



North Shore Community Garden Society

Plants to Avoid

Plant	Name	Botanical Name	Description	Concern
	 <p>Japanese Knotweed Mexican Bamboo</p>	<p><i>Polygonum Cuspidatum</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhizomatous, semi-woody, herbaceous perennial in the Buckwheat Family • Grows to 3 metres in height • Bamboo-like stems are green to reddish brown and spotted • Leaves are egg-shaped, stalked, 10 to 15 cm long, flattened or rounded at the base with a pointed tip and are dark green above and lighter green below • Greenish to creamy-white flowers are produced in clusters from the leaf axils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An escaped ornamental originating from eastern Asia • Forms aggressive, dense thickets maintained by extensive and deep, creeping rhizomes. • New shoots are known to penetrate thick asphalt
	 <p>Purple Loosestrife</p>	<p><i>Lythrum Salicaria</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland perennial with a woody taproot and branching fibrous root system • 1 to 3 metres in height • Stiff, four-sided stem with opposite or sometimes whorled stalkless leaves • Purple flowers in a dense terminal spike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can produce over 2.5 million seeds annually! • Purple loosestrife invades wetland areas where it is able to outcompete most native wetland plant species.

Plant	Name	Botanical Name	Description	Concern
 	Scotch Broom	Cytisus Scoparius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upright, taprooted evergreen shrub in the Legume Family • Growing from 1 to 3 metres in height • Stems are ridged, woody, green to brownish-green and prominently 5-angled • Upper leaves are simple and unstalked, lower leaves are stalked and comprised of 3 oval leaflets • Pea-like flowers are bright yellow (sometimes with red markings in the middle) • Seedpods are flat, brown to black in colour with fine hairs on the margins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escaped garden ornamental now naturalized throughout south coastal BC and introduced at a few Interior locales
 	Himalayan Blackberry	Rudus Discolor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrub with evergreen leaves • Leaves have 3 to 5 shiny oval leaflets on top • Pale green underneath with curved prickles on edges of leaflets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It grows extremely aggressively • New canes reach out to several metres from the original plant.
 	Babys Breath	Gypsophila Scoparius (or Paniculata?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much branched perennial herb • Thick, deep, woody rooting system • Smooth stems grow to 1 metre • Opposite, hairless, linear leaves with a prominent mid-vein grow 2 to 10 cm long • Small white flowers are produced in diffusely branches cluster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escaped ornamental originating from Eurasia and now used extensively in flower arrangements • Can produce over 13,000 seeds per plant
 	English Ivy	Hedera Helix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evergreen vine/shrub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense patches covering the ground shade and smother native plants and may introduce pathogens. • The heavy weight of the ivy can topple trees in wind storms

Plant	Name	Botanical Name	Description	Concern
	<p>Giant Hogweed</p>	<p>Heracleum Mantegazzianum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large, hairy perennial herb in the Parsley Family • Stout taproot of fleshy, fibrous roots • Hollow green stems with purple spots grows to 5 metres tall • Dark green, coarsely toothed leaves divided into 3 large segments • Lower leaves can exceed 2.5 metres in length • Small white flowers are produced in large flat-top umbrella-like terminal clusters up to 0.8 metres across 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An escaped garden ornamental originating from Caucasus region of Asia • Can produce 50,000 seeds per plant • Warning: small hairs on stems and leaves contain a poisonous sap that can cause severe irritation, blistering and dermatitis
	<p>Oxeye Daisy</p>	<p>Chryanthemum Leucanthemum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhizomatous perennial growing erect to 1 metre in height • Lower leaves spoon-shaped, coarsely dissected and stalked • Upper leaves narrower and stalkless or clasp the stem • Daisy-like flowers borne at ends of stems • Central yellow disk flowers 10 to 20 mm wide • White ray flowers are 1 to 2 cm long • Often confused with the ornamental Shasta daisy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can form dense infestations in pastures and on rangeland, reducing forage for livestock and wildlife because of its disagreeable taste. • It is of major concern to fine seed production in the Peace River region.
	<p>Spotted Knapweed</p>	<p>Centaurea Maculosa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Noxious Weed • biennial to short-lived taprooted perennial with branched stems • Growing to 1.5 metres in height • Deeply cut hairy leaves • Very bitter to taste • Purple, occasionally white flowers • Flowerhead bracts with black-tipped fringe giving head a "spotted" appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly competitive weed that reduces or displaces desirable forage in disturbed areas • Sometimes invades adjacent areas that are relatively undisturbed. It forms near monocultures in some areas of British Columbia.

Plant		Name	Botanical Name	Description	Concern
		English Holly	Ilex Aquifolium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large, dense, slow-growing, evergreen tree or shrub • 15 to 50 feet tall and up to 15 feet wide or more • Can grow as either a single-trunked tree or a multi-stemmed thicket • Leaves are thick, glossy, dark green and wavy, 1-3 inches long, alternate and simple • Leaves usually have sharp, stout spines along edges although may be smooth on older branches • Flowers are small, whitish, inconspicuous, sweetly scented • Bunches of red, yellow or orange berries, poisonous to people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carried by birds into forests where it forms dense thickets that dominate the tall shrub layer and suppress germination and growth of native trees and shrubs.
		Old Man Beard Climatis (Traveller Joy)	Clematis Vitalba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressively spreading woody vine • Found along streams, fence lines, forest edges and hillsides. • Creamy white flowers in summer followed by feathery seed heads in late summer and early fall • Fluffy seed heads are persistent and quite conspicuous in the winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents trees and bushes from getting sunlight • Adds weight to trees, eventually killing them • Young plants can grow 6 feet a year and once established, vines can completely cover existing vegetation.
		Yellow Archangel (Yellow Lamium)	Lamiastrum Galeobdolon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaves typically variegated with silvery-grey markings and oval-shaped and toothed. • Stems are square, leaves are opposite. • Leaves are hairy and coarsely toothed. • Flowers are small, yellow and tubular; they grow in pairs of clusters close to stems between leaves on flowering stems that are 1 to 2 feet tall. • Distinctive, non-menthol and somewhat unpleasant odor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-growing perennial ground cover • very competitive and fast-growing • When dumped with yard waste or escapes from intentional plantings, spreads quickly into forested areas.
		Periwinkle	Vinca Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short evergreen perennial groundcover • Maturing at about 6" tall and up to 3' in diameter for each individual plant • Opposite along the thin stems, but clustered at stem terminals • Cultivars exist that have creamy-white, silvery-white, gold, or yellow variegation of the foliage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once it spreads, it poses a threat to native biodiversity. • Its thick growth smothers native ground vegetation.

Plant	Name	Botanical Name	Description	Concern
	<p>Policemans Hat or Himalayan Balsam</p>	<p>Impatiens Glandifera</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual herb with a thick, much branched, hollow stem • Purple to reddish tinge, growing to 0.6 to 2 metres tall. • Leaves are stalked, oblong to egg-shaped and have a serrated edge. • Usually germinates in late winter to early spring and flowers from early summer to early fall. • Flower are predominately pink, white or purple • Shaped much like an English policeman's helmet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ejects seeds into rivers and streams which spread far and fast • Once established, tall Himalayan balsam competes effectively against native plants. • It has been known to suffocate native vegetation.