



## PRESS RELEASE

### MOUNTAIN BLUET AND OTHER INVASIVE ORNAMENTALS IN THE TNRD

**Kamloops, BC—July 17, 2019—** Mountain bluet (*Centaurea montana*) is currently being sold by local retailers in the Thompson-Nicola region. The Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee would like retailers and gardening enthusiasts to be [PlantWise](http://beplantwise.ca) and choose to grow, sell, purchase, plant and trade non-invasive plants. A full list of non-invasive alternatives to popular ornamental plants is available at <http://beplantwise.ca>.



Mountain bluet was a popular ornamental plant among gardeners. Mountain bluet can range from 30-80cm in height and produces bright blue, large knapweed-like flowers between April and June. Unfortunately, once planted, this species can easily spread into natural ecosystems. The plant can quickly colonize disturbed open areas, forests, and road-sides. This fast growing, long-living plant is hard to manage and has adapted to grow in a wide range of conditions.

In BC, many of our worst invasive species are escaped ornamentals. For example, just six species of invasive plants were estimated to cost British Columbia \$65 million in economic losses in 2008, increasing to a projected \$129 million by 2020. **Prevention** is British Columbia's best and most cost effective tool for invasive species management so please choose to plant non-invasive plants in your gardens.

For more information on mountain bluet or other invasive plants, contact Catherine Tarasoff, Invasive Plant Education and Outreach Coordinator by phone at 250-572-2132 or email [agrowest.bc@gmail.com](mailto:agrowest.bc@gmail.com).

