

INVASIVE PLANT REPORT

SUMMER 2021, CLINTON, B.C.



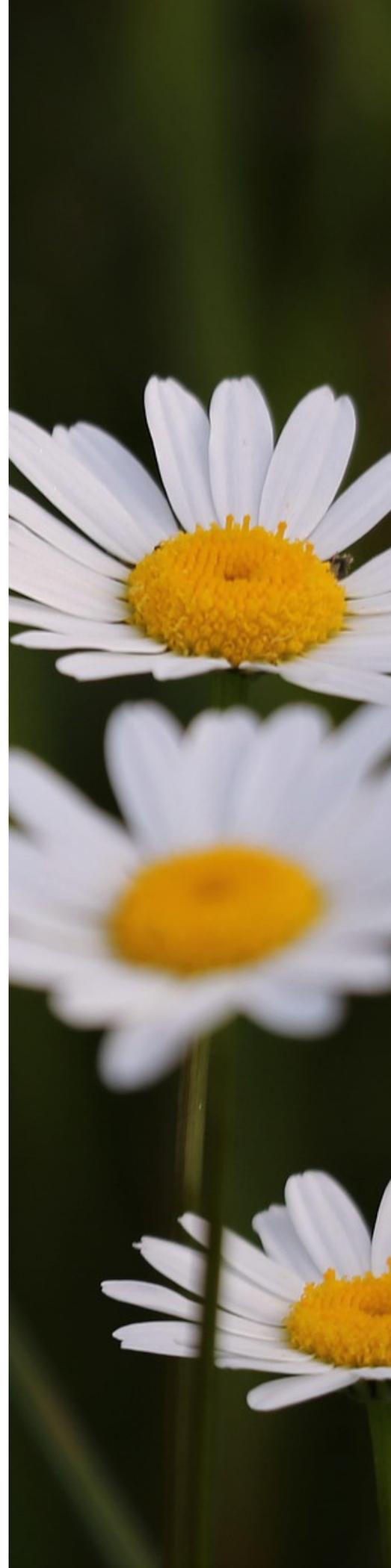
OVERVIEW

During the summer of 2021, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) teamed up with the Village of Clinton for another year of the invasive plant management and outreach program, which supported the manual removal of invasive plants on both public and private properties. In spite of the challenging summer of forest fires, heat waves, and mosquitoes, many in the community still showed interest in learning more about, and receiving help with, invasive plants.

The mechanical program focused on private lands as well as village roads and properties and resulted in a substantial reduction in infestations. In addition, the TNRD had Spectrum Resource Group Inc conduct chemical treatments of multiple invasive plant sites in the Clinton area including on some 'New Invader' species on private properties.

SUMMER STATS

- 14 invasive plant species identified
- 38 private properties visited for manual plant consultation or removal
- 43 public sites received manual removal of invasive plants
- 3 'New Invader' plant species spotted



PLANTS OF NOTE

The most commonly found invasive plant species in and around the Village of Clinton were Spotted Knapweed, Meadow Goatsbeard (aka Meadow Salsify), and Dalmatian Toadflax.

Less commonly seen but definitely still present species included burdock, Oxeye Daisy, Canada Thistle, and Baby's Breath.

Some newer invaders to the Clinton area - which have only just begun to show up in recent months and years, and are still quite limited in their spread - included Blueweed, Orange Hawkweed, and Hoary Alyssum. While all invasive species are a concern, Blueweed and Hoary Alyssum are particularly troubling in a community like Clinton as they are toxic to some livestock.



New Invaders



Blueweed

Pretty bright blue flowers. Stems and leaves are very hairy. Reproduces by seeds and can produce up to 2800 of them per plant. Toxic to cattle and horses.



Orange Hawkweed

Orange-red flowers, few to no leaves on stems. Spreads quickly through above ground runners, horizontal roots, and seeds, and can create dense mats that crowd out native plants.



Hoary Alyssum

Small white flowers with deeply notched petals. Leaves are greenish-grey and close to the stem. Long season of seed production. Can contaminate hay and is toxic to horses.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION



In July, approximately 20-30 people braved windy conditions at Reg Conn Centennial Park to attend the Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee's 'Invasive Plant Field Day'. Stations were set up for small groups of attendees to take turns learning about a select group of problem plants and how to manage them. Some great information was provided by staff and volunteers with really positive discussions among everyone involved.

BIOCONTROL AGENTS

Since 1951, B.C. has been using biological control (or biocontrol) agents such as insects as part of invasive plant management plans in the province. In the early 2000s, the Knapweed Root Weevil (*Cyphocleonus achates*) was introduced to the Clinton area to contribute to a reduction in the spread of knapweed. Years later, these helpful little invertebrates are still around, eating away at knapweed in various sites around the Village.

