



HORTICULTURE CODE OF PRACTICE

for Anguilla



PREPARED BY

DEPARTMENT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**
ANGUILLA



Copyright © 2024

Department of Natural Resources (DNaR), Government of Anguilla

The Horticulture Code of Practice for Anguilla is produced under the project DPLUS125 “Protecting Anguilla’s biodiversity by building capacity in invasive plant management” funded by Darwin Plus and administered by the Department of Natural Resources – Environment Unit. Project partners include the Great Britain Non-native Species Secretariat and Durham University. We also thank the Anguilla National Trust for their input.

The guidelines herein have been adapted to Anguilla’s local context from the Horticultural Code of Practice produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK.

DEFRA. 2011. Helping to prevent the spread of invasive non-native species: horticultural code of practice. Bristol, UK. Available at www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation/codes-of-practice/horticultural-code-of-practice/.



1. Introduction

This Code of Practice supports the Anguilla Invasive Species Management Strategy¹. It provides specific guidance and advice for the responsible use, trade, and importation of plants, with the aim to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants. It is targeted to anyone involved in the use and trade of plants in Anguilla, from home gardeners to commercial landscapers, and garden centers and other suppliers. For clarity, “invasive” plants are those that are not native to Anguilla (introduced in modern times either intentionally or not) and are currently causing or have the potential to cause negative environmental, social, health, and/or economic impacts to the island’s native ecosystems and residents.

Legal Context

There are three laws in the Revised Statutes of Anguilla (R.S.A.) relevant to the importation and use of plants, namely:

- Fumigation of Plants Act, R.S.A. F075, of 2000
- Plant Protection Act, R.S.A. P050, of 2010
- Trade in Endangered Species Act, R.S.A. T027, of 2010

These laws outline the proper procedure for the importation of plants into Anguilla, including only landing at designated ports of entry, mandatory fumigation of plants to prevent the spread of plant/insect pests, the operating guidelines for nurseries, and regulations for prohibited species that may not be imported into the territory. Anyone wishing to import plants or plant materials into the country is urged to contact the Department of Natural Resources for guidance.

Additionally, the Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act, R.S.A. B043 of 2010, covers the protection of endangered species in Anguilla. There are two plants referenced in the Act (p. 62) and listed on the IUCN Red List, namely *lignum vitae* (*Guaiaecum officinale*) which is Endangered² and the endemic Anguilla bush (*Rondeletia anguillensis*) which is Critically Endangered³. The listed threats to

¹ Connor, R. 2008. Anguilla Invasive Species Management Strategy.
www.caribbeaninvasives.org/index.php/2021/01/05/anguilla-invasive-species-strategy/.

² Barstow, M. 2019. *Guaiaecum officinale*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: e.T33701A68085935.

³ Bárrrios, S. and Samuel, C.A. 2015. *Rondeletia anguillensis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: e.T16757145A16757253.

the Anguilla bush are infrastructure and housing development, human disturbance, agricultural expansion, and invasive species, especially the wild moses (*Leucaena leucocephala*) which can aggressively outcompete it in its habitat. The Biodiversity and Heritage Conservation Act protects the habitat of these native species from damage or destruction, including by invasive plants, making the introduction of invasive plants into their habitat an offence.

This Code of Practice is not a legally binding document; it simply seeks to provide guidance related to plant use, importation, and sale, to ensure compliance with the above-stated laws. In the case of an offence, e.g., illegal importation of plants or intentional spread of an invasive species, penalties will be determined by the relevant statute(s).

2. General Guidelines for All Users

- ✓ **Know exactly what you are growing:** never plant a species whose name you are unsure of. Verifying both the scientific and common name can be helpful to avoid any confusion, as some plants have multiple common names and some may even share a common name (e.g., the name ‘purple allamanda’ is used for 2 different species in Anguilla, one invasive and one safe – see section 4 for pictures).
- ✓ **Trade responsibly:** when trading plants with other gardeners or landscapers, be mindful of which ones have invasive qualities, like fast growth, flowering and seeding while young, climbing or smothering growth habit, forming dense patches, or a history of getting out of control. If these sound like the characteristics of the species you’re about to plant, consider an alternative.
- ✓ **Control invasives safely⁴:** if you decide to tackle removing invasive plants by yourself, follow the best practice guidelines for the use of tools and herbicides. Never use tools you are not comfortable with, and be sure to read the directions of any chemicals carefully before use—safety first!

⁴ This project has also produced an Invasive Plant Control Manual that provides some guidelines for the removal or control of the most common invasive plants in Anguilla. Contact us at the Department of Natural Resources main office (Old Police Barracks) or anguilla.dplus125@gmail.com for a copy.

- ✓ **Keep a look out for new plants:** be diligent, and keep your eyes open for new seedlings of invasive plants after you remove or dispose of them. All it takes is one seed left over for a new plant to grow, and sometimes they can remain in the soil undetected for months or years!
- ✗ **Don't plant new invasive species:** if a species is a known invasive, do not plant it! If you are not sure, consider the qualities listed above, and take a cautious approach. There are plenty of native species and safer non-invasive options you can plant instead (see section 4 for a few examples).
- ✗ **Don't smuggle in plants:** whether intentional or not, you can cause the introduction of new invasives to Anguilla. When you travel, do not bring back any plants simply because you think they are pretty or want them in your garden. Purchase your plants from a reputable retailer on the island and only buy species you know are safe to plant. Also, check your self and your belongings when travelling or moving between islands in Anguilla, to make sure you are not accidentally transporting seeds or other plant material. In other words—practice good biosecurity.
- ✗ **Don't dispose of plant waste carelessly:** some plants can be easily spread by the smallest bit of material, like a piece of stem or a single leaf. Always dispose of your plant waste responsibly after trimming, pruning, or removing plants from your garden. Never dump the waste, especially from invasive plants, over the fence, at the side of the road, or in the wild. Similarly, never dump aquatic plant material from aquariums in drains or near the ponds.

