

Newsletter



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Puncturevine, *Tribulus terrestris*



Third Annual Forum

The Invasive Plant Council's third annual forum will be held in Richmond, BC on **January 23-24, 2007** with the theme of **Aliens Beware**.

Workshops will be offered on the first day, Tuesday, on advances in biocontrol, best management practices for different invasive plants, the components of risk assessments, the economic impacts of invasive plants, and much more.

Join the evening reception when keynote speaker Les Mehrhoff, from IPANE (Invasive Plant Atlas of New England) will share his experiences of managing invasive plants across eight northeastern states. The day-long forum on Wednesday will include presentations, the Council's annual general meeting, and information on provincial and federal invasive plant initiatives, among other topics.

Please mark the forum dates on your calendar and watch for more information.



Invasive Alien Plant Program Workshops

The Invasive Plant Council is hosting ten orientation workshops throughout BC on the Invasive Alien Plant Program to introduce participants to:

- what the IAPP program is and how it works
- how to enter data into the database
- how to use the map display and search for data

Workshops were held in Duncan, Kamloops, Nelson and Williams Lake in November, and more are scheduled for:

Dawson Creek (Dec. 1)	Sechelt (Dec. 6)
Campbell River (Dec. 11)	Penticton (Jan. 17)
Cranbrook (Jan. 31)	

Workshops are free of charge and open to all interested participants from government, First Nations, industry and community groups, but pre-registration is required. The Invasive Plant Council will collate input on how to improve province-wide access and use of this database. For more information, please contact your local weed committee chair or the Invasive Plant Council office.

IP-InfoSource



The IP-InfoSource database lists all currently known invasive plant communication resources. IP-InfoSource now contains over 150 entries, from local governments, naturalist clubs, gardeners, recreation groups, and range and cropland groups, many from Canadian sources. Search results have also been included for news-making species such as English ivy, carpet burweed, puncturevine, purple loosestrife and giant hogweed. Check out IP-InfoSource to find what information is available to you and your group!

The Communications and Awareness Committee and others will identify information gaps and needs to develop new information resources. If you know of other information to add to IP-InfoSource, please contact the Council, or you can do this yourself on IP-InfoSource.

IP-InfoSource can be found at www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/compendium/

Hound's-Tongue, *Cynoglossum officinale*



Responsible Gardening ... Where Does it Begin?

This workshop, hosted by the Invasive Plant Council and the BC Landscape and Nursery Association, will be held on December 5, 2006 at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Surrey/Langley. The agenda will cover:

- Global, national and provincial initiatives to control the impacts of invasive plants;
- Defining the key issues and approaches for BC;
- Developing actions to address BC's needs and issues;
- Determining the roles and responsibilities of everyone, from landscape architects and landscapers to nursery growers, garden centres and master gardeners; and
- Listing the next steps for responsible gardening.

If you would more information about this workshop, please contact the BC Landscape & Nursery Association, phone (604)574-7772 or 1-800-421-7963, or e-mail info@bclna.com.

Jericho Stewardship Group Hosts World Urban Forum Tour

By Dawn Hanna, Chair of Jericho Stewardship Group



Participants at the World Urban Forum learn about invasive plant management in Jericho Park.

Vancouver was the site of the World Urban Forum in June, sponsored by the United Nations. More than 10,000 delegates from around the world attended the presentations, symposia and associated events. Jericho Stewardship Group was chosen to host one of only nine tours in Greater Vancouver. This group of volunteers works with the Vancouver Park Board to restore and enhance the natural areas of Jericho Park. Invasive plants, such as Japanese knotweed and English ivy, are key target species for management.

During a two-hour tour, delegates from as far away as Sweden, Brazil, Malaysia and Uganda were introduced to the variety of habitats at Vancouver's second-largest park, and the invasive plant species and other threats that face the park and its native plants and animals. They also learned about the work that community volunteers are doing to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the heart of Canada's third-largest city.

Spotlight Around BC

Successful Biological Control of Diffuse Knapweed

Judith H. Myers, University of British Columbia

Diffuse knapweed, *Centaurea diffusa*, is a Eurasian plant that invaded large areas of grasslands in the Thompson and Okanagan Valleys of the BC Interior and other areas of western North America. Knapweed displaces rangeland grasses and has cost the cattle industry millions of dollars a year since it became established. Biological control has been the main approach for diffuse knapweed.

Since 1972, twelve species of European insects have been introduced as biological control agents to reduce the density and aggressiveness of diffuse knapweed. Only recently, however, have knapweed populations responded to biological control (Figure 1). In the mid-1990s, a European weevil, *Larinus minutus*, was introduced and widely distributed. This species destroys knapweed seed heads as larvae, and adults feed on the leaves, stems and buds of plants. At dry sites and in dry years weevils can kill diffuse knapweed plants.

Monitoring of diffuse knapweed at four sites since 1976 found a dramatic population decline at three sites in 2003, following the establishment of *L. minutus*. At a fourth site that lacked the weevils, knapweed densities continued to be high. Observations at many other sites show the virtual disappearance of diffuse knapweed when weevils are present, while other sites without weevils still have high knapweed density.

