

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 September 2009

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR PHOTO CONTEST

The deadline for the Okanagan-Similkameen's first ever invasive plant photo contest has been extended. This summer, the Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen in cooperation with the South Okanagan-Similkameen Invasive Plant Society invited all amateur photographers to enter their best digital photo of an invasive plant for a chance to win some great prizes. This contest has been extended into the fall with a new submission deadline of October 15.

Often mistaken for wildflowers, invasive plants are spreading through our natural ecosystems, urban landscapes, and agricultural lands at an alarming rate. An invasive plant is non-native to BC and typically lacks the natural enemies that would normally keep it from spreading in its homeland. Invasive plants establish aggressively and out-compete native plants, crops and ornamental species, bringing detrimental impacts to humans, animals and natural habitats.

To ensure that the plant you are photographing is indeed an invasive species, refer to any of the three following websites for help with identification: www.rdos.bc.ca, www.weedsbc.ca and www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca.

Entry forms and rules and regulations are available at the Regional District office located at 101 Martin Street in Penticton or an entry form may be downloaded from the 'Press Releases' section of the regional district's website www.rdos.bc.ca. The contest is only open to BC residents.

There is a youth and adult category. The youth (18 years old or younger) contest winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate for Sirius Science and Nature. Adult prizes include a \$50 or \$25 gift certificate from Canadian Tire.



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Yellow flag iris is one of many non-native plants that are invading natural habitats of the Okanagan-Similkameen.