



EYES ON INVASIVE SPECIES



Newsletter of the Yukon Invasive Species Council * December 2016

What's up with YISC?

2016 summer update and preview of what is happening in 2017.



2016 was a busy year for YISC

2016 started out with a great one day workshop in early March. As a result, the board of directors could carry forward on some of the actions discussed by the participants. This includes our new Weed Warrior program for school classes which will launch in the summer of 2017.

In July the second Yukon wide roadside survey was completed. The report is in the works and

will be available on our website in Spring. We received reports of high priority species such as spotted knapweed and Dalmatian Toadflax.

Have you noticed an invasive species and haven't reported it yet? It's not too late and all reports are important to track invasive species: send an email to info@yukoninvasives.com.

Public weed-pulls were well attended. Neighbours got together in Pine Ridge, Friends of McIntyre Creek pulled on the Fish Lake road and the students tackled bird vetch and creeping thistle.

Have you been pulling weeds? If you haven't done so, please report on your efforts! [Send an email](#) with location, pulled species and hours you worked!

PLAY CLEAN GO. Over the next three years, YISC will be working on surveying some of our well used trails within the city limits for invasive species. If needed we will initiate management and restoration. Included in this project is also education for trail users. The play clean go campaign is used across Canada and aims to prevent the introduction of invasive plants into new areas.

GROW ME INSTEAD. It looks like spring is still long off. But I bet our local growers are getting busy in the greenhouses soon! Keep your eyes open on your next visit to the green house. YISC's grow me instead program encourages gardeners to use plants that will not act invasive.

Hay! Did you know?

Invasive plants can reduce the nutritional value of hay or even make it toxic to livestock.

Lucky for us, many of these species like tall buttercup and downy brome are not established in Yukon. Not only does this mean locally grown hay tastes great (at least to horses), the hay is also less likely to introduce the seeds of invasive species into Yukon. There isn't an official weed-free certification program in the territory, but local grown "nasty plant free" hay is worth promoting!

Invasive plants can spread quickly and prevention is almost always easier and most cost effective than removal. Here's a few simple steps to protect your farm and livestock from invasive plants: Unsure about weeds on your property? Invite a plant specialist out to look at the plants on your property through the Yukon Invasive Species Council's "Walk Your Field" program. It's both fun and free.

- **Clean equipment before it enters your property**
- **If importing hay, look for weed-free certified suppliers**
- **When purchasing local hay, inspect the field to ensure invasive plants like creeping thistle are not present**
- **Buy Canada Certified #1 seed for field and garden crops**
- **Learn to identify invasive plants: www.Yukoninvasives.com**

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The Yukon Agricultural Association and the Yukon Young Farmers were hosting events during the summer. YISC participated and informed about the importance of cleaning farm equipment before it is brought on to the property. This is an easy way to avoid inheriting someone else invasive plant problem!



Weed-pulls

Yukon College students took action pulling creeping thistle and bird vetch plants.

The Pine Ridge community got together to pull sweetclover along the roads in their subdivision.

Our second annual weed-pull with Friends of McIntyre Creek was held in July. More than 10 volunteers came out to pull sweetclover along the Fish Lake road.

Weed-pull volunteer hours

Did you pull weeds along your neighbourhood roads? YISC is compiling volunteer efforts, please submit your volunteer hours, and let us know where you pulled and what species you pulled. This will help us build on our data

base! info@yukoninvasives.com

Thanks for your support and we hope to see you at one of our events next summer!

If you would like to become a member of YISC please use our [on-line membership form](#).

Membership is free and you will receive 3 to 4 times a year updates on what's happening in the invasive species world in the Yukon.



On the farm field



Roadside survey: A healthy stand of oxeye daisy outside of Dawson.

Picture: Greg Brunner.

Yukon Alien Alert YISC-1

Grey Field Slug *Deroceras reticulatum*

Photo: Randy Lamb

Origin: Europe

Recently Seen: A Whitehorse garden

Mode of Transportation: Likely potted plant material

Current Level of Invasion: Low

Identification:

- 40-60 mm long slug
- Variable in colour – light to dark cream or grey coloured, with or without black spots
- Short ridge or “keel” on back of body,
- Produces white sticky mucus when disturbed
- Likes disturbed areas such as cultivated fields or roadsides

Similar Species in Yukon:

- One native slug: the meadow slug (*Deroceras laeve*)
 - smaller, darker coloured slugs that only secrete clear mucus

Reasons for Concern:

- Eat broadleaf plants, grasses and fruit crops
- Major North American agricultural pest in field and horticultural crops
- Once established, they are very difficult to eradicate

How to Prevent Slug Invasion:

- Inspect potted plants prior to introduction to gardens or flower beds
- Watch for mucus trails near damaged foliage

What to do if sighted:

- Don't panic
- Remove all slugs if possible, checking under rocks and leaf litter
- Take photos and send to Yukon Invasive Species Council
info@yukoninvasives.com or the Yukon Agriculture Branch
agriculture@gov.yk.ca for confirmation of identification
- Please keep a frozen specimen – some slugs need to be dissected to be identified!

Slug Removal Tip:

Though not interested in alcohol, slugs love beer for its yeasty aroma. To trap slugs, place a smooth-sided cup half buried in the soil. Fill halfway with beer and leave overnight. Remove drowned slugs daily.

