

Vattenfall Services Nordic AB - SIKAM

Management of invasive plants

Instruction VS-IN-01147

Confidentiality class: C1 - Public

Issue no. 1, valid from 2026-05-29

Summary

Invasive alien plants can cause significant harm to the environment and biodiversity in Sweden. Vattenfall Services has therefore developed an instruction for the management of invasive plants. The instruction is intended for everyone working within the Vattenfall Services organisation, and especially for those working as project managers, planners, or with environmental matters. The objective of the instruction is to improve, clarify, and simplify the process for managing invasive plants, both in the field and during the planning stage.

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Attachments:

Attachment 1: VS-IN-00147-1 Common plants to recognise in the field

1 Introduction

This instruction is part of Vattenfall Services Nordic AB's management system, SIKAM.
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1.1 Purpose

This instruction describes how invasive species are to be managed in an environmentally sound manner and ensures that the laws and regulations in force at any given time are complied with. The instruction describes what the user should actually be able to do after reading it.

The instruction is primarily focused on invasive plants; however, there are also other species that may need to be considered in the field depending on the environment in question.

1.2 Scope

This instruction applies to all operations within Vattenfall Services, hereinafter referred to as VS.

If there are special instructions for equipment or facilities, those shall take precedence over this description.

1.3 Target groups

Target group	Meaning
HSSEQ	Responsible for ensuring that each list of laws and group-wide requirements is updated and that changes in legislation are evaluated when necessary, but at least once a year.
Managers	Responsible for initiating training activities based on operational needs.
Project manager/ service manager	Responsible for complying with this instruction.

1.4 Definitions and abbreviations

Term / abbreviation	Definition
Invasive/alien species	Non-native species with high spread potential and significant impact on or damage to Swedish ecosystems and biodiversity.
VS	Vattenfall Services

2 Background

Invasive alien species are plants and animals that, through human activity, have been moved from their original environment to new locations. These species often establish themselves quickly and compete with native flora and fauna. In many cases, this causes serious damage to Swedish ecosystems as native species are displaced. Invasive species are therefore regarded as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in Sweden and are accordingly regulated through national and international legislation.

Since 2015, the regulation of invasive species has been based on the EU Regulation (1143/2014). The purpose of the regulation is to prevent invasive species from entering countries within the EU and, as far as possible, to prevent their spread and eradicate species that are already established. As the EU Regulation is directly applicable in Sweden, municipalities, authorities and other actors are obliged to follow the rules to prevent the spread of species included in the EU list of species of Union concern. Species included in the EU list are subject to a prohibition against:

- being brought into the country,
- being kept, including in contained holding,
- being bred, including in contained holding,
- being transported, except to a facility in connection with eradication,
- being placed on the market (sold),
- being used or exchanged,
- being allowed to reproduce, grow or be cultivated, including in contained holding, or
- being released into the environment.

There are certain exceptions for species on the national list.

In addition to the EU Regulation, the management of invasive species is also governed by the Swedish Ordinance (2018:1939) with the purpose of clarifying the allocation of responsibilities between different authorities and actors. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management are responsible for national coordination and therefore provide support and guidance to municipalities and county administrative boards on how the provisions are to be applied in practice.

All sectors and operations that handle invasive species in their activities therefore have a responsibility to comply with the prohibitions that apply to species included in the EU list of species of concern in accordance with EU Regulation (2014:1143) and the Swedish Ordinance (2018:1939). *In practice, this means that VS is obliged to comply with the prohibition on importing, selling, cultivating, breeding, transporting, using, exchanging, allowing reproduction, growing, cultivating or releasing invasive species into the environment.* Support in this matter may be sought internally as well as from municipalities or county administrative boards.

3 Implementation

At the planning stage of projects or field assignments, a brief preliminary study/check shall be carried out to identify which invasive species have been observed in the relevant work area. This is to ensure at an early stage of the project that VS's management of invasive species complies with the laws and regulations currently in force. The preliminary study can advantageously be carried out by VS's internal Environment and Permits department or by you as a planner or project manager in the project.

Management and control methods for invasive species vary depending on where in the country you are located. It is therefore not possible to produce a single routine that can be applied to all species or to one species throughout the country. Municipalities and county administrative boards handle the issue in different ways, as available options for disposal or landfill differ. It is therefore important to address invasive species on a case-by-case and project-by-project basis.

3.1 Preliminary study (preventive management)

Since it is difficult to eliminate invasive species once they have become established, it is important to work preventively. This is best done by investigating in advance the risk of occurrence as well as reported observations and findings of invasive species in the areas where we run projects. A suitable way to investigate the risk of invasive species occurring is to use the SLU Species Information Centre and its observation maps (*see section 4.2 Other references for link*). The service covers all invasive species included in Swedish and European regulations, and the reported observations are collected from several sources. Reports and data obtained from SLU do not necessarily provide a completely accurate picture of occurrence in the field, but they do provide an indication of local conditions.