Tips for Disposal⁵

Before disposal, or as a means of disposal, plant material can be:

- ✓ Dried in the sun – applicable to all weeds
- ✓ Burnt after drying in either a bonfire or oil drum incinerator – for grasses and woody weeds
- ✓ Sealed in black plastic bags to bake and rot in the sun – for weeds already seeding and those with vegetative bulbs and tubers

⁵Tips adapted from: Great Britain Nonnative Species Secretariat. 2020. Invasive Species Management Plan: Eradication of the false puncture vine *Tribulus cistoides* from Anguilla. www.nonnativespecies.org/overseas-territories/prioritising-containment-and-eradication-action/.

- ✓ Composted after removing the viable parts (fruits/seeds and bulbs/tubers) – for small weeds and leafy parts of larger weeds
- ✓ Chipped up and used as mulch, which has the additional benefits of providing nutrients for plants and ground cover to prevent new weed growth – for woody weeds
- ✓ Transported to the dump, taking care to cover trailers and truck beds to prevent material from falling off. Also bag up any plants with seeds before moving them to avoid spreading seeds on the way – for all weeds
- ✓ Left on site, either where they fell or piled up as needed – for any weeds already seeding or those treated with herbicides

Please take care to dispose of your plant waste responsibly, whether you are pruning ornamentals, removing invasive plants, or clearing land areas for farming or construction.

3. Specific Guidelines for Importers and Retailers

- ✓ **Know exactly what you are selling:** never sell or import a plant whose name you are unsure of. Plants should be clearly documented and labeled with both the scientific and common names to allow easy identification by customs officers, plant inspectors, and customers alike.
- ✓ **Give advice on proper disposal:** during the sale of any plants, you should provide customers with detailed care information as well as advice for proper disposal of plant material to avoid spread outside of their gardens. Impress upon them the importance of preventing plants from “escaping” their gardens.
- ✓ **Be familiar with the laws and regulations:** keep up to date with, and follow, all local regulations for the importation of plants into Anguilla. All imports must be properly documented and subject to inspection by officers of the DNaR upon arrival.
- ✗ **Don’t promote invasives:** do not promote known invasives for sale or use in landscaping or other projects. Instead, offer alternatives that are either native or non-invasive; ideally, these alternatives should be similar in characteristics and use to the invasives they replace. See section 4 for some examples.



- ✘ **Don't let pests hitchhike on your products:** invasive plants, as well as plant pests and diseases, can be introduced in imported material such as seeds, plants, and soil. Inspect material carefully, even after fumigation, and quarantine when necessary, especially if you are importing from a new source for the first time. Ensure any soil you sell or trade is free of weeds and viable parts of invasive plants.

4. What to Plant Instead





Do you want to avoid invasives but don't know what to plant? Where possible, you should give preference to plants that are native to Anguilla. Native plants are already well suited to Anguilla's climate and conditions, requiring less upkeep overall (less water, fertilizers, and pesticides means more money saved!). Also, native plants better support native pollinators, from the birds and the bees to butterflies and bats. The native plant suggestions below are from the Anguilla National Trust's booklet "Building your backyard pollinator garden: a guide to Anguilla's pollinators, plants, and habitat hints"⁶. For further guidance, you can also contact the Horticulturist at the Agriculture Unit of the DNaR.

If there are no native plants that suit your desired look, some introduced species are safe to plant if they are considered non-invasive. Many non-native species are not likely to become a problem, so do your research!

Note that the following list is not exhaustive and there are more options. Consider these alternatives:

INVASIVES TO AVOID	NATIVES OR NON-INVASIVES TO PLANT INSTEAD
Rubbervines* (<i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis/grandiflora</i>)  *sometimes called purple allamanda	Purple allamanda (<i>Allamanda blanchetii</i>) 

⁶ Copies of this free booklet are available at the offices of the Anguilla National Trust (North Side) and the Department of Natural Resources (Old Police Barracks).

INVASIVES TO AVOID	NATIVES OR NON-INVASIVES TO PLANT INSTEAD
<p>Brazilian jasmine (<i>Jasminum fluminense</i>)</p>  <p>*note exactly 3 leaves on opposite sides of vine, unlike the other jasmines which have 1 or 7 leaves on either side</p>	<p>Angel-wing jasmine or common jasmine (<i>Jasminum laurifolium</i>, <i>J. officinale</i>)</p> 
<p>Periwinkle / old maid (<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>)</p> 	<p>Spider lily (<i>Hymenocallis caribaea</i>, <i>Crinum x amabile</i>)</p> 

SAFE TO PLANT: NATIVE TREES OR LARGE SHRUBS WITH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS	
<p>Lignum vitae (<i>Guaiacum officinale</i>)</p> 	

SAFE TO PLANT: NATIVE TREES OR LARGE SHRUBS WITH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

White cedar (*Tabebuia heterophylla*)



Yellow elder / fever bush (*Tecoma stans*)



Indian coral tree / immortal (*Erythrina variegata*)



If your plants escape beyond your garden border they can become invasive, harming our wildlife, environment, and the economy



Once established, invasive plants are costly to control and the damage they cause can be irreversible. You can help to protect the environment by following our three simple tips:



Choose the right plants for your garden, pond, aquarium and water features



Keep your plants in your garden, don't plant them, or allow them to grow, in the wild



Dispose of your unwanted plants, roots, weeds, seeds, and seed heads responsibly

