

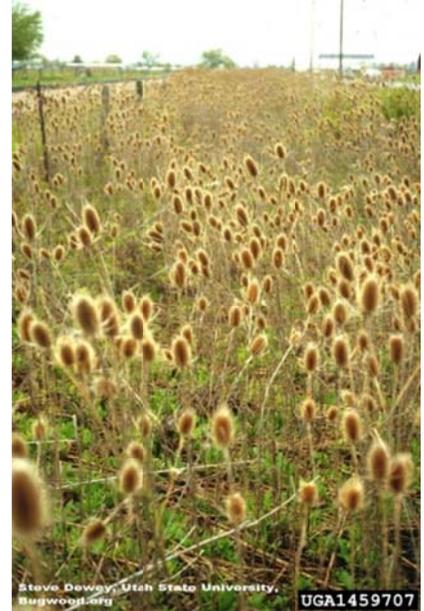
KC Weed News – December 2012

King County, Washington

(<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-news.aspx>)

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Weed of the Month: Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), a proposed Class C Noxious Weed in King County, Washington

The winter skeletons of teasel create a noticeable presence on the landscape this time of year. It's hard to miss the tall spiny stems topped by large, egg-shaped seed heads partly enclosed by a cage of long, spiny bracts. Even the low-growing overwintering rosettes are hard to miss with their large, wrinkled-looking leaves with the distinctive white mid-vein and prickles along the underside. Teasel is not a weed that will sneak up on you.

Common teasel is being added to Washington's noxious weed list in 2013 as a Class C noxious weed. The primary reason is for teasel's increasing spread to and impacts on agricultural fields. Teasel has been established in our area for a long time. It was introduced to North America in colonial times and spread rapidly along highways and with the floral trade. However, in recent years there has been an increase in its spread and abundance, particularly in Skagit County but also in other west side counties including King County. Teasel is easily spread by mowing after it forms seeds and this common practice in farm fields and along roadsides seems to account for much of its recent spread. Teasel is also used in flower arrangements and some of its spread comes from this use, especially in cemeteries, according to a [Missouri Department of Conservation website](#).

Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) closely resembles two other introduced teasel species: cultivated teasel (*D. sativus*) and cutleaf teasel (*D. laciniatus*). Common teasel is, as its name would suggest, much more widespread than the others, and it is generally the species found in Washington on roadsides and in fields. Cutleaf teasel is fairly easy to distinguish because of its irregularly cut or dissected leaves, but cultivated teasel looks very much like common teasel before it flowers. Also, there is sometimes name confusion between cultivated and common teasel because both species are sometimes called fuller's teasel. Also, they are sometimes

listed as varieties of the same species, *D. fullonum*, and sometimes as separate species. Although most references call common teasel *D. fullonum*, it is also sometimes called *D. sylvestris* or *D. fullonum* var. *sylvestris*. Cultivated teasel is usually given the Latin name *D. sativus*, but sometimes *D. fullonum*. Are you confused enough yet?

Although sorting out the Latin names can be tedious, the difference between the cultivated and common teasel is important if you are trying to use teasel as was done in the olden days (and even in current times). Both the common name “teasel” and the Latin name “fullonum” comes from its use in working with wool. A fuller is someone who makes woolen cloth and both types of teasels were used to “card” wool: to “tease” out the fibers of wool before it is spun. However, only the type called cultivated teasel is useful for raising the nap of finished woolen cloth, something done on many types of wool fabric, including billiard table covers. Cultivated teasel is used for this purpose because the spines on the tips of its flowers are curved back and are strong and flexible, as opposed to the straight, weak spine tips on common teasel flowers. This fascinating piece of botanical history is described in more depth on the blog of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s website:

<http://blog.metmuseum.org/cloistersgardens/2009/10/16/two-teasels>. As they explain, it can be difficult to be certain which type of teasel you are getting when you buy or collect seeds, something that’s important when you are trying to create a historically accurate exhibit.

Common teasel is often described as a biennial, but it could more accurately be called a monocarpic perennial because the rosettes it forms after germinating often persist for a couple of years or more before the plant flowers, sets seed and dies. As with most weeds, teasel is opportunistic and quick to take advantage of disturbed or over-grazed grassy fields and roadsides. Once it gets a foothold, teasel is competitive because of its large, ground-hugging rosettes, plentiful seed production (2,000 seeds per plant), deep roots (over two feet long) and its tall growth form that towers over most other field weeds, even the ubiquitous Canada thistle. A patch with a few plants quickly turns into a dense population because old teasel plants make a great nursery site for new teasel germination due to the large bare area created by the former basal leaves of the parent plant.

