

Translation from Finnish

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Government Decree on Managing the Risks Caused by Alien Species (704/2019; amendments up to 912/2023 included)

In accordance with the Government decision, the following is enacted under section 11, subsection 3 of the Act on Managing the Risks Caused by Alien Species (1709/2015), and under section 16, subsections 5 and 6 of the same Act as amended by Act (682/2019):

Section 1

Invasive alien species of national concern

Invasive alien species of national concern referred to in section 11 of the Act on Managing the Risks Caused by Alien Species (1709/2015; Alien Species Act) are the species listed in Annexes A and B of this Decree and those included in the taxonomic groups of species listed in Annex A.

In accordance with section 2, subsection 1 and section 11, subsection 1 of the Invasive Alien Species Act and Article 3, paragraph 1 of 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, species included in the taxonomic group of species in paragraphs 1.1–2.4 and 4.1 of Annex A refer to species included in the taxonomic group which in Finland are outside of their natural range and which are not included in the list of invasive alien species of European Union concern.

Section 2

Exceptions concerning certain animal species

Section 4 of the Alien Species Act shall not apply to the species referred to in paragraphs 3–5 of Annex A.

The ban laid down in section 11, subsection 2, paragraph 2 of the Alien Species Act shall not apply to:

- 1) specimens of species referred to in paragraphs 1–4 of Annex A which are used for an activity referred to in a permit for keeping a zoo under section 20, subsection 2 of the Animal Welfare Act (247/1996) or for an activity referred to in the Act on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific or Educational Purposes (497/2013); (912/2023)
- 2) specimens of species referred to in paragraph 1.1 of Annex A which are used as fur animals or their breeding animals.

Section 3

Prohibited hunting devices

Iron traps may not be used to trap raccoons or raccoon dogs, nor may air guns be used to kill them.

The provisions of subsection 1 also apply to other mammal species of comparable or larger size referred to in section 16 the Alien Species Act.

Iron traps may not be used to trap nutria on land, nor may air guns be used to kill them.

Section 4

Requirements concerning firearms

The bullet scoring energy measured from the muzzle of a rifled firearm to be used for the shooting of an animal referred to in section 16 of the Alien Species Act shall be at least 100 joules.

However, raccoon, nutria and raccoon dog, and another mammal of comparable size referred to in section 16 of the Alien Species Act, may be shot only with a firearm with a cartridge bullet weight of at least 2.5 grams and a bullet scoring energy of at least 200 joules when measured 100 metres from the muzzle or with a scoring energy of at least 300 joules when measured from the muzzle regardless of the bullet weight.

Mammal species referred to in section 16 of the Alien Species Act that are larger than those referred to in subsection 1 above may be shot only with a firearm with a cartridge bullet weight of at least 3.2 grams and a bullet scoring energy of at least 800 joules when measured 100 metres from the muzzle.

The gauge of a shotgun used to shoot an animal referred to in section 16 of the Invasive Alien Species Act shall be 10 or smaller but at least 20. A shotgun with a gauge smaller than 20 may, however, be used to shoot mink and muskrat and another animal of comparable or smaller size, but not a shotgun with a gauge smaller than 36.

If a bow is used for shooting raccoon, muskrat, mink or raccoon dog or another mammal of comparable size referred to in section 16 of the Alien Species Act, the bow must have a pulling strength of at least 180 newtons.

Section 5

Breaking a muskrat nest

If an inhabited muskrat nest is broken, the young in the nest shall be killed if, considering the circumstances, this is possible within reason.

Section 6

Entry into force and transitional provisions

This Decree enters into force on 1 June 2019. However, the ban on breeding invasive alien species of national concern referred to in section 11, subsection 2, paragraph 2 of the Invasive Alien Species Act shall apply to the species referred to in paragraph 8 of Annex B as of 1 June 2022.

This Decree repeals the Government Decree on Invasive Alien Species of National Concern (1725/2015).

The bans laid down in section 11, subsection 2, paragraph 2 of the Alien Species Act apply to the species listed in paragraphs 1–4 of Annex A as of 1 January 2016. However, specimens of these species that have been obtained legally as pets before 1 January 2016 may be kept until their natural death.

Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2:

1) the ban on keeping, breeding, transporting, placing on the market, transmitting, selling or otherwise conveying invasive alien species laid down in section 11, subsection 2, paragraph 2 of the Alien Species Act shall apply to the hybrids referred to in paragraph 1.1.1 of Annex A as from the entry into force of this Decree.

2) the bans laid down in section 11, subsection 2, paragraph 2 of the Alien Species Act shall apply to specimens in the taxonomic group mentioned in paragraph 1.3 of Annex A and to specimens of the species listed in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of Annex A as from the entry into force of this Decree;

3) hybrids referred to in paragraph 1.1.1 of Annex A, specimens in the taxonomic group mentioned in paragraph 1.3 of Annex A and specimens of the species listed in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of Annex A that have been obtained legally as pets before the entry into force of the Decree may be kept until their natural death.

912/2023

This Decree enters into force on 15 August 2023.

Specimens of species referred to in paragraphs 1–4 of Annex A that have been obtained legally before the entry into force of this Decree and that are used for an activity referred to in a permit for keeping a permanent animal show under section 20, subsection 2 of the Animal Welfare Act upon the entry into force of this Decree may be kept until their natural death.

The bans laid down in section 11, subsection 2, paragraph 2 of the Alien Species Act shall not apply to species referred to in paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3 of Annex B until two years have lapsed from the entry into force of this Decree.

Annex A

ANIMALS

Paragraphs 1.1–2.4 and 4.1 of Annex A refer to those species belonging to the taxonomic group in question that, in Finland, are outside of their natural range and that are not included in the list of invasive alien species of European Union concern.

1 Mammals

1.1 taxonomic group: Carnivora,

including

1.1.1 hybrids of domestic dog and wolf (*Canis lupus*) or domestic dog and other canid species (*Canidae*) in generations F1–F4, as well as hybrids of these hybrids and canids other than the domestic dog;

1.1.2 hybrids of domestic cat and other feline species in generations F1–F4, as well as hybrids of these hybrids and felines other than the domestic cat;

and excluding the following species:

- carnivores referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 42, subsection 1 of the Hunting Act (615/1993);
- domestic dog and its hybrids from generation F5 onwards;
- domestic cat and its hybrids from generation F5 onwards;
- ferret.

1.2 taxonomic group: bats (*Chiroptera*)

1.3 taxonomic group: chipmunks (*Tamias*)

2 Birds

2.1 taxonomic group: birds of prey (*Accipitriformes*) and their hybrids

2.2 taxonomic group: falcons (*Falconiformes*) and their hybrids

2.3 taxonomic group: owls (*Strigiformes*)

2.4 taxonomic group: crows (*Corvidae*)

2.5 hybrids of lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) and other species of geese

3 Reptiles

3.1 sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*)

4 Amphibians

4.1 taxonomic group: green frogs (*Pelophylax*)

4.2 European green tree frog (*Hyla arborea*)

4.3 yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*)

4.4 northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*)

4.5 agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*)

4.6 alpine newt (*Ichthyosaura alpestris*)

5 Molluscs

5.1 Spanish slug (*Arion vulgaris*)

5.2 black-headed slug (*Krynio Killus melanocephalus*) (912/2023)

Annex B

(912/2023)

PLANTS

1 Daisy family (*Asteraceae*)

1.1 Aleutian ragwort (*Jacobaea cannabifolia*)

1.2 Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

1.3 early goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*)

1.4 tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*)

2 Balsam family (*Balsaminaceae*)

2.1 orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

3 Pea family (*Fabaceae*)

3.1 Nootka lupine (*Lupinus nootkatensis*)

3.2 large-leaved lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)

4 Frog's-bit family (*Hydrocharitaceae*)

4.1 Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)

5 Knotweed family (*Polygonaceae*)

5.1 Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)

5.2 giant knotweed (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*)

5.3 Himalayan knotweed (*Reynoutria x bohemica*)

6 Rose family (*Rosaceae*)

6.1 red Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa* f. *rugosa*) and white Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa* f. *alba*)

6.2 false spirea (*Sorbaria sorbifolia*)

6.3 white meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*), incl. narrow-leaved meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba* var. *alba*) and broad-leaved meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba* var. *latifolia*)

7 Soapberry family (*Sapindaceae*)

7.1 sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)