

HOW CAN YOU HELP ?

First, learn to distinguish these invasive plants.
Second, avoid introducing them into your property.

Should they already be present in your garden, here are some helpful tips to get rid of them:

For Purple loosestrife: Dig up the whole plant (roots, stems and spikes) or, at least, cut back the floral spike, before or during blooming, or before it produces seeds (when the spike becomes dry and dark). Do this after a rainy day and before seeds production.

For Japanese knotweed: During the spring, it is recommended to exhaust the root system by cutting the stems at their base, each time a new stem appears. Repeat 8 years in a row to get results. The excavation could be necessary.

For Reed-grass : During the spring, it is recommended to exhaust the root system by cutting the stems at their base, each time a new stem appears. The excavation could be necessary.

For Reed-canary grass : Make sure the existing plants are well contained in your garden. You can also try to extract them by digging the plants up at their base, with the roots. Do this two or three times a year.

Burn all residues immediately after each cutting session. AVOID storing, throwing or composting the residues, and be sure not to let any fragment on the ground; fragments can survive and regrow. Clean all tools (or equipment). For some species, excavation may be a necessary option (see above).

The Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the species and areas of ecological interest in the Magdalen Islands.



You can follow us or make a donation via Facebook or Canadon

202-350, chemin Principal, Cap-aux-Meules (Qc)
societedeconservationdesiles@yahoo.ca
418.986.1706

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



References: Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CREAT), Corporation de l'Aménagement de la Rivière L'Assomption (CARA), Flore laurentienne (3^e édition), Nature-Action Québec (NAQ) et Ville de Sherbrooke.

INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES ON MAGDALEN ISLAND



Strangers in your garden

Invasive exotic plant species (IEPS) are wild plants imported from another country, often from Europe or Asia. They are introduced to North America, to be used in horticulture or other culture. Although they are aesthetically interesting, they are not wanted in our gardens or natural landscapes. That is because invasive species spread aggressively and have a great capacity of adaptation. Quite quickly, you can lose control of their spread and they can become very destructive to native vegetation. As each endemic species plays an important role within its natural environment, replacing such a local species by an exotic one can perturb the functioning of the ecosystem.

Not an exception

Some exotic invasive species have already been recorded on the archipelago. In 2016, an IEPS inventory was carried out on the properties of the Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (SCIM) and the adjacent private lands. Unfortunately, two IEPS were identified (Purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed). We also suspect the presence of the Reed-canary grass. Can you recognize these invaders?

Purple loosestrife

Lythrum Salicaria L.

Particular features

- Perennial forb found in wetlands (marsh, wet meadows, ditches, etc.).
- Occurs in dense stands.
- Multistemmed (30-50 per plant). This plant can grow 0,6 m to 2 m high.
- Leaves are dark-green, whole and opposite, or in groups of three, from 3 cm to 7 cm long.
- Pink to purplish flowers that have 5 to 7 petals. They develop long spikes at the top of the stems. Flowering generally occurs in July to August.
- Dense roots (woody stem base).

Ecological threat

This plant can propagate very quickly due to its prolific seed production (up to 2.5 million seeds per year). Its broad root system draws large amounts of nutrients from the soil, leaving few nutrients for the survival of other species.



© CREAT

Japanese knotweed, Bamboo

Fallopia japonica

« This species is one of the 100 most invasive species worldwide. »

Particular features

- Perennial plant suitable for all environments, forming dense and stubborn colonies.
- The robust stem is green with reddish-purple spots. It can reach 3 m high. It is often called bamboo.
- Leaves are oval to triangular-shaped, with a flat base and a sharp end, 7 cm to 25 cm in length.
- The small greenish-white flowers grow in clusters.
- They appear around August or September.

Ecological threat

This plant can propagate very quickly through its roots or vegetative fragments. Roots can extend up to 10 m beyond the margins of the colony and can sometimes break through house's foundation and asphalt. They secrete a substance that is toxic to the other plants, while its dense foliage blocks the sunlight from the undergrowth, both of which is harmful to biodiversity. This plant is very persistent and



Reed-grass, European Common Reed

Phragmites communis [syn. *australis*]

Particular features

Large perennial grass found in wetlands (ditches and shorelines). The stems, sometimes with a purplish hue, can grow from 1 to 5 m high. They form dense colonies, with as many as 200 stems per square meter. Long and plane leaves (1cm to 5 cm large). Spikes (feather-like dry panicles) measure from 12cm to 40cm. Rhizomal* root system.

Reed-canary grass

Phalaris arundinacea L.

Perennial grass forming monospecific colonies inside wetlands and ditches. Straight and rigid stems are quite brittle and grow from 0,5 to 2 m high. Leaves range from 1cm to 3cm in width. The flowers are grouped at the top of the stems; purplish in spring, they dry up during the summertime and turn a light golden color. Rhizomal* root system.

*Rhizomes are roots that resemble a subterranean stems.



© Sam Karathanos IRBV