Common teasel will be a Class C noxious weed as of January 1, 2013, so the county weed boards in Washington will have the option to select it for required control in their counties. It is fairly widespread in King County and not likely to be selected for required control. However, if you would like to provide input on this decision, please see below for information on the King County Weed List Hearing coming up in January for an opportunity to comment on this and other changes to the county weed list for 2013.

Weed Tips for December

Use patience and soil management to control horsetail. This creative tip for tackling horsetail, one of the plants I get the most questions about, comes courtesy of a recent newsletter by Wendy Lomme of [Akina Designs](#). To quote Wendy:

Many of us in western Washington have the pleasure of dealing with Horsetail, otherwise known as Equisetum, in our yards. This plant, which dates back to the dinosaurs, is brilliant at making landscaper’s lives miserable and is very difficult to remove. Pulling out, cutting the plant, or digging the roots really only creates more plants. We also know that these plants love dark, murky soil so covering the area with black plastic or mulch really just encourages growth!

The surprising solution to this problem is to fix the soil conditions and wait. Improving drainage, adding lime to help with the pH, waiting, adding fertilizer, waiting some more and being patient is really the only successful solution. It may take a year or more, but with the improved soil conditions, the Horsetail will begin to go away, just like our other Prehistoric friends. (Lomme, 11/14/12)

Remove weedy vines from trees. It's a lot easier to see [English ivy](#) now that deciduous trees have lost their leaves. Clear tree trunks of all strands of ivy up to chest height and the upper stems will die back (ivy needs to be rooted in the ground to grow). It can be hard to remove large woody vines, so it helps to have a stout screw driver or pry bar. Just make sure not to cut into the tree bark. Around the base of the tree, remove as much of the vines and roots as possible to keep the vines from growing right back up the tree. It's good to clear at least six feet around the tree base and mulch with wood chips or a similar material.

Plant natives into natural areas. Competition from well-established plants is a great way to reduce weed problems. Healthy native trees and shrubs can help hold back invasive [blackberries](#), [knotweed](#), [Scotch broom](#) and other aggressive invasive weeds from taking hold. This is a great time to plant shrubs, trees and perennials. Their roots will get lots of rain over the winter and spring, making them stronger and more able to survive the dry summers we usually get. For plant suggestions, planting plans and native plant sources, check out the King County native plant guide at www.kingcounty.gov/gonative.

Meet the neighbors. If you share weed infestations with neighbors, go meet them now (take them a fruit cake!) and talk about how to tackle the problem together. Can you offer to help them do the work to encourage them to get started? Is there a way to cut down on costs by working together? If the weeds share a river or shoreline, consider holding a meeting with all the neighbors to talk about how to tackle the whole infestation. If you need outside advice or help, consider calling the noxious weed program or other agencies now so there will be enough time to get help in place before the weeds pop up again.

Look for excuses to get outside. If you are getting cabin fever, there are still many things you can do about weeds in the winter time. Evergreen invaders are easy to spot this time of year. Even if it's too cold to do much weed pulling, you can at least make a map of where things are growing in order to plan for next year. Invasive trees and shrubs like [holly](#), [laurel](#), [Scotch broom](#), [gorse](#), and [spurge laurel](#) all stand out this time of year. Even [invasive knotweed](#) is easy to find – just look for the tall, reddish brown canes growing in patches along rivers and roadsides. [Yellow archangel](#) is still growing but much more slowly, so this is a good time to pull existing plants and install sheet mulch or weed blocking fabric (in areas where there isn't anything else growing). Make sure you carefully collect all stems and roots and dispose of them in a yard waste container or the garbage. Yellow archangel spreads easily from fragments and should never be disposed of in the woods. And if [creeping buttercup](#) is your nemesis, remember that winter is the best time to dig up plants because the roots die back somewhat, making it much easier to remove entire plants (of course, easier is relative – you will still need a stout digging tool and warm, waterproof gloves).

Have You Seen these Plants outside of Cultivation?

