

# Guidelines to the Candidate List of (potentially) invasive alien plant species of Switzerland

Invasive Alien Plants Working Group  
of the Scientific Commission of InfoFlora

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## Aims of list

The main purpose of the Candidate List (CD List) is **to raise awareness**, in other words: **to draw the attention of expert botanists** to certain alien plants, possibly presenting a threat to biodiversity, health and economy in Switzerland, and **to achieve their awareness and gain further information**.

It is especially helpful for the Working Group Invasive Neophytes of InfoFlora (hereafter abbreviated as IFL-WG) to select (new) candidate species that may be submitted to a full risk assessment via the Swiss invasion potential risk assessment process ("[SIPRA](#)"), including also (S)EICAT, for listing on the national lists of invasive alien plants of Switzerland ([link to lists](#)).

In this respect, **the CD list represents a working step** after the 'taxonomic' assessment by InfoFlora (that leads to the inclusion of a new alien species in the national Checklist of the wild vascular flora of Switzerland) and before the full risk assessment via SIPRA (incl. (S)EICAT).

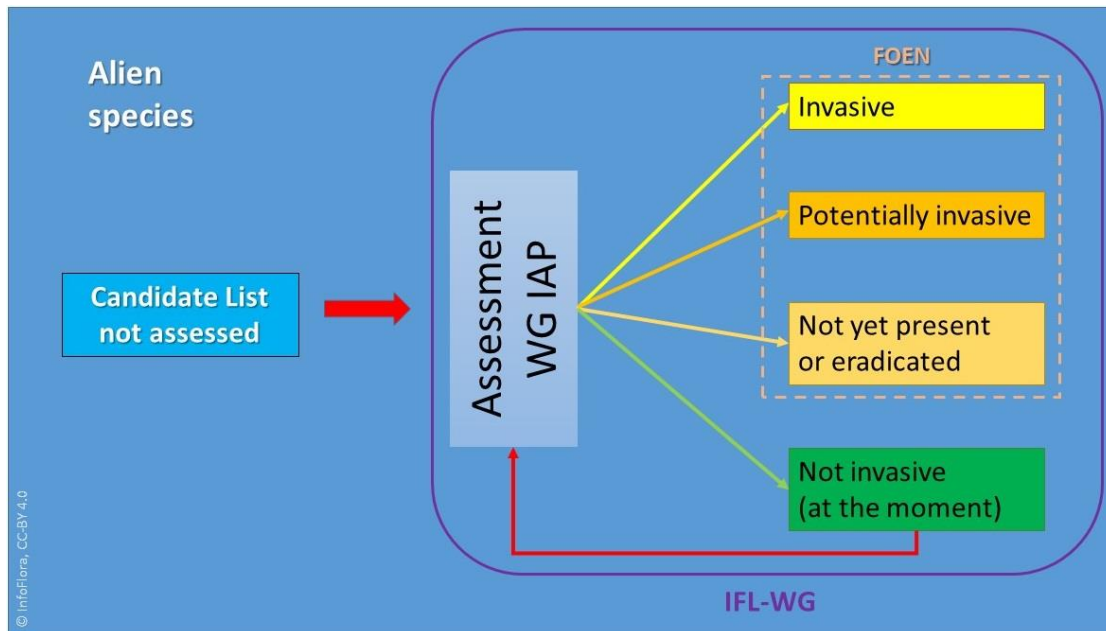
**Disclaimer:** The CD List has **no legal value**. It is not a quarantine list and does not constitute a recommendation for regulations or management actions.

## Which species can be listed?

Species eligible for the CD List are **not listed yet** on the lists of invasive and potentially invasive alien plants of Switzerland (cfr. [FOEN 2022](#)) or on the List of assessed-but-not-listed species (by InfoFlora, in preparation), or any legal list of Switzerland (e.g. [annex 2.1 or 2.2 of FrSV](#)).

