



Building a Canadian Invasive Plant Framework (CIPF)

Issue

Invasive plants are harmful plant species that threaten Canada's environment, economy, and society when introduced to new areas. They adversely affect croplands, rangelands, forests, aquatic areas, and other natural areas; degrade productivity and biological diversity; and significantly influence trade relationships with foreign countries.

Globalization, increased international travel, and climate change are increasing the potential for invasive plants to become established in Canada.

Purpose

A Canadian Invasive Plant Framework (CIPF) will provide national direction and coordination to protect Canada's resource base, biological diversity, and import and export trade markets. It will identify priority actions to prevent and reduce the impacts of invasive plants in Canada.

Scope

The CIPF will include all intentional introductions (both authorized and unauthorized) as well as unintentional introductions of invasive plants.

Goals

The CIPF will be consistent with the four broad strategic goals identified by *An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada* (2004):

- Prevention
- Early detection
- Rapid response
- Management

The CIPF will focus on *Prevention* as research indicates this is the most effective and efficient approach to combat invasive plants. However, it is inevitable that some invasive plants will become established; therefore, *Early detection*, *Rapid response* and *Management* goals must also be created.

Objective of this workshop

To identify key actions and deliverables in each of the following areas:

- risk analysis
- science
- legislation and regulation
- education and outreach
- international cooperation

Each action and deliverable must be assigned the following:

- *By when* - an appropriate timeline to reach the desired outcome
- *By whom* - a lead organization

Timelines/Consultation process

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is conducting workshops across Canada to seek input to the CIPF from federal, provincial and territorial partners, industry and interested stakeholder groups. The CIPF will be finalized in 2008 after broad consultations with stakeholders and the general public.

Considerations

The CIPF will emphasize partnerships, cooperation and communication among governments, industries and stakeholders. It will be science-based and consistent with Canada's existing international commitments such as the International Plant Protection Convention, an agreement to prevent the spread and introduction of pests including invasive plants.

Questions?

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