I am trying out a new feature for the KC Weed News. Please let me know what you think of it. I would like to feature a few plant species each month that have popped up in unusual places where they weren't planted, either here in King County or in places with similar ecosystems as ours. Let me know if you have any information or experience with these plants, especially if you

have seen them showing up beyond where they were planted and having a negative impact of any sort, but also if you think these plants are not invasive in our climate or ecosystem. Please keep in mind that these plants may not be invasive here, I just think we need more information about them and should watch for them in our area. Also, if you have noticed any plants worth watching, please let me know and I can feature them here.

1. **[Giant reed \(*Arundo donax*\)](#)**

Recently getting a lot of press for its proposed use for biofuel among other things (see the recent [ABC News story](#) for instance), this very tall grass is somewhat of a conundrum. It is being promoted as a sustainable wood source and can be used like bamboo for flooring and other products as well as its possible use for biofuel. However, it is also causing ecological and economic problems in California, Texas and other southwestern states. The qualities that make it useful also create problems when it escapes beyond where it is planted: extremely fast-growth, tolerance to a wide range of conditions and climates, and overall toughness. It is being planted in our area, but the question is whether it will spread outside of cultivation and cause harm when it does escape.

2. **[Hardy kiwi, *Actinidia arguta*](#)**

This is a perennial vine from Asia, usually grown for its small, tasty kiwi-like fruit. It has fast-growing vines. The species is being evaluated as a possible invasive plant in western Massachusetts where there is a three-acre site of hardy kiwi that is spreading and taking down canopy trees, with new patches starting in the vicinity, according to the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group. It has been reported to use the forest as a natural trellis, growing up and over the canopy, and then causing trees to collapse when the vines become covered with heavy snow. [Mass Audubon](#) has information on problems with this plant in Massachusetts:
http://www.massaudubon.org/Invasive_Species/plants.php?id=11 .

3. **[Yellow tuft \(*Alyssum murale*, *A. corsicum*\)](#)**

Newly added to the Class A noxious weed list in Oregon, these European species of *Alyssum* pose a risk to the unusual plants found in serpentine soil ecosystems. The plants are perennials with grey-green or whitish leaves that generally die back before the tufts of numerous, tiny yellow flowers form in the early summer. Varieties of yellow tuft were introduced in Oregon for “phyto-mining” because of their ability to hyper-accumulate metals, which can then be extracted from the plant material. See the [Oregon Department of Agriculture](#) website for more information on the two species of yellow tuft: http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/Pages/weed_yellowtuft.aspx and for background on the introduction and potential impact of yellow tuft in the Illinois Valley area of Oregon, see the March 1, 2011 article in the [Illinois Valley Daily View](#).

4. **[Greater Celandine or Devil's Milk \(*Chelidonium majus*\)](#)**

This is a yellow-flowered European plant in the poppy family with a long history of medicinal use in Europe (<http://www.pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Chelidonium+majus>). It's somewhat toxic and irritating to the skin has been reported as being weedy in North America. A few people have mentioned to me places where it is growing locally where it wasn't planted intentionally and is spreading. The [UW Burke Museum Herbarium website](#) has great pictures and shows it as occurring in two counties in Washington.

Washington State Weed Board Adopts 2013 State Weed List

Following a public hearing on November 6, 2012, the Washington State Noxious Weed Board voted to adopt the 2013 State Noxious Weed List at their November 7, 2012 meeting. The 2013 list includes a number of changes from 2012, including a few new species, changes in where some species will be designated for required control and the reclassification of some species from the B to the C list. All of the changes are detailed on the "[What's New](#)" page of the Washington State Noxious Weed Board website. Here is a list of the changes (please see the [state weed board website](#) for more information):

- French broom, *Genista monspessulana*, was added as a Class A noxious weed.
- Tall hawkweed, *Hieracium piloselloides*, was added as a Class B noxious weed.
- Common teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum*, was added as a Class C noxious weed.
- Common barberry, *Berberis vulgaris*, was added as a Class C noxious weed
- The current listing of Japanese eelgrass, *Zostera japonica*, was amended to make it a Class C everywhere (rather than limiting to commercially managed shellfish beds only as presently listed).
- The following species were moved from the Class B list to the Class C list:
 - Austrian fieldcress, *Rorippa austriaca*
 - blackgrass, *Alopecurus myosuroides*,
 - common catsear, *Hypochaeris radicata*
 - polar hawkweed, *Hieracium atratum*
 - lawnweed, *Soliva sessilis*
 - lepyrodiclis, *Lepyrodiclis holosteoides*
 - longspine sandbur, *Cenchrus longispinus*
 - oxeye daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare*
 - perennial sowthistle, *Sonchus arvensis* ssp. *arvensis*
 - swainsonpea, *Sphaerophysa salsula*
 - wild carrot, *Daucus carota* (except where commercially grown)
- Class B designations updated for Class B noxious weeds. [View the approved Class B designations here.](#)
- The State Class B designation regions were changed from 10 regions to 6 regions. [View the new region map here.](#) Note: King County is now in Region 2.

