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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

4207 Grow Me Instead! Invasive Horticultural Plants

Organization Information

Our organization is a conservation authority with decades of practical experience in protecting our environment, educating young people, and engaging communities. We work with governments, businesses, and individuals to build a greener, cleaner healthier place to live. We offer knowledge and experience to help our partners contribute to a healthy city region. This includes ecology and the study of water quality, natural habitats, plants, animals and more to help us identify environmental needs, set targets, and restore natural areas; sustainable community development to advise partners about land use, development proposals and construction, and environmental education to help students and community members appreciate their local environment and learn to look after it.

Project Information

In spring 2009, we convened a group of representatives from the conservation community and the horticulture industry to discuss the subset of invasive plants introduced through horticulture. These plants are widely available in retail nurseries and ubiquitous in gardens and parks across Canada, despite growing evidence of their adverse effects on ecological properties and functions. The group became known as the Horticulture Outreach Collaborative in summer 2009 and joined the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) as an official committee in January 2010.

The objective of this project is to inform and engage the landscape industry and gardeners in the management of invasive species and the reintroduction of native plants into our settled landscapes. This project compliments and builds-upon the previous work the Healthy Yards program, which focuses on the education and engagement of gardeners, and is informed by the results of recent market and ecological research and the continued input of the horticulture industry.

Benefit to the Host Organization and the Community

The project will assist in preventing the spread of invasive plants which have a detrimental impact on Peterborough's and, more widely, Ontario's environment, economy, and society. It will facilitate the usage of native plant species in garden settings to foster Ontario's natural biodiversity.

What Students Might Learn

The student will learn about invasive plants, native plants, and the horticulture industry in Ontario. S/he will have access to experienced experts in these fields and will be privy to the challenges and rewards of collaborating with diverse sectors.

Skills or Experience Needed

The ability to work independently
Good communication skills
An interest in botany and biodiversity

Resources Required for Project that will be Provided by Host

The host organization will provide all available access to information that is within its possession and make introductions when necessary to local experts.. Additionally, some access to office equipment and supplies (ex: copier, printer, paper) will be provided along with mileage reimbursement (\$0.50/km)