

# Horticulture Code of Good Practice

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*To prevent the introduction and spread of Invasive Non-native Species*

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More information can be found at [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com).

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## Table of Contents

|           |  |           |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Introduction to the Horticulture Code .....</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1       | Aims and Status of this Code of Good Practice .....  | 2         |
| 1.2       | Target audience .....  | 2         |
| 1.3       | Geographic coverage .....  | 2         |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Guidance to limit the spread of invasive species .....</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| 2.1       | Avoid further spread of known invasive species .....   | 3         |
| 2.2       | Be aware of relevant legislation .....   | 3         |
| 2.3       | Dispose of waste responsibly.....  | 4         |
| 2.3.1     | <i>Guidance on Japanese knotweed and other invasive plants.....</i>  | <i>4</i>  |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Guidance for buyers and importers .....</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| 3.1       | Check it is legal first.....   | 5         |
| 3.1.1     | <i>Ireland.....</i>  | <i>5</i>  |
| 3.1.2     | <i>Northern Ireland .....</i>  | <i>5</i>  |
| 3.2       | Carry out a quick risk screening of new species.....   | 6         |
| 3.2.1     | <i>Recommended quick risk screening for species not known to be in trade in Ireland and Northern Ireland .....</i> | <i>7</i>  |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Guidance for suppliers, retailers and purchasers .....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| 4.1       | Know what you are growing and buying .....   | 8         |
| 4.2       | Be aware of hitch-hiking pests on plants and in soil .....   | 9         |
| 4.2.1     | <i>Examples of hitchhikers.....</i>  | <i>10</i> |
| 4.3       | Provide alternatives to invasive species.....  | 12        |
| 4.4       | Provide advice on disposal: Be Plant Wise.....   | 12        |
| 4.5       | Label plants clearly and accurately: 'Know what you grow' .....  | 12        |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Guidance relating to the control of invasive species .....</b>  | <b>14</b> |
| 5.1       | Take advice on the best control techniques .....   | 14        |
| 5.2       | Control invasive plants safely.....  | 14        |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Promote your compliance with this Code of Good Practice.....</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Sources of further information .....</b>  | <b>16</b> |

# 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE HORTICULTURE CODE

The economies of Ireland and Northern Ireland depend to a large extent on the cultivation of many non-native (alien) plants which have been introduced for horticultural and agricultural purposes. Most of these non-native plants are beneficial to humans and do not cause problems through becoming weedy or invasive. However, a small percentage of these introductions, or species associated with soil, growing media or the plants themselves, escape from cultivation, become naturalised and invade ecosystems, impacting on biodiversity and ecosystem services. These species, which are known as Invasive Species, may have significant ecological or economic consequences or become harmful to human health<sup>1</sup>.

Invasive species are estimated to cost the European economy in excess of €12 Billion per annum<sup>1</sup>. In most European countries, the rate of new introductions has risen steadily in recent decades and is still increasing for all taxonomic groups except mammals. While not all of these species will become invasive, it is important to put in place mechanisms to prevent the introduction and spread ones that do.

Ornamental horticulture is recognised as one of the main pathways of plant invasions worldwide. Since ornamental plant species are the largest pool for non-native species that subsequently become invasive, there is clearly a need to adopt a more risk-based approach, based on good scientific research, to try and avoid the undesirable consequences of the importation of new ornamental species whose invasive potential is unknown<sup>2</sup> or is known from experience in other countries.

To help stop the spread and introduction of invasive species associated with horticultural activities, a Code of Good Practice was developed by Invasive Species Ireland, a jointly funded initiative between the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the industry. This Code was published in 2008 and promoted voluntary measures aimed at reducing and limiting the spread of invasive species known to be associated with the horticultural industry. Since the time of producing the Code there have been many developments in Ireland, Northern Ireland and at an EU level that have a bearing on the industry and how this Code operates. For example, in 2009, The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the Council of Europe jointly drafted and published the Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants<sup>3</sup>.

