

## Re: Use of Pesticides to Treat Invasive Plant Species in Saanich – 2021 update

Saanich's [invasive species management programs](#) target a number of priority invasive plants present in the District, on both public and private lands, using various techniques and methods prescribed in best management practices (BMPs). [Saanich Parks](#) and [Environmental Services](#) follow BMPs that are set out by the [Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership \(CRISP\)](#), [Capital Regional District \(CRD\)](#), [Invasive Species Council of BC \(ISCBC\)](#) and the [Province](#).

Most of our effort utilizes manual and mechanical treatment (removing by hand or machine). Only a small percent of effort is spent using chemical treatment, and only if the BMP dictates. There are a few species where the BMP is chemical treatment to prevent their spread. When chemical treatment is required, it is performed using spot spray treatments, or hand painted, on the surface of the target species with the utmost care. Species treated with herbicides include: [Shiny geranium](#), [Lesser celandine](#), [Garlic mustard](#), [Knotweed](#), [Holly](#) and [Gorse](#).

- In early spring, Saanich Parks supports Provincial colleagues from Forest Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development who conduct treatments in the Municipality for the priority target species [Shiny Geranium](#). This species is part of their [Early Detection Rapid Response](#) (EDRR) program to prevent the further spread of this new invasive plant that was first detected in Saanich is limited to our area.
- Parks staff treat [Lesser celandine](#) in late winter/early spring on public and park settings.
- [Garlic mustard](#) sites are treated in May and June.
- [Gorse](#) is usually treated in the spring time.
- [Knotweed](#) is treated in summer months leading into the fall.
- [English Holly](#) is usually treated over the fall and winter months.

In developing BMPs for these species, and through different trial methods, it was determined that manual removal was effective for small infestations up to 1m squared and target application of herbicide by spot spraying was the most effective method for larger sites to prevent further spread of these plants.

- Garlon XRT (Triclopyr) is now our preferred herbicide for treatment applications and it is applied at 2% active ingredient (below the recommended concentration) with good efficacy rates.
- **In 2020, only 1.7 litres of Garlon product was used (45% decrease from 2019).**
- BMPs are strictly followed based on Provincial/Federal regulations regarding herbicide use and manufacturers label directions when applying herbicide.
- Saanich Parks follows a 10m no-spray zone in riparian zones.
- Application of herbicides in riparian areas are cut-stump, spot-treatments or wick application treatments only.
- **Parks staff only used 0.031 litres of Glyphosate (Roundup) in 2020 ([knotweed](#) program).**

Through our involvement with invasive species partners, Saanich Parks stays abreast of current research and BMPs regarding the treatment and removal of invasive species.

Saanich Parks takes the use of herbicides very seriously and has assisted Environmental Services to develop species-specific BMPs in order to limit the amount of pesticide use, properly train staff, and ensure the safety of the public and the environment.