

Professional Development for Teachers

Teaching About Invasives

Instructor Megan MacPhee, Education + Communications Manager

Length 3 hours:

Cost Free

Description:

A course designed to teach the teachers! Teachers will learn how invasive species are threatening local biodiversity, what they can do to help, and how they can link invasive species to their classroom. Participants will learn activities to use to help teach about invasives as well as take home resources to continue their learning.

This workshop is appropriate for teachers of all grade levels.

Goals:

1. Learn characteristics of invasive species and how they spread.
2. Learn to use the field guide to identify invasive plants.
3. Learn activities to use in the classrooms.

Requirements:

Student requirements:

- Notebook and pen
- Clothing to go outside
- Optional: camera (to document plants)

Resources:

- Indoor classroom
- Outdoor space for teaching lessons from Green Teacher Book
- Copies of Invasive Plant ID books for each participant
- Copies of Green Teacher's *Teaching About Invasives* book for each teacher (\$5)
- Any resources required for the activities covered in the green teacher book
 - Use the Green Teacher book to choose activities based on appropriate grade levels for the participants.
- Name tags
- Projector, screen
- Powerpoint presentation
- Flip chart and markers
- Plant samples for display

- From Here, From Away cards for quick introduction game
- Photographs of invasive species
- Activity materials (depending on activity chosen)
- Sign in sheet with email (for feedback survey)

Evaluation:

A pre-course evaluation should be done to determine the prior knowledge of the participants and their anticipated result of the course. Create a sign in sheet to gather participant information and interest in EKISC membership. A post-course survey should be completed to measure the retained knowledge of the participants and the efficacy of the course. No in-course exam is required. A follow up to inquire about the potential for a class weed pull or other interest should be done.

Course Schedule:

10:30 – 10:40 Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of self and EKISC
Round-table introductions

10:40 – 10:55 Warm-up Activity

From Here From, Away Game - *everyone has an image of a plant or animal – they need to categorize them into From Here / From Away / Invasive / Non Invasive.*

10:55 – 11:30 Invasive Species Introduction (Powerpoint)

Definitions and characteristics of invasive species (red flags)
Vectors of spread
Local examples
Management techniques

11:30 – 12:00 Review of resources and Evaluations

Walk through the guide / activities / other resources offered:

- Green Teacher Book
- Field guide to Noxious Weeds of BC (green ID book)
- Field Guide to Southern Interior of BC
- ISCBC Invasive Species Education Activity Guide
- Don't Let It Loose stickers
- Website resources (EKISC, ISCBC, ISWG)
- PlantWise wallet cards
- AIS wallet cards
- Demo the Report Invasives App & Seek by iNaturalist

12:00 – 13:00 BREAK

****note: If you have time left over before your break for lunch, you can start early on the activities portion of the workshop***

13:00 – 15:00 [Outdoor] Activities

Choose one to three activities to do with the group: break up group into several smaller groups depending on size – each of them gets to review / present / discuss activity. Select elementary / secondary activities depending on audience / discuss adaptations, other ways to use them / stress curriculum linkages.

Examples:

Invasive Species Wanted Poster (elementary/secondary)

Plant ID Guide (secondary)

Weedy Scavenger Hunt (primary/elementary)

Forest Pest Masks (elementary)

Invader Tag (primary/elementary)

Race for Survival (elementary)

Vectors of Spread (elementary)

If you have more than one instructor available, you may want to split the group into 2 or 3 and rotate around each station. See table for more activities.