This successful biological control supports the suggestion that the invasiveness of introduced plants is related to the lack of the insects and diseases that attack them in their native habitat. Only some species of insects, however, appear to be able to control invasive plants. The key to

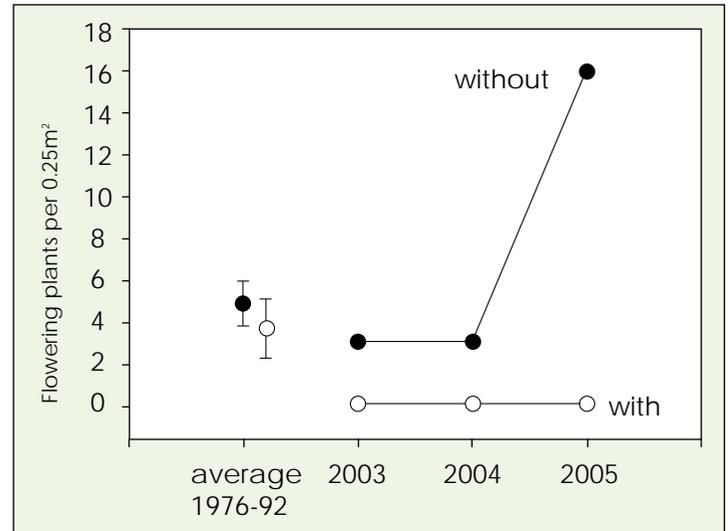


Figure 1. Change in the density of diffuse knapweed from the average density measured between 1976 and 1992 and that in 2003 to 2005 at three sites in the British Columbia Interior where the introduced beetle *Larinus minutus* is common, and at a site lacking the beetle.

successful biological control is to discover the species that work and to avoid introducing those that do not.

The control of knapweed took almost 30 years through the introduction of 12 new species of insects. The weevil *Larinus minutus* should be recognized for the great job it has done!

For more information, please contact Judy Myers at myers@zoology.ubc.ca

Invasive Plant Online Workshop

The Center for Invasive Plant Management, of Montana State University, is offering an invasive plant online workshop for land managers from January 15–Feb 16, 2007. The workshop is suited to those people interested in developing a weed management plan. In the context of an ecologically based adaptive management approach, the workshop provides a framework that is built upon understanding and assessing plant invasions. This framework will guide participants in developing and prioritizing strategies by considering land management goals, ecological principles and processes, and contemporary assessment techniques. The online workshop also provides a great opportunity for participants and instructors to exchange information and ideas.

For information about the online workshop and registration visit:
http://www.weedcenter.org/education/syllabus_07.htm

Invasive Plant Management from a Western Australian Perspective

Amanda Moncrieff has spent most of 2006 in British Columbia on exchange from Western Australia, where she works in the Department of Environment and Conservation. Amanda's time in BC has benefited invasive plant management for all of us, through her contributions to several key projects such as early detection and rapid response, the economic impacts of invasive plants, and her assistance in establishing an invasive plant committee for the Cariboo Chilcotin region. Recently, Amanda has also highlighted the differences in invasive plant management between Western Australia and British Columbia.

Australia's geographic isolation helps to restrict the biological introduction of new species. Australia uses a three-tiered approach to biosecurity through prevention and exclusion, surveillance and response, and pest and disease management. Before any plant is imported, it is assessed for listing as a permitted or prohibited species, and conditions for every species' entry are linked to legislation. Western Australia has over 14,000 listed species; everything else is prohibited until a positive Weed Risk Assessment is completed. The Weed Risk Assessment is a science-based process that accounts for a species' potential economic, social and environmental impacts and the level of threat posed. The emphasis is to prevent the entry and establishment of new invasive species, recognizing that prevention of new invasive species is by far the most cost-effective approach.

Australia is widely recognized for the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management, which brings together universities, government and private industry to achieve strategic research and project initiatives. Information on the CRC and its work can be accessed through www.weeds.crc.org.au.

Amanda sees British Columbia's strengths in invasive plant management as:

- Strong inter-agency communication, both provincially and regionally;
- Representation of interests and collaborative action through the Invasive Plant Council of BC; and
- An active network of regional invasive plant committees involving local governments supported by the provincial government.

Some of the key challenges we face in BC include:

- The need for important provincial-level initiatives, such as a reporting hotline and rapid response system;
- Collaborative decision-making processes to define priorities and allocate resources;
- Access to quality data and information on invasive plants, with a mechanism to distribute effectively to invasive plant managers and the broader public; and
- Increasing collaboration between governments and academic institutions on research.

The Invasive Plant Council sends a big thanks to Amanda for all her contributions to British Columbia and the legacy she will leave with us when she returns to Australia. Amanda can be reached at Amanda.Moncrieff@dec.wa.gov.au after February 1, 2007.

JOIN
the Invasive Plant Council
by signing the
Memorandum of Support
Available on the
website home page

CONTACT US:

Please let us know if you have an upcoming event or a project report for the "Spotlight Around BC" section in the newsletter, or feedback about the Invasive Plant Council.

www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca • Go to "Contact Us" link

Or call, write or fax us at:

#104 - 197 North 2nd Ave., Williams Lake, BC V2G 1Z5

Phone: (250) 392-1400 • Fax: (250) 305-1004