

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE... Growing Together

BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia



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Evaluation Tours and Novice Workshops

Too much rain, not enough rain or even not enough volunteers; these are many of the challenges that Communities in Bloom participants face every year. And every year these CiB participants overcome their challenges to present a tidy, beautified town that their citizens will be proud of. Only until the CiB core criteria has been reviewed and understood will participants begin to realize the value that our judges place on creative solutions to their unique challenges.

At the provincial level judges are not comparing one community to another but endeavour to help the community realize its best potential with itself as it works to attain the 5-Bloom level.

Novice Workshops are also held during the summer evaluation tours so that Judges can be face to face with the locals who are interested in starting an 'in Bloom' program. This entry level program creates an audit process for key stakeholders to better understand the Communities in Bloom core criteria, and to provide assistance for further education. [Find our more about BC CiB.](#)

Provincial Awards Luncheon only \$50

If you haven't already, please book your hotel for the 2015 Communities in Bloom Symposium and the Provincial, National, International Awards event being held in Kamloops. People from all over the world will be in attendance for this celebration of community excellence.

The Provincial Awards will be like previous years where Evaluation Reports, Bloom Certificates and Sponsored Criteria Trophies are awarded for outstanding effort in Heritage, Landscape, Tidiness, and Floral.

The National & International Awards are in the evening at the same event location.

All provincial participants are encouraged to attend the Symposium and fun dinners planned throughout the week. Kamloops has an amazing team of organizers dedicated to educating and showcasing how important the Communities in Bloom program has been to the City of Kamloops. [Hotel Link](#) [Registration Link](#)



2015 Symposium and BC Provincial, National and International Awards Ceremonies

Interior Savings Centre (ISC) | Kamloops, British Columbia – September 30th – October 3rd, 2015

Presentations and information with this year's theme "Community Redefined"

Unique networking & exchange opportunities with delegates from Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia



www.communitiesinbloom.ca | www.facebook.com/communitiesinbloom | [@cibcef](https://twitter.com/cibcef)
www.tourismkamloops.com

'Unwanted' Invasive Plants all Gardeners Should Know

Did you know that some of the pretty plants blooming on the sides of our highways and being purchased or shared between gardeners and neighbours are actually bullies in nature? Invasive plants are known to escape cultivated gardens or any area they have established, and can end up sprouting aggressively in neighbouring properties and into natural areas at surprising distances, causing economic and environmental damage that may not be reversible. Open, disturbed ground from gardening and landscaping activities are especially vulnerable to invasive plant invasion—so prevention is key!

Learning how to spot and identify some of BC's most 'unwanted' invasive plant species is the first step to help prevent their spread in our communities. The Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) urges you to become 'PlantWise' and help protect our valuable natural resources for future generations.

Unfortunately, several invasive horticulture plants can still be purchased from garden centres and nurseries throughout BC; because of this, the horticulture industry has become a key pathway in the spread of invasive species. You can avoid purchasing these horticulture invasive plants by researching each species before purchase.



ISCBC offers many resources through the PlantWise program, which was designed to encourage both consumers and garden centres/nurseries to garden responsibly. The Grow Me Instead (GMI) is a popular resource available through the PlantWise program and illustrates 26 of the most

'unwanted' invasive plant species which may be sold at garden centres and nurseries throughout BC.

Here are the top 8 invasive plants to avoid purchasing, trading and selling → → →

Although only 8 species are highlighted, it is very important to avoid purchasing and planting any of the 26 'unwanted' invasive species illustrated in the Grow Me Instead booklet.

More information on the PlantWise program or the Grow Me Instead resources can be found on the Invasive Species Council website:

www.bcinvases.ca.



Thank you for being PlantWise and practicing responsible gardening - together we can make a difference.

	<p>Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>) This shade tolerant species is a popular choice when designing hanging baskets. It can be easily acquired from garden centres and nurseries in BC. Yellow archangel has become an aggressive species with its ability to smother other plants and decrease soil fertility.</p>
	<p>Spurges (Leafy, Myrtle, Cypress) (<i>Euphorbia esula, E.myrsinites, E.cyparissias</i>) Unfortunately, there are several different spurge species currently impacting BC; these species were first introduced as garden species and have now taken over in natural ecosystems. The worst known species is leafy spurge, which has become very problematic through the interior of BC. Myrtle and Cypress Spurge, although not as difficult, are still considered invasive species and should be avoided when purchasing garden plants.</p>
	<p>Common Periwinkle (<i>Vinca minor</i>) Common periwinkle is a shade tolerant evergreen plant known for its small violet and white flowers, but is considered invasive due to its rapid growth and high competitiveness, and should be avoided.</p>
	<p>Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>) This invasive ornamental tree is selected for its silver leaves and ability to withstand poor growing conditions. Russian olive is invasive throughout BC's Southern Interior due to its ability to out-compete native species and deplete water sources.</p>
	<p>Mountain Bluet (<i>Centaurea montana</i>) Mountain bluet is a highly adaptable self-seeding plant; this has led to its popularity within gardens. This self-seeding characteristic allows mountain bluet to escape gardens and establish in natural ecosystems. Once established, this species reduces the amount of available forage for wildlife and livestock.</p>
	<p>English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) English ivy is typically used as a 'quick' cover for walls and buildings, but is considered invasive due to its smothering ability and has had negative impacts on natural vegetation within the southwestern region of BC.</p>
	<p>Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) This semi-evergreen, deciduous shrub is popular for its fragrance and colourful blooms. Butterfly bush has escaped cultivation and is now considered an invasive species within BC. Its ability to grow in poor soil conditions and windborne seeds has allowed this species to spread through BC.</p>
	<p>Knotweeds (<i>Fallopia</i> spp.) Knotweeds are known for their high adaptability; they are able to grow and establish in a wide range of environments. Once they escape from gardens, they are one of the most difficult species to eradicate due to their high seed production and deeply rooted rhizomes. They can bust through concrete and house foundations!</p>

