



Invasive plant disposal protocol – Resort Municipality of Whistler

Overview

Invasive plants pose serious environmental, personal safety and economic threats to the Whistler area. The following protocol is designed to minimize the spread of invasive plants by promoting best practices for disposal and transport.

Some invasive plant species require very high temperatures and/or long periods of time to destroy seeds and root fragments, which can result in some invasive species surviving the composting process. In order to keep compost products invasive-free, the RMOW does not accept invasive plant material into the organic material waste stream.

This protocol is intended to apply to municipal employees, businesses in the horticulture industry and private citizens, and help facilitate the bylaw that bans invasive plant disposal everywhere but in general waste. The Resort Municipality of Whistler has a partnership with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC) to promote best management practices of invasive species throughout the Corridor. A certification course designed to raise awareness of effective invasive plant management is available through the SSISC – contact SSISC for more information (see page 2).

Solid Waste Bylaw

Whistler has a Solid Waste Bylaw, which requires invasive species to be separated from clean yard waste and disposed of with landfill waste. According to Schedule B of the Bylaw, invasives species should be disposed of in the landfill waste stream, whereas clean yard waste, defined as “stumps and branches or other plant matter from land clearing or landscaping work, but does not include invasive species” can be disposed of with Organic Material. To comply with the bylaw, please ensure that invasive species are identified and disposed of separately from clean yard waste.

Cost

The cost to dispose of invasive and noxious plant matter is \$140/tonne (standard rate for garbage) or \$30/tonne for Landscapers certified within the SSISC invasive plant species certification program. Clean wood and yard waste is \$30/tonne.

Protocol

1. Sort:
 - Separate invasive plants banned from compost (see reverse for list) from rest of yard waste
 - Where possible, place invasive plants in bags and seal tightly. Stickers that say ‘invasive plants – do not compost’ available for bags
 - Large loads (not in plastic bags) require a day’s notice before drop off. Call 604-848-4750 to set up a drop off time.
2. Transport:
 - Transport load to Whistler transfer station in an enclosed manner to ensure no plant parts escape
 - If invasive plants are not sealed in bags, tarps or other methods must be used to prevent any plant parts (including seeds) from escaping via transport

3. Check in:

- Proceed to weigh station when you reach landfill and identify that you have invasive plants to dispose of and if you are certified

4. Unload:

- Unload into designated signed area(s)
- Large loads to follow directions given after calling to set up a drop off time

Invasive plants banned from compost*

Priority 1

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) - highly toxic, do not touch any part of plant with bare skin

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) - can spread from less than a gram of root material

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Priority 2

Blueweed; Viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*)

Butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii*)

Cutleaf blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*)

Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)

Daphne; spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*)

Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)

English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

English ivy & varieties (*Hedera helix* & var)

Field bindweed; morning glory (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus/discolor*)

Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

Periwinkle (*Vinca major, V. minor*)

Policeman's helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Small touch-me-not (*Impatiens parviflora*)

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)

Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*)

Yellow archangel; lamium (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

Yellow (common) toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

*Not an exhaustive list; contact Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (www.ssisc.info) for help with identification of additional invasive species and removal options for all priority species.

Unload areas

Check with weigh station where the designated invasive plant and clean wood and yard waste disposal is located.

Soil & fill infested with invasive seed or plant parts

Must treat the same as soil contaminated with chemicals and needs to be dropped off by appointment only. Charges may apply.

Further Information:

- RMOW Solid Waste bylaw:

https://www.whistler.ca/sites/default/files/2017/Oct/bylaws/pdf/24196/2139_solid_waste_bylaw_no_2139_2017_adopted.pdf

Contacts

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