King County Weed Board to Hold Public Hearing for 2013 County Weed List

The annual King County Noxious Weed List Public Hearing will be held on **January 16** at 4 pm at the [Mercer Island Library](#) in the small meeting room. The purpose of this hearing is to review the 2013 Washington State Noxious Weed List and consider whether to require control of any listed noxious weeds in addition to those designated by the State Weed Board. The [King County Weed Board](#) will also decide which noxious weeds to encourage county residents to control by including species on the Non-Regulated Noxious Weeds and Weeds of Concern lists. The public is invited to submit comments about the county noxious weed priorities and weed list, either at the meeting or ahead of time by email to noxious.weeds@kingcounty.gov or mail to Steven Burke, King County Noxious Weed Control Program, 201 S. Jackson St., Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98104. Please submit your comments by January 14 to allow time for the Board to receive them before the meeting.

In Washington State, county weed boards are required to include all state Class A and state-designated Class B weeds on the county weed list (see the [State Weed Board website](#) for the current state weed list). In addition, county boards can select additional Class B and Class C weeds from the state list for the county list and may require property owners to control these

species in part or all of the county (see the [King County Weed List](#) for information on the current county list and selected control areas).

Based on the changes to the state weed list (described in the article above), the King County weed list for 2013 will include one new class A weed, [French broom](#), and one new regulated Class B weed, [tall hawkweed](#). The new state Class C weeds will be reviewed by the county board and can be selected for required control or added to the non-regulated weed list based on the board's decision.

There were several species reclassified by the state from Class B to Class C, but only one of these, [perennial sowthistle](#), was previously required for control in King County. Perennial sowthistle could either be moved to the non-regulated weed list, selected by the county board as a regulated Class C, or moved off the list altogether. In addition, the state made some changes in designation areas for Class B weeds (areas where the state requires control of certain species). A few of these changes affect King County. [Brazilian elodea](#) control is now required everywhere in the county except lakes Dolloff, Fenwick, Union, Washington, and Sammamish, and the Sammamish River (there was previously no exception for Lake Doloff or the Sammamish River). Also, [purple loosestrife](#) and [garden loosestrife](#) control is now required throughout the county instead of in selected areas.

In addition to responding to the changes in the state list, the County Weed Board will also consider a proposal to require control of [invasive knotweed](#) along the Cedar River above the Renton City Limits. This proposal was reviewed at the September Board meeting and the Board is currently actively seeking comments on whether it should be approved. Although the final language for the proposal is still being worked out, the Board will likely limit the requirement for control to the area right alongside the river, similar to the area already selected for the Green River (see the knotweed footnote on the [Non-Regulated Noxious Weed List](#)). In addition, they are also likely to only require control as long as there is funding available through grants or other sources for private landowners to receive knotweed control free of charge. The goal of this change is to enable the grant-funded Stewardship in Action project to systematically control all of the knotweed along the river, because any skipped populations will quickly re-infest the rest of the river.

And, finally, the county weed board will review the existing county list and decide whether to continue the previous year's county selections. These include:

- A. Continue to require control county-wide of the following Class C weeds: [common hawkweed](#) (*Hieracium lachenalii*), and unspecified non-native invasive hawkweeds (*Hieracium* sp.)
- B. Continue to require control of [Scotch broom](#) (*Cytisus scoparius*) along I-90 from mile marker 34 east to the King/Kittitas County line and along the King County section of Highway 2, in order to provide a buffer for neighboring counties, but keep it on the list of non-regulated noxious weeds for recommended control elsewhere in the county.
- C. Continue to require control of [invasive knotweeds](#) (*Polygonum* spp.) on the sections of the Green River and tributaries where we have achieved good control through our externally funded projects in order to sustain that level of control for that system. The language on this would remain the same as last year (see the [Non-Regulated Noxious Weed List](#))

The King County Weed Board welcomes public input and comments are encouraged. If you have any proposals or comments, contact Steve Burke by [email](#) or phone at 206-205-6927 by January 14 or attend the public meeting on January 16 at 4pm at the Mercer Island Library.

