

Preventing the spread of invasive species

## 6. Check the plant species list used in municipality's green areas and replace alien plant species with less risky alternatives



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*In addition to the species listed in the EU and national lists of harmful IAS, alien species causing damage to nature can spread effectively by vegetative propagation or through seeds.*

*It is recommended that alien species that spread easily be replaced with safer species or cultivars.*

### Benefits of the action

By using safe species or cultivars, we can help avoid the emergence of new invasive species from the alien species currently planted for decoration.

### Do this

Check if your municipality has a policy on flora used in parks or other public planted areas.

Go through the list and remove or replace any alien species or cultivars that spread easily by vegetative propagation or wind.

Preferably use species proven safe for spreading (e.g., plants with FinE marking) or natural plant species.

### More information

The City of Helsinki has eliminated high-risk invasive alien plant species from its city plant guideline document (in Finnish):

<http://kaupunkikasviopas.hel.fi/>

