

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2025-131**

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 15.90 *INVASIVE SPECIES* TO ADD**
3 **SELECT SPECIES TO THE LIST TO PROHIBIT THEIR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION,**
4 **AND AMC CHAPTER 21.07.080 *LANDSCAPING, SCREENING, AND FENCES* TO**
5 **PROHIBIT USE OF LISTED INVASIVE SPECIES IN REQUIRED LANDSCAPING**
6 **FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND MUNICIPAL PROJECTS, AND WAIVING**
7 **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REVIEW OF THIS ORDINANCE.**

8
9 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Assembly approved AO 2017-101, adding a new chapter to
10 the Anchorage Municipal Code prohibiting the sale of two invasive species – *Prunus*
11 *padus* (Bird Cherry or Mayday Tree) and *Phalaris arundinacea* (Reed Canary Grass)
12 – determined to be harmful to both native plant and animal life; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, In collaboration with biologists, land managers, and weed scientists
15 across the state, in 2008 the Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS) at the
16 University of Alaska, Anchorage developed an [invasive plant ranking system](#)
17 endorsed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service, Alaska
18 Region, that helps evaluate the potential invasiveness and impacts of non-native
19 plants to natural areas in Alaska on a scale of 0-100; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD), which
22 coordinates the Anchorage Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ANC-
23 CISMA) with government agencies, non-profit groups, and private citizens, has
24 recommended the non-native plant species listed in this ordinance as additions to
25 AMC subsection 15.90.010A., and each species has been reviewed and ranked by a
26 panel of biologists, scoring higher than 60 on the invasive plant ranking system; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, when established, certain of these species form dense thickets that
29 reduce visibility and passage for humans through forested and riparian areas,
30 decreasing human usability of our natural lands; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly finds it necessary to expand the list of invasive species
33 prohibited from sale or distribution to better protect natural ecosystems throughout the
34 Municipality of Anchorage; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly finds that the species of non-native plants proposed for
37 inclusion in AMC subsection 15.90.010A. by this ordinance are invasive and displace
38 native vegetation, degrade wildlife habitat, and pose risks to native animal species
39 and should be prohibited for use or sale in the Municipality; and
40

41 **WHEREAS**, mitigating the spread of these invasive species requires a multifaceted
42 approach, and prohibiting their sale and distribution is a key step toward safeguarding
43 Anchorage's natural and urban areas; and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly believes all departments and enterprises of the
3 Municipality of Anchorage and other entities should not use invasive plant and
4 noxious weed species in municipal landscaping and restoration projects, and when
5 encountered during municipal construction projects should employ measures to guard
6 against their spread; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance is not anticipated to result in adverse economic impacts,
9 apart from restricting the sale of existing stock, which businesses may sell or transfer
10 outside the Municipality; now, therefore,

11
12 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

13
14 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 15.90 *Invasive Species* is amended to
15 read as follows:

16
17 **Chapter 15.90 – INVASIVE SPECIES**

18
19 **15.90.010 Sale or distribution of invasive plant and noxious weed**
20 **species unlawful.**

21
22 A. Except as permitted under this section, it is unlawful for any person to
23 sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, give, trade, or transport for use in
24 planting any propagative part of any of the following species:

- 25
26 1. Bird Cherry or Mayday Trees (*Prunus padus*); OR]
27 2. Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).
28 3. Itadori or Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*).
29 4. Giant Knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*).
30 5. Bohemian Knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*).
31 6. Himalayan Knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*).
32 7. Siberian Peashrub (*Caragana arborescens*).
33 8. Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*).
34 9. Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*).
35 10. Meadow hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*).
36 11. White sweet clover (*Melilotus albus*).
37 12. Yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*).
38 13. Bird vetch (*Vicia cracca* L. ssp. *cracca*).
39 14. Butter-and-eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*).
40 15. Rampion bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*).
41 16. Mouse ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*).
42 17. Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*).
43 18. Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*).
44 19. All species listed in Alaska Administrative Code 11 AAC
45 34.020(a).
46 20. All plant species quarantined from entry to Alaska by the Alaska
47 Department of Natural Resources.

48
49 B. Exceptions. The prohibited species in subsection A. may be transferred
50 or transported for purposes of destruction, removal from the

municipality, or government approved scientific purposes.

C. If during any five-year period the invasive plant and noxious weed species list in subsection A. has not been amended, then the department shall review the list and request the mayor to propose any additions or changes by ordinance. The department may review and propose updating the list anytime when provided a proposed updated list by the State of Alaska, Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District or similar entity working in or representing the invasive species management entities active in the municipality.

