

DATE

NAME OF SENDEE

ADDRESS OF SENDEE

Dear NAME,

I am sending this letter as both a gardener and a concerned customer, requesting that your store phase out the sale of invasive plants and increase the sale of locally sourced native plants.

Invasive plants are non-native plants that readily self-disperse in a region and negatively impact native biodiversity, the economy and/or society, including human health. Some of our most popular garden plants are on provincial and territorial invasive plant lists, including periwinkle, goutweed, and Norway maple [Feel free to mention different species of greatest concern in your area]. A list for our region can be found here [Link to a list of invasive species of high priority in your area].

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 50 percent of invasive plants in Canada were introduced through horticulture. Research in the states shows that 82 percent of invasive trees and shrubs in North America were introduced through the industry. Horticulture is a well-established source of invasive plants, but this can – and must – change.

A new era of gardening is upon us; one that addresses the biggest issues of our time – biodiversity loss and climate change. As a nursery owner/operator, you have an important and exciting role to play in this transition. Our region boasts a great diversity of native plants that are beautiful, garden-appropriate, and supportive of pollinators and other wildlife. By offering these plants in your nursery, you can support conservation while providing customers with quality products for life-affirming gardens and communities.

Gardeners experience firsthand the impacts of invasive plants and climate change as well as the reduction of pollinating insects. We also are aware of the growing interest in native plants and ecological horticulture, both of which are excellent business opportunities. The best way for you to support pollinators and draw in gardeners like me to your nursery, is to phase out the sale of invasive plants and increase the sale of native plants.

Here is a list of specific requests for your consideration:

1. Learn more about invasive garden plants in our region and share information with your staff and suppliers. [Add a link to the appropriate provincial/territorial council or a invasive species list or helpful horticulture online resource].
2. Commit to phasing out the sale of invasive plants listed by our regional invasive species council and/or listed in our region's Grow Me Instead guide [Add a link to the appropriate GMI guide.] A list of online guides is provided below.
3. Add labels to invasive plants that you continue sell to encourage their placement away from natural areas and to educate on proper disposal (in garbage not yard waste collection bags/bins).
4. Sell more plants that are native to our region and sourced and grown locally. Check-out the native plant list generating tools offered by [Pollinator Partnership Canada](#) and [Birds Canada](#).

5. Check-out the [National Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Ornamental Horticultural Industry](#) created in 2019 by the Canadian Council for Invasive Species, and consider signing on.
6. Check-out the [Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation](#), a national initiative led by the Master Gardeners of Ontario. Read the group's [principal report](#) and consider joining as a [supporter or partner](#).

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider the requests listed above. If you would like to respond to this email specifically and/or discuss the necessary and exciting transition underway in horticulture, send a note to **EMAIL ADDRESS**.

All the best,

SIGNATURE
NAME

List for Invasive Species/Plants Councils and GMI guides in Canada that may be inserted in your personal letter (it is not intended that you include them all).

National organizations

Invasive Species Centre: invasivespeciescentre.ca

Canadian Council on Invasive Species: canadainvasives.ca

Yukon

Yukon Invasive Species Council <https://www.yukoninvasives.com/>

Be Plant Wise and Grow Me Instead: yukoninvasives.com/index.php/en/resources/brochures

Northwest Territories

Invaders in the Northwest Territories: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/brochures/invaders_in_nwt.pdf

British Columbia

Invasive Species Council of British Columbia: bcinvasives.ca

Be Plant Wise: beplantwise.ca

Grow Me Instead: bcinvasives.ca/resources/publications/grow-me-instead-booklet

Alberta

Alberta Invasive Species Council: abinvasives.ca

Be Plant Wise/Grow Me Instead: abinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Grow-Me-Instead.pdf

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council: saskinvasives.ca

Manitoba

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba: invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

Grow Me Instead: invasivespeciesmanitoba.com/site/uploads/pdf/Posters/grow%20me%20instead.pdf

Ontario

Ontario Invasive Plant Council: ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

Grow Me Instead: ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead

Sault/Algoma Grow Me Instead <https://www.cleannorth.org/sault-algoma-grow-me-instead-guide/>

Quebec

Quebec Invasive Species Council: https://cqeee.org/?page_id=33

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Invasive Species Council: <https://www.nbinvasives.ca>

NB Plant Wise and Grow Me Instead: <https://www.nbinvasives.ca/plantwise>

Prince Edward Island

PEI Invasive Species Council: <https://peiinvasives.com>

Nova Scotia

Invasive Species Alliance of Nova Scotia: <http://www.invasivespeciesns.ca/>

NS Plant Wise and Grow Me Instead: <https://nsinvasives.ca/plant-wise/>

Newfoundland and Labrador

Exotic and Invasive Species brochure: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/wildlife-biodiversity-invasive-alien-species-exotic-species-brochure.pdf>

Memorial University: www.mun.ca/botgarden