**Signpost:** access the EU Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants

[http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2009\\_conferences/conf\\_codeofconduct.htm](http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2009_conferences/conf_codeofconduct.htm)

<sup>1</sup>

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=1519375&SecMode=1&DocId=1430652&Usage=2>

<sup>2</sup><https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=1519375&SecMode=1&DocId=1430652&Usage=2>

<sup>3</sup>[http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2009\\_conferences/conf\\_codeofconduct.htm](http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2009_conferences/conf_codeofconduct.htm)

## **1.1 Aims and Status of this Code of Good Practice**

This Code is voluntary. As with the previous Code, it aims to promote good practice that, if followed carefully, will help to ensure compliance with legislation and prevent the spread and introduction of invasive species in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The aims of this Code includes highlighting the problems invasive species can cause and to advise all those involved in horticulture (from supply to end-use) what practical steps they can take to help reduce the risk of spread, minimise their impact and prevent introductions of new invasive species.

It is recognised that many non-native plants do not become invasive nor cause problems. Indeed, the horticulture industry would not be as successful, and the private and public gardens so beautiful and varied, in Ireland and Northern Ireland without the vast array of non-native plants that have been imported and cultivated. This Code does not aim to stop trade in these plants. However, by setting out good practice for all those involved in horticulture, it does aim to prevent the further spread of established invasive species into our landscapes and natural habitats, where they can become a danger to the environment and costly to control. This code also sets out good practice to prevent the introduction of invasive species that are not currently known to be established in Ireland or Northern Ireland.

## **1.2 Target audience**

This Code applies to all plant producers, nurseries, wholesalers, garden centres and retailers of plants. It also is directed at those who are commissioning and recommending plants such as landscapers, landscape architects, local authorities and those with responsibilities for parks, properties and land, including State Agencies, Government Departments and Local Government.

## **1.3 Geographic coverage**

The Code covers both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

## 2. GUIDANCE TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

This section contains guidance relevant to most organisations and individuals involved in the horticultural trade or working with invasive species.

### 2.1 Avoid further spread of known invasive species

Firstly, avoid using any plants known to be invasive. Consider alternatives, and when using native plants, use those of local provenance, if possible.

Secondly, when using a non-native species, consider its invasive qualities when you buy / import plants or grow plants from imported seeds.

**Signpost:** Consult the following resources when trying to identify if a species is known to be invasive or potentially invasive in Ireland or Northern Ireland:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)

**The National Invasive Species Database:** <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/>

**European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation:**

[http://www.eppo.org/INVASIVE\\_PLANTS/ias\\_plants.htm](http://www.eppo.org/INVASIVE_PLANTS/ias_plants.htm)

### 2.2 Be aware of relevant legislation

Legislation regarding non-native species and their safe control and disposal should be followed at all times. It is important to be aware that it is illegal to plant or cause to grow in the wild many invasive plant species.

**Signpost:** You can find information on relevant legislation from the following weblinks:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com>

#### ***Northern Ireland***

**Wildlife Order (NI) 1985 (as amended):** <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2011/15/contents>

**The Northern Ireland Environment Agency:** <http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/invasive-alien-species>

**NetRegs:** <http://www.netregs.gov.uk>

**The official government website for Northern Ireland:** <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk>

**UK Legislation:** <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>

#### ***Ireland***

**European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011:**

<http://www.npws.ie/legislationandconventions/irishlaw/euregulations/>

**Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000:** <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2000/en/act/pub/0038/index.html>

**The National Parks and Wildlife Service:** <http://npws.ie>

**Irish Statute Book:** <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie>

## 2.3 Dispose of waste responsibly

Plant material should always be disposed of responsibly. The dumping of any waste on an unauthorised site (also known as ‘fly-tipping’) is illegal in both Northern Ireland and Ireland. Much garden waste can be carefully composted or taken to a municipal recycling centre. Particular care should be taken to ensure that aquatic plants, both as whole plants or viable fragments, do not end up in watercourses such as rivers, ponds, canals, etc. Remember that Japanese knotweed and certain other plants are not suitable for composting. Further information relating to this is provided below.

If information is received that a particular plant species represents a threat, locally or nationally, to prevent potential damage from its introduction or further spread it is desirable that existing stocks would voluntarily be made no longer available for purchase and carefully destroyed. This action would help to ensure the industry helps to protect the wider environment.

### 2.3.1 Guidance on Japanese knotweed and other invasive plants

Soil containing viable parts of certain plants must be treated with care. For example, soil containing Japanese knotweed material will not be appropriate as compost, topsoil, or other general uses.