If, based on the data reviewed, there is considered to be a risk that invasive species may be present in the relevant work area, it is important to begin the consultation process with the relevant municipality or county administrative board to investigate the local conditions that apply. This is best done by first contacting the individual municipality's nature conservation unit. In cases where the municipality cannot provide support in the matter, the relevant county administrative board and nature conservation unit should be contacted, alternatively VS's internal Environment and Permits department, for further handling.

It is of great importance to contact the relevant municipality or county administrative board, as these have a specifically developed methodology handbook for the control of invasive species in specific areas and because local conditions for waste handling are available there. Individual assessments concerning management and control must therefore always be carried out in each individual case and project.

Checklist:

- Investigate the occurrence of invasive species via the SLU Species Information Centre (observation maps) or contact VS's Environment and Permits department for assistance with this.
- Contact the municipality, county administrative board or VS's Environment and Permits department for advice on management and to investigate local conditions.
- Consult with the landowner regarding the planned control measure (**please note that the landowner's permission is required if VS is to carry out measures on another party's land**).

3.2 When invasive species are encountered in the field (unforeseen management)

If invasive species are encountered in the field, it is important to immediately stop or pause the work and initiate contact with the client to discuss further measures, in consultation with the municipality or County Administrative Board. VS's internal Environment and Permits department may also be contacted for support and advice. It is important to bear in mind that work vehicles that have been on site may spread

plant parts or seeds of the species and should therefore not leave the work area until a recommendation for further handling has been received from the municipality or county administrative board.

In cases where there is uncertainty as to whether a species is invasive or not, it is always better to be on the safe side. Photograph the plant and contact VS's Environment and Permits department, the municipality or the County Administrative Board for further guidance.

Checklist:

- Stop or pause the work.
- Contact the client, municipality, county administrative board or VS's Environment and Permits department for advice regarding the handling of work vehicles and soil masses.
- Please note that the landowner's permission is required if VS is to carry out measures on another party's land; before any control measure is taken, consultation with the relevant landowners must be established.
- Work may resume when any precautionary measures have been decided and there is a plan for how the work is to be carried out with due regard to minimising spread and/or control, etc.
- Document the execution; take photographs before, during and after the work to document the management.

Reporting

If invasive species have been encountered in the field, it is important that this is reported in [Artportalen](#) (login required) or at www.invasivaarter.nu. When reporting findings, it is helpful to attach photographs so that the findings and observations can be validated by others.

Reporting shall also take place in VS's deviation reporting system in accordance with instruction VS-IN-00017.

3.3 Waste and residual products

Removed plant parts shall be handled in a way that prevents spread, particularly during transport. Package the material carefully, for example in double refuse sacks or a closed container, so that no plant parts or seeds can leak out. Plant parts without soil shall be delivered to a waste facility for incineration and sorted as combustible waste (not as garden waste/compost).

Soil masses containing invasive plants may constitute waste and must then be handled in accordance with the waste regulations. The masses must not be handled in a way that enables the spread of invasive species. They must therefore be transported, temporarily stored and treated so that seeds, roots or plant parts cannot spread, and be delivered to an approved recipient or treatment facility.

For routines and instructions regarding the reporting of generated quantities of waste and residual products, refer to Instruction VS-IN-00002, Waste and residual products.

4 Control points for internal follow-up

If this instruction is incorrect or not complied with, this shall be handled in accordance with deviation management VS-IN-00017.

5 References

5.1 SIKAM-references

Document ID	Title
VS-IN-00002	Waste and residual products
VS-IN-00017	Deviation management

5.2 Other references

Document/resource	Description
Invasiva främmande arter på EU:s förteckning – Växter (naturvardsverket.se)	List of species
Förordning om invasiva främmande arter (SFS 2026:311)	The ordinance supplements Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.
Regulation - 1143/2014 - EN - EUR-Lex	Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species
Sveriges första nationella förteckning över invasiva främmande arter - Aktuellt - Havs- och vattenmyndigheten	Sweden's national list of invasive alien species
Observationskartor – Observationer från SLU Artdatabanken	Observations of invasive species
Fynddata – fördjupad information från SLU Artdatabanken	In Fynddata, you can search for species observations from several datasets, view results in maps and tables, and make overview summaries and calculations. You can also export the results and then analyse the data further on your own computer. Login required.
Invasive alien species (naturvardsverket.se)	Information about invasive alien species
Metodkatalog	The purpose of this page is to make it easier for authorities and other actors combating invasive species to choose a control method. The final choice of method must always be made based on the prevailing conditions in each individual case and

Document/resource	Description
	in consultation with the client, municipality and/or County Administrative Board.
Risklista för främmande arter 2024	Risk list of species concerning the likelihood that they constitute, or may come to constitute, a risk to native biodiversity.
EBR – Hantering av invasiva växter	Handbook intended to provide support and guidance in the planning and execution of activities in order to avoid the spread of invasive plants.

6 Revisionshistorik

Issue no.	Changes	Approved by
1 valid from 2026-05-29	New instruction translated from Swedish.	VD

