As a gardener, what can you do?

Familiarize yourself with local invasive plants of concern. Help prevent their spread by making sure discarded plant materials are dead and/or contained when disposing of them. Remove seed heads after flowering or dig as much of the root as possible. Carefully place all plant material in a garbage bag, tie tightly, and leave for pickup by your local waste management. Where permitted, dry the plant material for seven to ten days and then burn. Be responsible and do not share invasive plants with other gardeners.

When acquiring new additions for your garden be aware when:

- Buying plants or seed over the internet. Plants that are considered native in one area can be invasive in another.
- Buying plants advertised as “Exotic”. Ornamental plants imported and sold under this category have become some of our worst invaders.
- Shopping at local nurseries, greenhouses, or garden centers. Do not purchase the plant if the scientific name or origin of a plant cannot be supplied.
- Sowing wildflower mixtures. Many wildflower mixes contain seeds of invasive plants. If a list of species (including scientific name) is not included on the package label then do not buy or plant the wildflower mix.

Landscapers and gardeners can now select from a wide variety of alternative perennial and annual plants- for both terrestrial and water gardens which pose no threat to the environment. Native plants such as Meadow Blazingstar (Liatris ligulistylis), and Blue flag (Iris versicolor) provide excellent alternatives.

A great source of information for growing native species can be found in the book “Naturescape Manitoba” available at local bookstores.

For further information on invasive species or to sign up for our free quarterly newsletter, contact the ISCM at (204) 232-6021 or info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

http://www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com
Avoid: Purple Loosestrife

(Lythrum salicaria)

Dark purple flowers, spreading seed to pastures and livestock, giving it a serious invasive problem in natural areas similar to Ox-Eye Daisy.

Avoid: Scrambling Chamomile

(Matricaria perforata)

Looks similar to Ox-Eye Daisy with white daisy flowers, but this distinct plant leaves are rarely listed accurately by their scientific names. The wide variety of common names used for some plants can add to the confusion. Never purchase mixes containing compounds toxic to humans and livestock, if consumed in large quantities.

Avoid: Himalayan Balsam

(impatiens glandulifera)

Small green or violet flowers, with distinctive markings. It quickly replaces native vegetation, reducing biological diversity, and clog irrigation canals.

Avoid: Salt Cedar or Tamarisk

(Ephedra species)

Noxious weed in pasture, rangelands, ditches, wasteland, and riverbanks. Reproduces quickly through seed dispersal and horizontal root systems, preventing plants and animals from colonizing the water like cattails. Dense stands exclude native wetland species, threatening plant and animal diversity.

Avoid: Leafe Spurge

(Euphorbia esula)

Noted weed in pasture, rangelands, ditches, wasteland, and abandoned areas. Sometimes planted in home gardens. Releases a milky sap when damaged. Flowers are in numerous, small flowers, often found in dense clusters in the water like cattails. Dense stands exclude native wetland species, threatening plant and animal diversity.

Avoid: Yellow Flag Iris

(Iris pseudacorus)

Noxious weed in wet areas at low to mid elevations. Yellow flowers with characteristic Iris shape. Grows in ditches, irrigation canals, marshes, streams, and stream shorelines, and shallow ponds.

Avoid: Water Hyacinth

(Eichhornia crassipes)

Free-floating aquatic perennial. Grows in ponds, wetlands, marshes, large lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Broad, thick glossy leaves with an upright stalk that supports a spike of showy flowers lavender to pink in colour. According to the Global Invasive Species Database, it is on the list of 100 of the World’s Worst Invasive Alien Species. Can displace native vegetation, reduce hiding places, and animal diversity. Sold in local garden centres as pond plants due to its aesthetic appearance and attractive flowers.

Avoid: Ox Eye Daisy

(Leucanthemum vulgare)

European origin. Widespread invader in North American pastures and natural areas. Classic white daisy. Lower leaves toothed, upper leaves have wavy margins. Reproduces by seed, or by shallow creeping roots (rhizomes). Stems are rarely listed accurately by their common names used for some plants. Can displace native vegetation, reduce hiding places, and animal diversity. Sold in local garden centres as a pond plant.

Avoid: Common Baby’s Breathe

(Astilbe japonica)

General ornamental perennial used in floral arrangements. In winter, stems break off, slowing around in the wind like umbrellas, spreading seed to pastures and natural areas. Widespread infestations across Canada and northern US.

Avoid: Common Tansy

(Tanacetum vulgare)

Perennial. Noxious weed in Manitoba of pastures, roadmiles, river banks, abandoned fields and natural areas. Reproduces by seed and short rhizomes. Forms dense stands. Pungent, aromatic foliage used medicinally, as an insect repellant, and historically was used for treatment. Contains compounds toxic to humans and livestock, if consumed in large quantities.

Avoid: Creeping Beeflflow

(Verbena bonariensis)

Perennial. Yellow, Snapdragon shaped flowers with narrow, lance-shaped leaves (Yellow toadflax) or broad, heart-shaped leaves (Dalmatian toadflax). Spreads by seed to 500,000 seeds annually. Seeds easily dispersed by wind and water. Reproduces by seed. Invades natural areas. Reproduces quickly through seed and short rhizomes. Forms dense stands. Pungent, aromatic foliage used medicinally, as an insect repellant, and historically was used for treatment. Contains compounds toxic to humans and livestock, if consumed in large quantities.

Avoid: Wildflower Mixes

(Butomus umbellatus)

Upright, rooted showy aquatic perennial. Flowers are umbel-shaped, deep pink to white, and on long stalks. Leaves are long, stiff and narrow. Found in calm, open waters of marshes and ditches. Round, heart shaped leaves and white flowers with a yellow centre. Roots are horizontal stems that entwine to form dense mats in the water. Becomes the dominant plant in wetlands and reduces native plant diversity. Interferes with swimming, boating fishing, and waterfowl hunting. Sold on the Internet and in garden centres as a pond plant.

Avoid: Flowering Rush

(Butomus umbellatus)

Upright, rooted showy aquatic perennial. Flowers are umbel-shaped, deep pink to white, and on long stalks. Leaves are long, stiff and narrow. Found in calm, open waters of marshes and ditches. Round, heart shaped leaves and white flowers with a yellow centre. Roots are horizontal stems that entwine to form dense mats in the water. Becomes the dominant plant in wetlands and reduces native plant diversity. Interferes with swimming, boating fishing, and waterfowl hunting. Sold on the Internet and in garden centres as a pond plant.