As with all waste, if you have waste soil containing parts of particular terrestrial invasive plants, such as Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed, you should note that these are regarded as “controlled waste” and as such there are legal restrictions on their handling and disposal. In both Northern Ireland and Ireland the waste containing these species should be treated with extra care, to ensure compliance with waste legislation and also to avoid spreading any invasive species. Soil material can be removed from site for deep burial at a suitable licensed landfill site, that will accept it, but this can be a costly option. It is advisable to contact your local authority before taking any action to deal with soil containing parts of terrestrial invasive species.

In Ireland, Regulation 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 will make it a legal requirement to obtain a license to move vector materials listed on Part 3. These vector materials include soil contaminated with rhizome of Japanese knotweed or seeds of Giant hogweed.

**Signpost:** Additional information on disposal of invasive species can be found at:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/>

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency:** <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/waste-management-duty-care-code-practice>

**Environment Protection Agency:** <https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/>

**National Parks and Wildlife Service:** <http://npws.ie/>

### 3. GUIDANCE FOR BUYERS AND IMPORTERS

This section contains guidance for all those involved in the buying and importation of species into Ireland and Northern Ireland.

#### 3.1 Check it is legal first

##### 3.1.1 Ireland

In Ireland, Regulation 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 will place restrictions on the dealing in and keeping certain species which are listed on the Third Schedule. There are a number of plant and animal species associated with this regulation. The possession and sale of these species will be made illegal later in 2012 once the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht gives notice of this.

If you are in possession of any species that is listed in the Third Schedule once the Minister gives notice, you must inform the Minister in writing. Under no circumstances should you release any animal, listed plants or listed vector materials into the wild if you are in possession of them. This may be an offence under these regulations.

**Signpost:** As a minimum, you should review the following sources:

**Irish Statute Book:** <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/2011/en.si.2011.0477.pdf>

**National Parks and Wildlife Service:** <http://npws.ie/>

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/background/legislation/ireland/>

##### 3.1.2 Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, there are powers within the Wildlife Order (NI) 1985 (as amended) to allow the Department of Environment (DOENI) to introduce an Order to ban the sale of any non-native animal or plant species which is specified in this order. The date that this Order will be brought into effect is not yet known.

**Signpost:** As a minimum, you should review the following sources:

**Her Majesty's Stationery Office:** [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency:** <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-environment-agency>

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/background/legislation/northern-ireland/>



### 3.2 Carry out a quick risk screening of new species

When introducing new plant species to Ireland and/or Northern Ireland, care should be taken to ensure that the species does not have the potential to become invasive. This takes into account the precautionary principle, which may be used where measures are needed in the face of a possible danger to human, animal or plant health, or to protect the environment where the available scientific data does not allow for a complete evaluation of the risk.

Whether or not the species has already shown invasive behaviour elsewhere in the world should be checked. Additionally, you should check if there are any closely related species which may be invasive. This could indicate a species may cause problems.

It is recommended that you use the quick risk screening on the next page as a template for this quick screening exercise. Always maintain good documentation to support your decision making process when introducing a new species for trade purposes.

If there is a risk that the species could be invasive but import will still take place, you should identify all measures which will be useful to prevent the species from escaping into the wild. You should also identify how you will communicate these measures to the customer/end user.

**Signpost:** As a minimum, you should review the following sources to ensure the species is not listed as invasive:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>

**The National Invasive Species Database:** <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/>

**National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin:** <http://www.botanicgardens.ie/>

**Invasive Species Compendium:** <http://www.cabi.org/isc/>

**A global compendium of weeds:** <http://www.hear.org/gcw/>

**Nobanis:** [www.nobanis.org/](http://www.nobanis.org/)

You should contact Invasive Species Ireland, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency or the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice if there is any indication that the plant may present invasive characteristics or if you are having difficulty searching for information. The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin also offer expert advice on many plant species.

**3.2.1 Recommended quick risk screening for species not known to be in trade in Ireland and Northern Ireland**

Scientific name: \_\_\_\_\_

Common name: \_\_\_\_\_

Also known as: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Has the species shown invasive behaviour anywhere in the world?**  
Yes    D    No    D

**Justification:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sources checked:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. If yes, has the species been found to be invasive under similar climatic conditions as the island of Ireland?**  
Yes    D    No    D

**Justification:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sources checked:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Is the species related to any species which is proven to be an invasive problem (or potentially invasive) in Ireland or Northern Ireland?**  
Yes    D    No    D

**Justification:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sources checked:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Your decision – tick which box is appropriate**

Little evidence identified to suggest this species could be invasive:                    D

Sufficient evidence to suggest this species could be invasive:                            D

Expert advice required:    D

**5. If there is a risk that the species could be invasive but import and trade will still take place, please list all relevant effective measures to reduce this risk:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. GUIDANCE FOR SUPPLIERS, RETAILERS AND PURCHASERS

This section contains guidance for all those involved in the supply or retail of plants (nurseries, supermarkets, garden centres and aquarists).