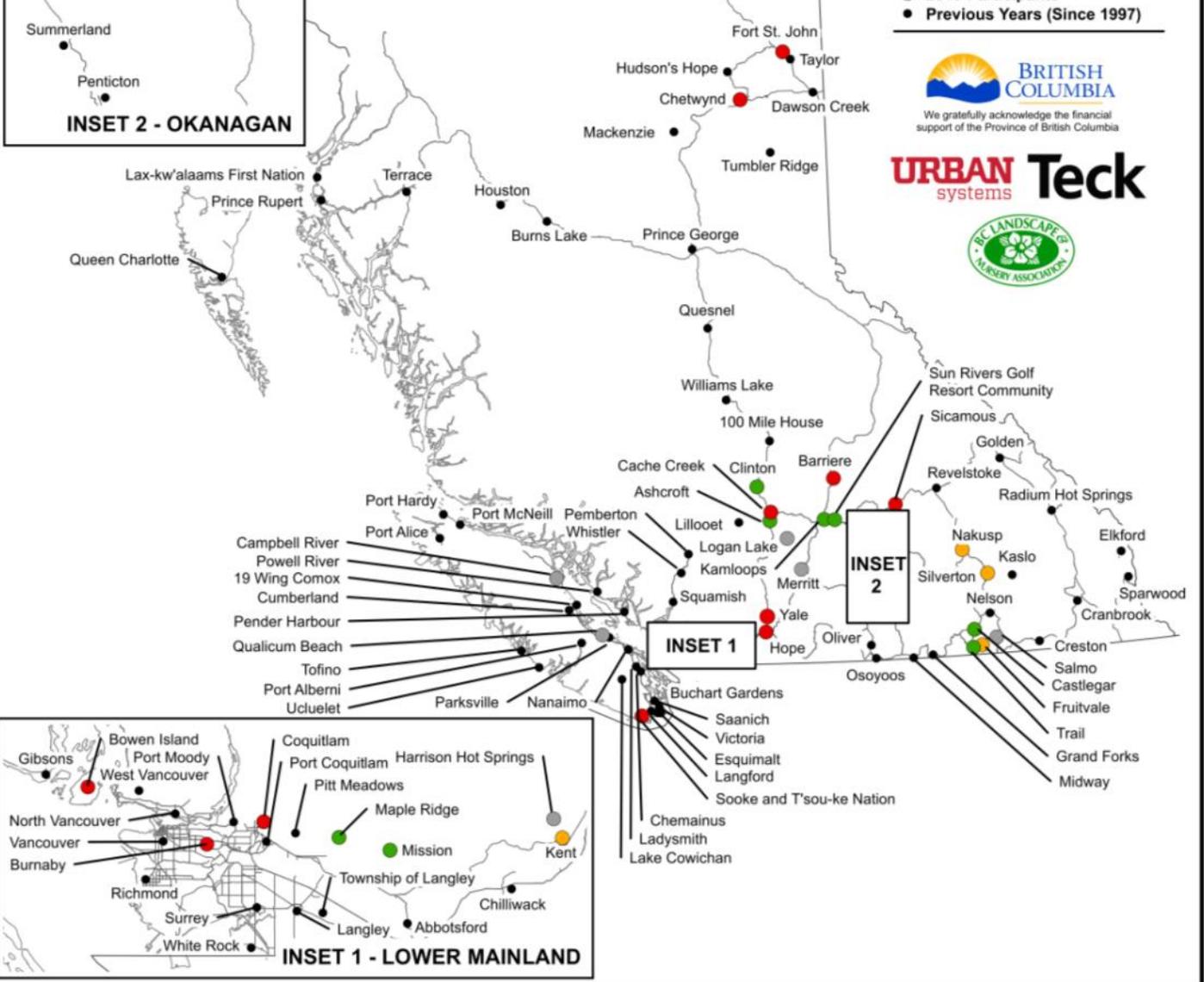
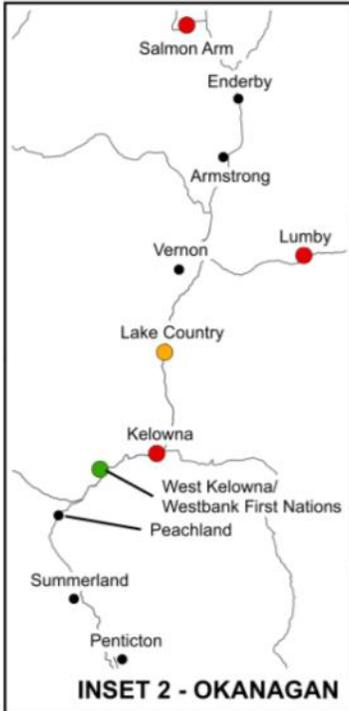
Communities in Bloom British Columbia



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- Participating Communities**
- 2015 Provincial Edition
 - 2015 National Finalists
 - 2014 Provincial Participants
 - 2013 Participants
 - Previous Years (Since 1997)



What's Growing On

[Link to the National Website to see the Symposium at a Glance and the list of event hotels.](#)

GRO1000 Canada 2015 - Coquitlam, BC

Photos from Coquitlam's Scott Creek Community Garden Dedication.



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