(AO No. 2017-101, § 1, 2-5-18)

15.90.020 Penalties

Violation of section 15.90.010 shall be punishable by a fine of \$250.

(AO No. 2017-101, § 1, 2-5-18)

Section 2. Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.07.080 is amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

21.07.080 - Landscaping, screening, and fences.

*** *** ***

F. *General landscaping requirements and standards.*

1. *Plant materials.* Anchorage lies generally within the USDA climatic zone 3. This categorization is intended to help identify plants with suitable hardiness to survive in our climate. There are known microclimates within Anchorage that are less severe in some areas and more severe in others. It is not the intent of this title to dictate the use of individual species; however property owners are encouraged to understand the local climate and to use plant species known to be hardy. It is the property owner's responsibility to replace plant materials which are provided in response to the requirements of this title, but perish due to poor maintenance, lack of hardiness, mechanical damage, or some other reason. In all cases, the plant materials shall be living and free of defects and of normal health, height, and spread as defined by the American Standard for Nursery Stock, ANSI Z60.1, latest available edition, American Nursery and Landscape Association. Plants may be nursery grown or native transplants, provided they meet the requirements of ANSI Z60.1. Plants listed in section 15.90.010, *Invasive plant and noxious weed species*, are prohibited for use in landscaping plant material in all development after *{insert effective date of ordinance}*.

*** *** ***

(AO 2012-124(S), 2-26-13; AO 2013-117, 12-3-13; AO No. 2015-82, § 4, 7-28-15; AO No. 2017-55, § 11, 4-11-17; AO No. 2017-160, § 4, 12-19-17; AO No. 2020-11, § 2, 2-25-20; AO No. 2020-38, § 8, 5-28-20; AO No. 2020-93, § 2, 10-1-20; AO No. 2020-133, § 1, 1-14-21; AO No. 2021-89(S), §§ 11, 21, 2-15-22; AO No. 2023-103(S), § 6, 1-1-24; AO No. 2024-24, § 5, 4-23-24)

Section 3. Pursuant to AMC subsection 21.03.210C., this ordinance shall not require Planning and Zoning Commission review prior to Assembly action, and the 21-day published notice requirement of AMC subsection 21.03.020H.4. is waived; this ordinance shall comply with Charter § 10.01(b) notice requirements.

Section 4. The Administration is requested to include specific reference to AMC chapter 15.90 in the next update to the Design Criteria Manual maintained by the Project Management & Engineering Department in its chapter on landscaping and plant selection.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be effective 180 days after passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Christopher Constant

ATTEST:

Chair

Jenine King

Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 834-2025

Meeting Date: November 18, 2025

From: Assembly Chair Constant

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 15.90 INVASIVE SPECIES TO ADD SELECT SPECIES TO THE LIST TO PROHIBIT THEIR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION, AND AMC CHAPTER 21.07.080 LANDSCAPING, SCREENING, AND FENCES TO PROHIBIT USE OF LISTED INVASIVE SPECIES IN REQUIRED LANDSCAPING FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND MUNICIPAL PROJECTS, AND WAIVING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REVIEW OF THIS ORDINANCE.

This proposed ordinance would add sixteen additional plant species to the list in AMC Chapter 15.90. The Assembly created the Municipality of Anchorage's Invasive Species List in 2017 with the passage of AO 2017-101, As Amended.

The initial list prohibited the sale of two species of invasive plants prevalent locally: *Prunus padus* (Commonly known as Bird Cherry or Mayday Trees) and *Phalaris arundinacea* (Commonly known as Reed Canary Grass). The Assembly built on the work of the Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS), who developed the Invasiveness Ranking System for Non-Native Plants of Alaska in 2008 in collaboration with land managers, biologists, and weed scientists¹. Plant species must be found outside of a designated planting or gardening area and not on private land to qualify for listing as a non-native plant. A climate screening procedure is used, as a first step, to evaluate the probability for establishment in three ecogeographic regions (Pacific maritime, Interior-boreal, and Arctic-alpine) of Alaska.² After a climate screening, the invasive ranking system evaluates the impacts of non-native plants to natural areas through a series of questions in four broad categories: ecosystem impacts, biological attributes, distribution, and response to control measures. The final invasiveness score is calculated from the sum of scores from each category divided by the total possible. Ranks are scaled from 0 to 100 with 0 representing no threat and 100 representing a major threat to the native ecosystems.