### 4.1 Know what you are growing and buying

It is good practice to know what species you are growing and buying as stock, as well as the accepted scientific name of the species. Some species can be difficult to identify or distinguish from very similar species, particularly some species of aquatic plants. It is also important to be aware that many species have several different names (synonyms) as a consequence of having been historically described more than once or as a result of changes in taxonomy, such as transfer from one genus to another.

**Signpost:** Review the following sources to help identify current accepted scientific names:

**National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin:** <http://www.botanicgardens.ie/contents.htm>

**The International Plant Names Index:** <http://www.ipni.org/>

**ZipCode Zoo:** <http://zipcodezoo.com/>

**Signpost:** Identification information for many invasive species can be found on the following websites:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com>

**The National Invasive Species Database:** <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/>

**The GB Non-native Species Secretariat:** <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

**Nobanis Network:** <http://www.nobanis.org/>

**DAISIE:** <http://www.europe-aliens.org/>

**Did you know:** The National Botanic Gardens, Dublin offers an identification service for plants? You can also contact and send photos to Invasive Species Ireland for help on identification. Contact details for both are available on their websites <http://www.botanicgardens.ie/> and <http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com>

## 4.2 Be aware of hitch-hiking pests on plants and in soil

'Hitch-hiking' is a term used to describe when a species is spread by the movement of other material. This can be, for example, on plants, soil, clothing or equipment.

Good practice should be followed in order to avoid the unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species in a nursery through newly imported plants or growing media. In particular, care should be taken in the use of soil and growing media, the use of machinery, tools and equipment, employee activities, packaging and containers, and the production of aquatic plants. Staff should be appropriately trained in preventing the spread of invasive species (including training in botany and relevant regulations). Soil should be free of plants and all viable propagules of invasive species, such as rhizomes, seeds, corms etc.

Good practice to avoid or treat the contamination of growing media includes:

- Avoid moving soil from places where invasive plants are found. This can be from within your nursery/garden or from outside the nursery.
- Growing plants in pots separated from the soil surface. This can be done by placing a cover, such as permeable membrane, on the soil.
- Placing a membrane on the open side of the pots to help prevent contamination by seeds and fungal pathogens.
- Clean and disinfect machinery, tools, other equipment, clothing and footwear to prevent potential contamination.
- Consider using inorganic growing media, where appropriate.
- Treat organic growing media to kill any contaminants (for example, chemical disinfestation or steam sterilisation).
- Inspect the growing media for particular pests (for an example for flatworms see EPPO PM1/4(1) 200033 "[Nursery inspection, exclusion and treatment for \*Arthurdendyus triangulates\*](#)"), for seeds and for rhizomes. Always ask for a representative sample and seek guidance on the source and inspect it on delivery.

#### 4.2.1 Examples of hitchhikers

##### Red lily beetle

**Native range:** Eurasia but exact area is unknown.

**Hitchhike on:** Found on the leaves of plants. Particularly *Lilium*, *Cardiocrinum* spp, and fritillaries (*Fritillaria* spp).

**How to prevent it:** Check consignments of the plants mentioned above. Will require hand picking or in some cases use of pesticides. Always read the product label of pesticides. Do not release any handpicked animals into the wild.

**Find out more:**

- [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)
- <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/>
- <http://www.habitas.org.uk/invasive>



Image: J O'Sullivan

##### Harlequin ladybird

**Native range:** Asia

**Hitchhike on:** Imported plants.

**How to prevent it:** Difficult to prevent this species from arriving. Look out for large ladybirds. Natives are much smaller. Seek advice if you find signs of this species.

**Find out more:**

- [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)
- <http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/>
- <http://www.habitas.org.uk/ladybirds/>



Image: Roy Anderson

##### *Phytophthora ramorum*

**Native range:** Uncertain. Possibly Asia.

**Hitchhike on:** Movement on infected plants. In particular *Rhododendron*. Also movement of contaminated soil, leaves or needles from infected trees and shrubs stuck to footwear, clothing, timber, vehicles and equipment.

