

# Invasive Pests & Soil/ Water Conservation

## Prevention, is the best way to fight Invasive Species!

Help to fight the spread of invasive species, protect our environment's native plants and animals by:

- Verify that the plants you are buying for your yard or garden are not invasive. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. Ask nursery staff for help in identifying invasive plants!
- When boating, clean, drain & dry your boat and boating equipment thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water.
- Clean your boots before you hike to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds.
- Don't "pack a pest" when traveling. Fruits and vegetables, plants, insects and animals can carry pests or become invasive themselves. Don't move firewood (it can harbor forest pests), clean your bags and boots after each hike, and throw out food before you travel from place to place.
- Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or other exotic animals into the wild. If you plan to own an exotic pet, do your research and plan ahead to make sure you can commit to looking after it.



### Invasive Management through Riparian Restoration

Hand pulling weeds along the bed & shore of Crowsnest River and its tributaries to decrease weeds & seeds from spreading downstream.

Transplant native trees & shrubs on bare ground left behind from removed weeds (create healthy native competition). Native plants will shade out sun-loving weeds as they mature.

Deep rooted Native plants will also stabilize loose soil and gravel on creek and river banks to prevent soil erosion & create a natural water filtration system.

### Invasive Vegetation

These weeds are prolific seed producers!  
Their weed seeds can live a long time in the soil!

Weed seeds spread by: water, wind, humans, vehicles/OHVs, equipment, wildlife, domestic stock, disturbed soil that brings up dormant weed seeds to germinate, etc.  
Control methods: Education, Cultural, Mechanical, Biological and Chemical.



### Terrestrial & Aquatic Invasive Species

- Pest or Nuisance species could be any of the following; animals, birds, insects, plants or diseases that could destroy or harm land, crops, livestock or property.
- They cannot be big game, birds of prey, game birds, or an endangered species.
- Crowsnest Pass pests: Columbian ground squirrels, Northern pocket gophers, Skunks, Grasshoppers, Thirteen-lined ground squirrels, Bushy-tailed wood rats, and House mice (only non-game species).
- Threats to Crowsnest Pass; Rabies, Norway rats, Roof rats, Quagga or Zebra Mussels.



### Agricultural & Environmental Protection Services, Fieldman & Seasonal Technical Staff Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Agricultural Fieldmen have always been central to the success of Agricultural Service Boards. They develop, implement, and control programs designed to carry out priorities and policies set by their Agricultural Service Board.

While education and awareness are key tools Fieldmen use in their work, they are also appointed as inspectors or regulatory officers enforcing these Alberta statutes:

- 1) Agricultural Service Board Act
- 2) Weed Control Act
- 3) Soil Conservation Act
- 4) Agricultural Pests Act

Agricultural Fieldmen are uniquely qualified to manage the diverse ASB programs across Alberta. Many members have university or college degrees in Agriculture, Biology, Environmental Technology, and/or Business Administration. Several are Professional Agrologist or Certified Crop Advisors. All AAAF members have an extensive applied agricultural or environmental science background. All share a common tie to the diverse world of agriculture/environment, and believe strongly in the importance of the industry to society's well-being.