Kamloops, BC—July 17, 2019—Mountain bluet (Centaura 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 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.