we need.
- **Petitions**
 - It is time to draft a federal petition. Lynne gave some information on petitions. A petition requires 500 signatures to move forward. Once that happens there is an obligation for the government to provide a response within 30 calendar days.
 - Farnaz shared her experience of drafting a petition and why it failed to move forward.
 - We will aim to circulate a draft petition early in 2024.
- **UBC Plant App Project** - University of British Columbia continues working on an app to search databases and pull up information on invasive plants for consumers. We will update you as the project nears completion.

Chat and discussion

- The CCIS **iNaturalist I spy program** was discussed and was not considered the best option for sharing invasive ornamental plant photos. <https://inaturalist.ca/projects/i-spy-and-identify-invasives-je-vois-j-identifie-les-especes-envahissantes>
- Invasives BC program, formerly Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP), created a plant database that is maintained by the province: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/invasivesbc>
- Network of Nature has an interactive native plant nursery and store map for all of Canada. The David Suzuki Foundation is working with them and hoping to add various layers, e.g., invasive plant free, neonics free, native plants only. These will be identified and promoted. The DSF hopes to have the updated map ready by Feb 2024. Here is the link to the current map: <https://networkofnature.org/where-to-buy/hm/>
- John Kemp, Giant Hogweed Mitigation Project, would like CFIA to reconsider the pest risk assessment for Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*). We will provide him with contact information for Alexandre Blain - a CFIA Plant Health Risk Assessor.

- Colleen Cirillo has offered to help with outreach to academics and educational institutions. Please let us know if you can assist.
 - A Go Fund me campaign for the development of regional plant lists was discussed. Creating plant lists takes several years and requires consultations with various stakeholders. It also requires review from various scientists. While NGOs can work on development, CCIPR believes a central database using standardized, internationally respected, criteria are crucial. Based on risk assessments, sales of high-risk plants like kudzu should be nationally banned, others can be labelled to indicate they have the biological traits or a history of invasion that make them potential risks.
 - Bruce Bennett shared information on AKEPIC ([Alaska Exotic Plant Information Center](#)) and a [new invasive species guide](#) for NWT
 - Lynne: Fisheries and Oceans Canada developed an \$8.9 million Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund earlier this year, and funding decisions will be published by Nov 30, 2023. Nothing similar exists for terrestrial species.
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Thank you for your time and continued support!