With funding support from the U.S. Forest Service, the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, and the University of Alaska, approximately 170 non-native plant species have been ranked to date. In the table below each of the 16 plant species proposed to be added to the list in AMC section 15.90.010 are included with their rank, and plant biographies with extensive information are available online through the ACCS Non-native Plant Species List page.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Invasiveness Rank
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese knotweed	87
<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	giant knotweed	87
<i>Fallopia xbohemica</i>	Bohemian knotweed	87

¹ Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearing House (AKEPIC), Non-Native Plant Species List, <https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plant-species-list/> (2025)(accessed November 5, 2025).

² Carlson, et al., "Invasiveness Ranking System for Non-Native Plants of Alaska," report, 2008, https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-content/uploads/Invasiveness_Ranking_System_for_Non-Native_Plants_Alaska.pdf (accessed November 5, 2025).

<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	spotted knapweed	86
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	chokecherry	83
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	white sweetclover	81
<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Himalayan knotweed	80
<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i>	meadow hawkweed	79
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian peashrub	74
<i>Vicia cracca</i> L. ssp. <i>cracca</i>	bird vetch	73
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	72
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	yellow sweetclover	69
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	butter and eggs	69
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	rampion bellflower	64
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse ear hawkweed	63
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	oxeye daisy	61

1
2 Ecologists with the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD), which
3 coordinates the Anchorage Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ANC-
4 CISMA) with government agencies, non-profit groups, and private citizens, assisted to
5 identify these plant species with a specific local focus. The ANC-CISMA group published
6 a strategic plan that identifies the boundaries (which align with the Municipality of
7 Anchorage) and more granular units of focus areas, and species classifications with
8 prioritization depending on their invasiveness, distribution and spread, and ranking.³ In
9 addition, the ASWCD requested inclusion of the noxious weed species that are
10 completely prohibited statewide by Department of Natural Resources, Division of
11 Agriculture regulations, 11 AAC 34.020(a), and those that are subject to a state
12 quarantine order. Attached is the most recent quarantine order prohibiting a list of five
13 aquatic plants, including elodea.
14

15 Including the above species and prohibiting distribution as a punishable civil offense in
16 the municipal code will protect the Municipality’s native ecosystems, and furthers the
17 ANC-CISMA goal to contain and suppress, or eradicate, highly and extremely invasive
18 species. This ordinance is important to enable and facilitate invasive plant control for a
19 more effective and efficient approach to stewarding the lands in the Municipality and to
20 lessen threats from invasive plant species here.
21

22 **I request your support for the ordinance.**
23

24 Prepared by: Assembly Counsel’s Office
25

26 Respectfully submitted: Christopher Constant, Assembly Chair
27 District 1 – North Anchorage
28
29

30 Attachments: Exhibit A, Exterior Quarantine of Aquatic Invasive Weeds, March 5,
31 2014, State Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture

³ Integrated Invasive Species Management Strategy Focusing on Early Detection and Rapid Response for the Anchorage Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, April 2024, available at <https://www.anchorageinvasives.org/invasives#guidingdocs> (accessed November 5, 2025).



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
Central Office

1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 12
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6736
Main: 907.745.7200
Director's fax: 907.745-7112
Marketing & ARLF fax: 907.745.7242
Inspection fax: 907.745.7254

EXTERIOR QUARANTINE OF AQUATIC INVASIVE WEEDS

Authority: AS 03.05.010	11 AAC 34.130
AS 03.05.027	11 AAC 34.140
AS 03.05.040	11 AAC 34.160
AS 44.37.030	11 AAC 34.170
AS 03.05.090	AAC 34.115

Establishment of Quarantine: The Director of the Division of Agriculture under the authority as the State Quarantine Officer hereby establishes a quarantine at the boundaries of Alaska to prevent the entry of the following aquatic invasive weeds.

PEST: Aquatic plants listed below.

Canadian waterweed	(<i>Elodea Canadensis</i>)
Western nuttallii	(<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>)
Brazilian waterweed	(<i>Egeria densa</i>)
Hydrilla	(<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>)
Eurasian watermilfoil	(<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>)

This list is comprised of the most recent and accepted scientific and common names of the quarantine plant species. Regulated status also applies to all synonyms of these botanical names.

STATES REGULATED: ALL

MATERIALS REGULATED: All plants and plant parts of the regulated plants.

RESTRICTIONS: It is prohibited to import, transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or distribute plants or plant parts of the regulated species within the state of Alaska. It is further prohibited to intentionally transplant wild plants and/or plant parts of these species within the state of Alaska.

DISPOSITION OF VIOLATIONS: All shipments of quarantined articles arriving in Alaska in violation of this quarantine shall be immediately shipped out of the state or destroyed by burning or other method approved by the Division of Agriculture. All costs for shipment out of state or destruction shall be performed at the expense of the owner, owners, or duty authorized agent.

Franci Havemeister, Director

3/5/14
Date