

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Ornamental Horticulture Industry Launched

Peterborough, ON, June 12, 2019 - The Canadian Council on Invasive Species, along with several key partners are excited to launch a new [National Voluntary Code of Conduct](#) for the ornamental horticulture industry. The *National Voluntary Code of Conduct* supports the Canadian Council on Invasive Species' *Be Plant Wise* program. The goal of the *Be Plant Wise* program is to support and recognize responsible leaders in the horticulture industry who adopt best practices to avoid the introduction of high-risk invasive plants to specific regions.

Invasive species are a growing threat to Canada's ecosystems and are capable of overtaking and displacing native species. Over 60% of Canada's invasive plants were intentionally introduced over the last 150 years-based on their value for food, medicine, etc. Although most introduced plants don't disrupt ecosystems, there are a limited number of "high-risk" invasive plants that can cause damage to natural areas, agriculture, forestry, recreation, etc. (i.e. Dog-strangling Vine, Japanese Knotweed). The estimated annual economic impact of invasive plants on Canadian agriculture is \$2.2 billion (Environment Canada, 2010).

The work of the program is led by the Canadian Council on Invasive Species and supported by the National Horticulture Invasive Plants Working Group, made up of members from:

- the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA),
- the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), and
- the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The group developed the National Voluntary Code of Conduct to engage the ornamental horticulture industry and trade to improve best practices across all sectors of the industry. Accompanied by a growing demand by gardeners and developers for non-invasive species, the outcome will be a recognition program for key industry partners that will:

- raise awareness on this issue among all sectors of the industry
- prevent the spread of invasive plants already present in Canada
- prevent the introduction of 'high risk' new plant invaders.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species is pleased to work in partnership with members of the National Horticulture Invasive Plants Working Group in launching the Code of Conduct across Canada. The CCIS Executive Director, Barry Gibbs (CCIS) notes that "*This voluntary Code of Conduct encourages the landscape and ornamental horticulture industry to commit to take action to prevent the introduction and spread of high-risk invasive plants.*"

The Code of Conduct consists of 11 best practices for industry related to growing, selling and specifying non-invasive species as well as to label plant material correctly using both common and scientific names, to name a few examples.

This program directly aligns with the Canadian Council on Invasive Species' other national "Taking Action" programs that are implemented from coast to coast to coast. Focused on encouraging best practices, these programs facilitate partners, other organizations, and the public to take actions to stop the spread of invasive species via pathways such as horticulture, firewood and outdoor recreation. To learn more about Clean Drain Dry or other education and outreach programs, visit www.canadainvasives.ca.

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About the Canadian Council on Invasive Species

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species works collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries to support actions and disseminate information that can help reduce the threat and impacts of invasive species. Invasive species councils, committees, and coalitions representing provinces and territories across Canada establish this federal society to work together to reduce the impact of invasive species across the country. For more information, visit our [website](#). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @Canadainvasives

About the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is a professional organization with landscape architect members, associate (or intern) members and student of landscape architecture members. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban design, urban renewal, sustainable development, climate change and cultural heritage.



About the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association

The CNLA, with the Provincial Associations, will develop programs, undertake initiatives and form alliances in order to achieve sustainable prosperity for members and stakeholders. The purpose of CNLA is to foster relationships and alliances, provide member certification and help its members function more effectively.



About the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the Government of Canada's key science-based regulatory agency with the mandate to safeguard Canada's food supply, animals and plants. This enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy. As Canada's national plant protection organization, the CFIA aims to protect Canada's agriculture and forestry sectors and natural resources from the economic and environmental impact of introduced pests, such as invasive plants. This includes regulating the import and movement of federally regulated plants into and within Canada, surveillance and detection, and control or eradication of designated plant pests in Canada.

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