Preventing introductions of invasive alien plants in Belgium: a LIFE “Information & Communication” project dedicated to the ornamental sector

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AlterIAS, prevention starts in our gardens!

AlterIAS is a communication project which aims at reducing introductions of invasive plants in gardens, parks and green areas.

One project, three objectives

- Inform actors of the ornamental sector about the risks of invasive plants
- Identify alternatives and best practices in prevention
- Guide actors to implement these measures in a self-regulation approach

Invasive plants in horticultural catalogues

In Belgium, about 60 plant taxa are included in a black list and a watch list of invaders. Most of them are ornamentals still sold in nurseries.

80% of terrestrial plants considered as invasive in Belgium are present in horticultural catalogues

Codes of conduct on invasive plants and horticulture

Preventive measures will be implemented through Codes of conduct negotiated with horticulture professionals (e.g. nursery men, public green managers, landscape architects, garden contractors).

Which measures?

- Know the list of invasive plants
- Stop selling / planting invasive plants
- Promote the use of alternative plants (non invasive plants)
- ...

Take-home message

- It is necessary to communicate towards gardeners and horticulture professionals in order to prevent plant invasions
- Most invasive plants are still used and/or sold by the ornamental sector
- Code of conduct is a self-regulation tool based on voluntary adoption to preventive measures
- More information: [www.alterias.be](http://www.alterias.be)

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