**How to prevent it:** Ensure that *Rhododendron*, *Camelia* and *Viburnum* plants are accompanied by relevant plant passports. Monitor host plants for signs of disease and report suspicious symptoms to DAFM or DARD depending on your jurisdiction.

**Find out more:**

- <http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>
- <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie>



Image: Forestry Commission

### Small mammals

**Native range:** Depends on species in question.

Example given is the greater white-toothed shrew.

**Hitchhike on:** Trailers, larger root balls, and movement of large plants.

**How to prevent it:** Check consignments for signs of mammals. Signs would include droppings, chewed packaging materials and also seeing the animals. Ensure adequate pest controls around your building. Avoid allowing any animals transported to your site to escape into the wild.

**Find out more:**

- [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)



Image: Wikicommons

### New Zealand flatworm

**Native range:** New Zealand

**Hitchhike on:** Plant bulbs, growing media and soils.

**How to prevent it:** Check your property for flatworms, check your products as well. Set traps and maintain good hygiene.

**Find out more:**

- [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)



Image: Archie Murchie

### Japanese knotweed

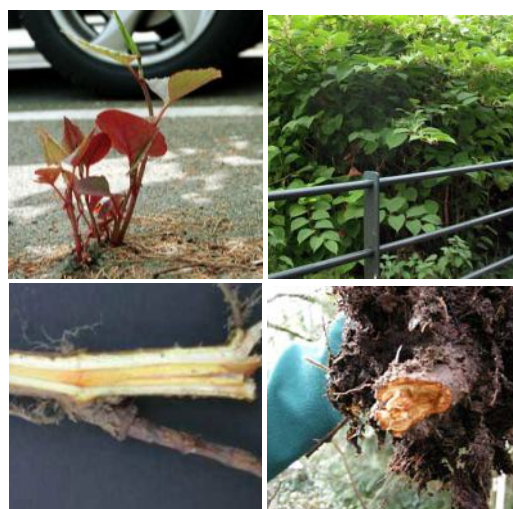
**Native range:** Japan, China, Taiwan, and Korea.

**Hitchhike on:** Brought to new sites through contaminated soil or via the movement of plant material.

**How to prevent it:** Inspect all soil brought onto your property for signs of Japanese knotweed rhizomes. Specify in your contracts with clients that all topsoil must be free of Japanese knotweed.

**Find out more:**

- [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)



Images: Above ground Richard Shaw  
Below ground Cornwall Council and John Early

### 4.3 Provide alternatives to invasive species

Substitutes for invasive plants should be suggested and offered to customers. These may be native species or other non-native species which are known not to be invasive. This will help to avoid damage to agriculture and the environment as well as allowing the nursery industry to offer an innovative and green image to their customers. Information on some possible alternatives to invasive species can be found on the Invasive Species Ireland website and the PlantLife website or by talking to trade associations or the Royal Horticultural Society.

**Signpost:** You can find information on alternative species which can be used instead of invasive species on the following links:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/know-what-you-grow/alternative-plants/>

**PlantLife:** <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/gardening-without-harmful-invasive-plants>

### 4.4 Provide advice on disposal: Be Plant Wise

Make sure that customers are:

- Made aware of the need to dispose of plants and viable plant parts responsibly,
- Given advice on composting, and
- Are made aware of any relevant legal obligations.



**Signpost:** The Be Plant Wise campaign provides advice on the safe disposal of aquatic plants. The website also provides details of aquatic plants which are known to be invasive. This information can be accessed from the following website:

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/what-can-i-do/be-plant-wise/>

### 4.5 Label plants clearly and accurately: 'Know what you grow'

When trading plants you must be both clear and honest on all packaging and labelling. If you are misleading in any way you could find yourself committing a criminal offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1277) and/or the Consumer Protection Act 2007. These regulations make it an offence to give consumers misleading information on packaging and labels.

All species on sale should be clearly and correctly labelled with the correct scientific (Latin) name, genus, species and where appropriate the variety or cultivar – as well as the common name to avoid confusion. It is advisable to provide the family name as well. If you are not certain of the correct scientific name you should not be selling the plant. If you are unsure what the plant is, do not sell it or seek assistance to ID. For plant species which are listed under legislation as an offence to 'plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild' these should be clearly labelled to ensure customers are aware of their legal responsibilities.

