GORGE WATERWAY NATURE HOUSE

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

MECHANICAL METHODS

Common mechanical methods include mowing, tilling, and hand-pulling invasive species.

Tip: Mowing should be timed to take place before invasive species drop their seeds.

Pros:

- Good for smaller infestations
- Accessible for most people!
- No harsh chemicals
- Avoids collateral damage to native species

Cons:

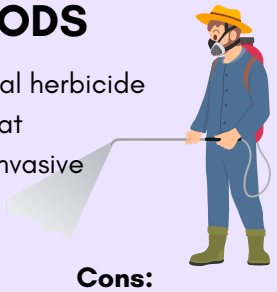
- Time-consuming
- Almost impossible for large infestations
- Less effective for complete eradication (unless combined with other techniques!)

FUN FACT: Mechanical methods are executed every summer in the GWAS Pollinator Meadow by summer students!

Why do we need to manage invasive species?

Invasive species out-compete desired native species for resources. Additionally, they can alter the physical environment in a way that makes it more difficult for native species to thrive.

CHEMICAL METHODS



Careful and targeted chemical herbicide application can be effective at preventing the re-growth of invasive species.

Pros:

- Highly effective at completely eliminating an invasive species, especially when combined with other techniques.

Cons:

- Risks damage to desired species
- Requires permit
- Often requires active planting of native species

SOLARIZATION

Solarization is the process of covering a sunny patch of land with a secured clear plastic sheet for an extended period of time. This allows the temperature of the soil to heat up and produce steam, killing the weeds underneath.

TIPS:

- Target an area that receives several hours of sunlight per day.
- Make sure to water the site heavily before solarizing.
- Check for holes in the plastic throughout which may let trapped heat out!

For a full list of information & image sources, visit www.gorge.ca

INVASIVE SPECIES *in the* PARK

GORGE WATERWAY NATURE HOUSE

GRASSES

TALL OATGRASS

(*Arrhenatherum elatius*)

- Perennial tufted grass
- Fibrous roots
- Most problematic in dry ecosystems
- Changes grassland structure & composition
- Increases risk and intensity of wildfires

ORCHARD GRASS

(*Dactylis glomerata*)

- Perennial tufted grass
- Fibrous roots
- Thrives areas with full sun and high nitrogen levels
- Out-competes native species
- Changes physical environment and soil chemistry

FORBS

HAIRY CAT'S EAR

(*Hypochaeris radicata*)

- Perennial herb with deep taproot
- Resembles common dandelion (also invasive)
- Out-competes native species
- May produce chemicals which negatively impact surrounding plants
- Fluffy bristles allow long-distance wind dispersal

CANADA THISTLE

(*Cirsium arvense*)

- Perennial herb
- Deep, widespread roots
- Reproduces by seed and vegetatively from horizontally creeping underground roots
- Spreads rapidly and forms dense patches

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