King County Accepting Applications for Aquatic Weed Specialist

We are currently accepting applications to fill our aquatic weed specialist position. This is a full time **Noxious Weed Specialist II** position with our program. The complete job description and application materials are on the [King County Jobs website](#). The deadline for applying is **December 14, 2012**. The position is responsible for carrying out our aquatic weed program including education and technical assistance on aquatic weeds, surveying for and controlling high priority aquatic weeds, managing grants and special projects, mapping and managing data on aquatic weeds, and generally being our point person for all things weedy and wet. For more information about this position, check out the job description online or contact Steve Burke at 206-205-6927 or by email at steven-j.burke@kingcounty.gov.

Shop Online for Local Native Bareroot Trees and Shrubs

Pre-orders are being accepted until **February 8, 2013** for the [King Conservation District's \(KCD\) annual native tree and shrub sale](#). KCD offers a variety of locally grown native trees and shrubs that are well-suited for wildlife habitat, windbreaks, hedgerows, reforestation, stream enhancement or native plant landscaping. The plants are bareroot stock, which means they do not come in pots or burlap bags, but are harvested from the field in winter when the plants are dormant and ready to be replanted. Because they are bareroot, the plants are less expensive, easy to transport and simple to plant (although it's important to follow directions about protecting the roots since they don't have any soil on them). The plant sale is **March 1 and 2, 2013**, but pre-ordering is strongly encouraged to ensure availability. They don't ship so plants have to be picked up on March 1 or 2 from the KCD office in Renton. Walk up sales are also possible on March 1 & 2. For more information and to place a pre-order please visit the KCD website at www.kingcd.org/pro_native.htm or contact Jacobus by email at jacobus@kingcd.org or by phone at 425-282-1912.

Nature Consortium Fights Noxious Weeds in Seattle's Largest Forest

Nature Consortium has been battling noxious weeds for many years in the very large urban forest in Seattle known as the West Duwamish Greenbelt. This is that huge swath of green that is noticeable from the air as you fly south along Puget Sound from downtown Seattle, comprising nearly 500 total acres of private and public land. You can find them all year long leading volunteers three days each week to tackle Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Scotch broom and other assorted invasive plants. In addition to removing invasive weeds, they also spend the rainy season planting new trees and shrubs to support biodiversity. In 2011 they saw a total of 3,651 volunteers join them in their efforts and are looking to involve even more residents in their restoration efforts. With the help of their partners, they hope to see more work done in the coming year. Want to pitch in? Volunteers are welcome to join a work party on any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday; or register for a special Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 21. For more information, or to register, visit www.naturec.org.

City of Bellevue Recruiting for 2013 Master Naturalist Program

The City of Bellevue's Natural Resource Division is currently accepting applications for the 2013 Master Naturalist Training Program. They are asking for help to pass this information on to interested candidates, students, and community and club members.

The Master Naturalist Training Program is a FREE stewardship training program that educates volunteers on the importance and significance of ecological restoration and preservation for the management and conservation of natural resources and natural areas. The Master Naturalist Training Program has been adopted by 23 states and has successfully trained thousands of

volunteers throughout the nation. The goal of the Bellevue chapter of Master Naturalists is to develop a corps of dedicated and trained volunteers to “educate the community on preserving and promoting our natural resources.” Through the Master Naturalist Training Program, individuals can make a positive impact on their local community, gain useful and applicable experience, and become an active participant in the preservation of their natural resources. Volunteers will learn about the area’s ecology, hydrology, geology, natural resource management, native plants, wildlife, cultural history and restoration efforts. Participants meet every Friday for 13 weeks, beginning in February, for a series of in-class lectures, field trips, workshops and restoration projects in and around Bellevue City parks.

