

Escape from Confinement: Horticulture

Species that have escaped from confined or controlled environments where they were commercially cultivated for purposes other than Agriculture, Forestry, or Aquaculture / mariculture

The plants kept in commercial culturing facilities (nurseries, greenhouses) from where they may accidentally escape due to mismanagement, or during transport to/from locations as part of the nursery trade. Notable exceptions to this pathway are the flora (as well as other species including algae, fungi, etc.) kept in relation to the aquarium and terrarium trade, which must be considered under the Pet / Aquarium / Terrarium pathway. Furthermore, the Ornamental purpose other than horticulture pathway will apply where escape occurs from landscaped habitats or plant collections rather than the commercial culturing facilities.

Similar or related pathways

- Ornamental purpose other than horticulture
- Agriculture (including Biofuel feedstocks)
- Forestry (including reforestation)
- Aquaculture / Mariculture
- Contaminant nursery material



Species example

Garden lupins (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), have escaped from cultivation for horticulture purposes (© Nic_ZZI, CC BY-NC iNaturalist,).

How can we manage this pathway?

National level

- ✓ Enact legislation that bans the import, trade, growing, and breeding of priority IAS that could be introduced through horticulture.
- ✓ Strengthen capacity to undertake at-border and post-border inspections, including e-commerce monitoring, to identify import and trade in IAS.
- ✓ Promote awareness on IAS and relevant legislation among the horticultural industry and encourage them to pass this information to consumers.
- ✓ Encourage horticulture operators to develop and adopt best practices or a code of conduct, which could include measures such as ensuring material in cultivation are correctly identified with accurate labelling, collaboratively agree which plant species are a threat and cease to stock them, promote the sale of known 'safe' species, and to take care in how they are disposing of waste and unwanted stocks.

Regional level

- ✓ Jointly identify priority IAS in horticulture and share risk assessments to support prioritisation.
- ✓ Share information on which horticultural IAS are regulated, and their establishments and impacts, and on other species in trade (e.g. on 'replacement species' for prohibited plants).
- ✓ Adopt good production and transport practices to avoid unintentional introduction and spread.
- ✓ Cooperate with other stakeholders, both in the trade and in the conservation and plant protection sectors.

Data source: IUCN. 2018. Guidance for interpretation of the CBD categories of pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species.

This document has been developed with the generous support from the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity fund

Heywood & Brunel (2011). Code of conduct on horticulture and invasive alien plants. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural habitats (Bern Convention), Nature and environment, no. 162.