They are typically at early stages of the establishment or expansion process or could be, for example:

- Alien species that are present in Switzerland in the wild (either as casual or established) and display a recent expansion dynamic;
- Alien species that occur in Switzerland in cultivated conditions only (e.g. gardens), but are considered problematic in neighboring/EU countries and are likely to escape and establish in the wild in Switzerland;
- Alien species that do not occur at all in Switzerland but are considered problematic in neighboring/EU countries and are likely to be brought, escape and establish in Switzerland.



Flow chart with all lists of invasive or potentially invasive alien plants in Switzerland.

## How do listing and list update work?

### 1. The process

- 1.1. The list is dynamic and regularly updated by the IFL-WG.
- 1.2. The IFL-WG accepts and examines two kinds of requests to the CD List submitted as *proposals*: requests about new species to be added (see 2.) and requests about species that are already listed on the CD List (see 3. and 4.).
- 1.3. Proposals can be submitted by anybody (private person or authority) who, thus, becomes and acts as the *proponent*.
- 1.4. Each species represents a proposal (in other words: 1 request = 1 proposal = 1 species).
- 1.5. Proposal **submission deadline is May 31** for consideration in the same year.
- 1.6. Proposals are discussed by the IFL-WG in a dedicated meeting, and a decision is taken for each proposal by consensus and will be documented.
- 1.7. A proposal can be
  - *accepted as is*,
  - *accepted after revision* (with revisions to be done within a given deadline),
  - *rejected*, with or without recommendation for re-submission in the next year.
- 1.8. The updated CD List is published at least once a year and made available online in the same year (see below).
- 1.9. Legal recourse by the proponent is excluded.

### 2. New species

- 2.1. A *proponent* can submit a request for a non-listed alien species to be added to the CD list (as explained in "What species can be listed"), with following options:
  - i) *new addition to the CD List for further information*,
  - ii) *new addition to the CD List with justified urgency for a full risk analysis via the SIPRA*.

- 2.2. For the request, the proponent needs to submit the relevant information in form of a *proposal of new addition* [[download template .docx](#)] to the IFL-WG (via [neobiota@infoflora.ch](mailto:neobiota@infoflora.ch)).
  - 2.3. Accepted species are added to the CD List along with the proposal documentation (publication of the documentation is anonymous).
3. Species already on the CD list
    - 3.1. For each species on the CD list the original proponent and/or the WG IFL can request that a listed alien species is either:
      - i) *kept on the CD List (especially after the maximum listing time of 5 years)*,
      - ii) *transferred to full risk analysis* via the SIPRA and eventually listed on the national lists.
    - 3.2. For the request, the proponent needs to submit a *proposal on current listing* [[download template .docx](#)] consisting of the relevant information supporting the request.
4. Listed species to be removed
    - 4.1. Species do not remain listed indefinitely on the CD List but are kept for up to five consecutive years or five consecutive meetings of the IFL-WG; after this time, the species is removed unless new information is provided to support further listing.
    - 4.2. Removed species actually remain on the list as “removed” along with the removal year, but can be added again on the CD List after submission of a new proposal (cfr. 2.).

## To the proposal form to submit requests for the CD List

→ [Proposal Form \(Word .docx template\)](#)

## To the current Candidate List of Switzerland

→ [Candidate List](#)

## Help increase information on Candidate species

There are several things you can do to help us increasing information on a Candidate species:

- **Presence reporting** Report accurately the species occurrences via FlorApp, by attaching photos and estimating its abundance. Do not forget to report the Origin of the population (especially, if it is cultivated!).
- **Field study:** If work in a research institution or have the possibility to do some research on your own or to collaborate with a research institution, you can carry out a (small) project in which you document/describe the species' biology and ecology along seasons or some aspects of it. Features to look at typically correspond those of the criteria considered by the full risk assessment (see [Catalogue of criteria](#)). We recommend to publish your study officially and share the publication with the WG-IFL by email at [neobiota@infoflora.ch](mailto:neobiota@infoflora.ch).

Any information can contribute to support decisions by the IFL-WG, as whether the species should be removed from the list or should be assessed and therefore provide valuable information for the assessment of its invasive potential.