



A warm welcome from our southern neighbors

On July 9th 2008, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee (CCCIPC) invited us to attend their annual general meeting—their inaugural AGM as a non-profit society. Bordering the NWIPC to the south, and covering an area totaling 11% of BC, the CCCIPC is comprised of the Cariboo and Central Coast Regional Districts. It is a multi-stakeholder, non-profit society dedicated to minimizing the spread and impacts of invasive plants. The meeting began in Williams Lake with a tour—their third this year—of various invasive plants in their

operating area, including Baby's Breath, Hawkweeds, Hoary Alyssum, and Knapweed. A crowd of 45 people was captivated as Doctor Linda M. Wilson explained the aggressive traits of Orange Hawkweed. After lunch we got down to business. The AGM brought forward what has been and will be done towards meeting CCCIPC's goals: to develop a regional plan, raise awareness, develop resources, coordinate involvement, and to achieve early detection. Thanks to hard work, this very new committee has already come a long way toward achieving its goals.



The tour's final stop:
A field of sulphur cinquefoil

NWIPC says, "Many thanks to our southern neighbors for a fun and informative meeting." More info at www.cccipc.ca. Get involved with an invasive plant group near you!

Weed of the Month



Yellow Evening Primrose

Yellow Evening Primrose *Oenothera biennis*. This plant grows up to 2m high with flowering spiked stems on the top which may be hairy and either green or purple-tinged. Spiked stems open into 4-petaled yellow flowers that tend to open in the evening. It flowers from July to September. The leaves vary from short lance-shaped to a longer oblong shape. Leaf colors are either green or with a reddish cast with the middle often with a reddish to pinkish color. Margins are irregular or weakly toothed. The fruit is a 2–4 cm capsule containing

numerous 1–2 mm long seeds that are released when it splits open. As stated in the NWIPC's 2008 Plan and Profile, there is an infestation of evening primrose along the roadsides near the Ministry of Forests and Range field office in Hazelton. Another confirmed report of primrose was made on Highway 16, east of Burns Lake, 3.3 km northwest of the Savory rest stop. It is not known whether this plant presents a threat, but evening primrose seems to be on the move. Please report evening primrose to 1-866-44WEEDS.

NWIPC Events in August & September:

August	21st-24th	-Bulkley Valley X - Smithers
	22nd-24th	-Nadleh Whut'en Awareness Days -Fort Fraser
September	5th-7th	-Houston Trade Fair - Smithers
	6th-7th	-Lakes Dirstrict Fall Fair - Burns Lake
	28th	-BC Rivers Day - Prince George

Program Manager: Andrea Eastham
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Bright idea!
Collect and
spread native
seeds

Training for the trainers: NWIPC Staff Professional Development by Amy Barnes

Sponsored by NWIPC, Program Manager Andrea Eastham and Program Assistant Amy Barnes attended a provincial Weed Coordinator's event July 16-17 in Kamloops. It highlighted current and developing biocontrol agents (using insects to control weeds), showcased some invasive plant management research, and acted as a forum for idea-sharing and problem-solving. The event included tours of the provincial Biocontrol Propagation facilities—where biocontrol agents for Nodding thistle (and other species) are

being tested, Lac du Bois Grassland Protected Area to see first-hand examples of long-term knapweed management and biocontrol, and Kenna Cartwright Park where pesticide-free knapweed control research is being done by Thompson-Rivers University. The coordinators, along with Gail Walin of the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPC) and Linda Wilson from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, discussed current projects including IPC working with the horticulture industry to prevent the sale of invasive plants, the de-

velopment of a "Weeds 101" course for the general public, and the possible launch of a provincial weed information hotline. This event was an excellent opportunity for NWIPC staff to see what are up-and-coming restoration tools and to discuss common issues and solutions with other coordinators. We discovered how diverse invasive plant management is across the province and heard first-hand experience about the threat posed by invasive plants. For more info please contact Andrea Eastham or Amy Barnes.

A Keen Commission leaves knapweed all tied up

The 108 Ranch community formed a commission to manage its Greenbelt. The 1500 acres are administered through the Caribou Regional District (CRD), and funding is provided with a \$10 parcel tax. Their mission statement maintains the original ideal: that human development can sustain a viable partnership with nature. Herb Carter, Wendy Hamblin, and Graham Alison (pictured) are keen members. They make sure that the thistle and knapweed



*Keen members all wrapped up
Click picture to launch video*

in the greenbelt follow this ideal too. As invasives pop-up they tie pink ribbons on them. This helps treatment crews find them and helps bring about awareness for park users. This has led to nearly knapweed-free grazing lands. Information sessions are put on to educate the community. Education and early detection of their weeds go hand-in-hand here. We hope that more communities follow this example, by uniting to address their greenbelts.

Categorizing Invasive Plants

by Bob Drinkwater

The problem facing NWIPC is how to determine if a plant is in a lag time, or just not going to become a problem? In lag time, populations stay low for some time, after which they start an exponential increase and spread across the countryside. The "lag" time can last from a few years to decades. Categorization can help. A preliminary ranking from 1 to 4, extremely invasive to aggressive, is applied using scientific observations and advice. Our annual strategic plan will say "assessment needed" for any plants in the profile where our degree of uncertainty is high about what the plant might do in our region. Some plants with this status are evening

primrose, chicory, tragopogon, and bluet. Plants can change category annually as more information is gathered. For example, bluet has been in the NWIPC Plan & Profile since 1993 as a category 4, but was elevated to a category 2 at the 2008 spring meeting as it started to move off known sites and appear on new sites. Changing the category of a plant has impacts on NWIPC partners and our ability to successfully apply the strategy as we do not have the resources to treat all plants on all sites. Assessments are a good tool for assisting NWIPC in determining an alien plant's category, but two hurdles in our way are the cost of assessments and the

lack of a standard BC procedure. A made-for-BC assessment system is needed to make it quicker, easier, acceptable and relevant to all the partners. The Invasive Plant Council (IPC) of BC is currently developing and promoting such a system, hopefully ready for the 2009 season. Watch for information about the system, and requests to review and comment from IPC. In the meantime, please report so we can inventory those plants where there is a high degree of uncertainty. Evening primrose seems to be on the move; your assistance in reporting evening primrose would be appreciated so that its category can be reviewed at the fall meeting.

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council
Report Invasive Plants
1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)
www.nwipc.org email: info@nwipc.org

Bright Idea!
Bag and trash
seeding weeds