**Example:** *Lagaropsiphon major* can often be labelled incorrectly as 'Elodea crispa'

For potentially invasive species that are traded, additional information should be given, such as:

- a. Native range.
- b. Ability to escape from the garden and the countries where it is reported as invasive. Indication of the invasive behaviour of the plant may include growth rate, reproduction ability, and habitats invaded (certain habitats maybe more vulnerable, such as riparian zones and dune ecosystems).
- c. Recommendations for managing the plant may also be provided, for example 'Cut stems after flowering' or 'Do not plant near riverbanks'.
- d. Examples of good practice labelling could be:

*Rosa rugosa* (Rosaceae)  
Rugosa rose, Hedgehog rose  
Native to Eastern Asia, invasive in Northern and Central Europe.  
Prevent escape from gardens.  
Do not plant in or near dunes, where it threatens other species of plants as well as some animals (e.g. butterflies) and modifies the habitat.  
Report wild populations to: <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting/>  
**KEEP THIS LABEL WITH YOUR PLANT**

*Cabomba caroliniana* (Cabombaceae)  
Fish grass, Carolina fanwort  
Native to South America, invasive in Australia and Europe where it outcompetes native plants.  
Only use in aquariums, do not use outdoors.  
Do not dispose any aquarium wastes into ponds or watercourses  
Report wild populations to: <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/reportsighting/>  
**KEEP THIS LABEL WITH YOUR PLANT**



## 5. GUIDANCE RELATING TO THE CONTROL OF INVASIVE SPECIES

This section contains guidance for all those considering or undertaking the control of invasive species.

### 5.1 Take advice on the best control techniques

Invasive plants can be difficult and expensive to control once widely established. Preventing a species from becoming established is usually the most cost effective option. Failing this, early detection will enable control measures to be undertaken quickly.

The optimum time of control and the method of control can vary between species. For example, species which set by seed, such as giant hogweed or Himalayan balsam, should be controlled prior to the plant setting seed. Whereas for other invasive plant species, such as Japanese knotweed, which spreads via an extensive underground rhizome system or fragments of plant material, the optimum time for control is not dependent on seed dispersal. Control depends on the method and recommended application time for the selected herbicide.

**Signpost:** Information on how to control a range of invasive plants is available in the Species Accounts section of the Invasive Species Ireland website.

**Invasive Species Ireland:** <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/species-accounts/>

### 5.2 Control invasive plants safely

Care should be taken when using herbicides and machinery, particularly near water. Manufacturers' instructions and recommendations found on the Pesticide Product Label must always be followed. This is a legal requirement in both Northern Ireland and Ireland. The range of herbicides available to the amateur gardener is limited, but nevertheless the guidance on safe use still applies.

It is recommended that herbicides are only used by trained and competent individuals. Employers have a legal requirement to ensure staff using herbicides are trained in their safe handling and use.

## **6. PROMOTE YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE**

The Code and your commitment to the Code should be promoted to the public and other professionals. Example measures include:

- Adopting procurement policies that reflect this Code.
- Displaying 'Be Plant Wise' and other promotional material.
- Labelling invasive plant species clearly and accurately.
- Offering native alternatives to customers.
- Providing advice to customers.
- Specifying standards of topsoil to ensure that invasive species are not transported to your site and subsequently passed to customers.
- Adopting and documenting practices you are undertaking to prevent the spread of invasive species.

## 7. SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

In addition to the signposts mentioned in the document, there is a wealth of information available electronically. The following are some of the key sources of information:

**Invasive Species Ireland**

<http://invasivespeciesireland.com/>

**The Northern Ireland Environment Agency**

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/northern-ireland-environment-agency>

**The National Parks and Wildlife Service**

<http://www.npws.ie/>

**The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

<http://www.botanicgardens.ie/>

**The National Invasive Species Database**

<http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie/>

**Bord Bia**

[www.bordbia.ie](http://www.bordbia.ie)

**The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**

[www.agriculture.gov.ie/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/)

**The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

**The Horticultural Trades Association**

[www.the-hta.org.uk](http://www.the-hta.org.uk)

**Ornamental and Aquatic Trades Association (OATA)**

[www.ornamentalfish.org](http://www.ornamentalfish.org)

**The Royal Horticultural Society**

[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/>

**GB Non-Native Species Secretariat**

[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

**Chemicals Regulation Directorate (Pesticides)**

[www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk)

**The Pesticides Control Service**

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/db.htm>