Upon completion, our corps of Master Naturalists are expected to complete no less than five hours of community service per month up to 100 hours of service to Bellevue’s natural resource programs. The 100 service hours should be completed within a two-year period. Volunteer service opportunities include environmental education and interpretation, community outreach, habitat restoration and management, maintenance projects, and wildlife and native plant restoration monitoring and research. In addition, Master Naturalists will have the opportunity to assist Park Rangers with Stewardship Saturdays, Eco Fridays, Canoe Tours, Arbor Day/Earth Day, Natural Resource Week, nature hikes, and more!

Training will take place on Fridays from 9am-3pm, February 8 to May 3, 2013 at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center. Ideal candidates for the program have an enthusiasm for learning, experience working in small groups and experience in natural resource sciences. Bellevue residents will have priority. Application information and materials are available online at: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/9182.htm>. Applications are due **January 11, 2013**. For additional questions please call 425-452-4195 or email Alexandra DySard at ADySard@bellevuewa.gov.

King County is updating its Flood Hazard Management Plan and wants to hear from you

Community meetings to discuss King County’s flood risk reduction strategies are being held at the following dates and locations:

- **Carnation:** Tuesday, December 4, 6-8:30, SnoValley Senior Center, 4610 Stephens Ave
- **Renton:** Wednesday, December 5, 6-8:30, Highlands Neighborhood Center, 800 Edmonds Ave NE
- **Auburn:** Thursday, December 6, 6-8:30, William C. Warren Building (formerly Veterans Memorial Bldg, in Veterans Memorial Park), 405 E St NE

Why is King County updating its flood management plan?

- To include new flood risk assessments and new flood projects, and review the plan’s goals, objectives and guiding principles.
- To consider issues that have emerged since 2006, when the current flood plan was developed.
- To ensure that King County continues to receive its high rating for floodplain management by the National Flood Insurance Program – which results in a 40% discount in flood insurance premiums for unincorporated King County residents.

Questions? Please call 206-296-8001 or email WLR-rivers@kingcounty.gov . Translation services and alternate formats are available. Call 206-296-6591 or TTY: 771.

A look at the idea of "least toxic pesticides" applied as a "last resort"

A [recent press release](#) from the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and the Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section of the Entomological Society of America (P-IE ESA) presents an interesting case for how these concepts are not very useful for pest management and can even cause adverse environmental and economic effects. The principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) provide us with an effective and straightforward way to plan many types of pest management. IPM involves considering all the options available to us to manage populations of a particular pest and in order to apply them in ways that will bring the level of pest infestation below the level of significant impact (however that is defined for the particular pest and resources being impacted). A key goal of IPM is to take actions at the time when they will be the most effective while also minimizing cost and unintended impacts. As the news release explains, applying herbicides as a “last resort” contradicts this principle, since waiting until everything else fails will rarely be the most effective time to use herbicides.

The article’s discussion of the term “least toxic pesticide” is also very interesting and important to consider. We all want to do the least harm, but how you define harm is complex. One substance may cause acute damage if used incorrectly but not have lasting negative effects, while another may not cause any short term problems, but use over long periods of time may result in harm. Also, substances may seriously harm one type of organism but be fine for others, whereas another substance may be somewhat harmful for a wide range of organisms. How would you define “least toxic” in either case? Although it’s seductively simple to try to rank all chemicals on simple scale of harm, this just isn’t possible. Many substances are toxic to many kinds of organisms, but assessing risk means looking at the many complex variables including the exposure rate, likely targets, timing, and the effects of not-acting, to mention a few. We can’t avoid all risk when we control weeds; even if we choose not to control them, there are risks involved with that choice as well. As the press release explains, focusing on one type of risk may result in increasing other types of risk. Although you may not agree with everything the authors propose, I think most will agree that they raise some interesting points that are worthy of further thought and discussion: <http://wssa.net/WSSA/PressRoom/WSSA-IPM.htm>.

Recent "Weeds in the News" Stories from Near and Far

Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) is definitely the hot invasive species right now, combining issues of sustainability, alternative energy and invasive plants all in one juicy tale: [Is Giant Reed a 'Miracle Plant' or the Next Kudzu?](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/giant-reed-miracle-plant-kudzu-17748255) (<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/giant-reed-miracle-plant-kudzu-17748255>)

Some timely advice on avoiding invasive plants in the garden from the Portland Tribune: [Gardeners' nemesis: invasive plants](http://portlandtribune.com/sl/123908-gardeners-nemesis--invasive-plants-) (<http://portlandtribune.com/sl/123908-gardeners-nemesis--invasive-plants->)

A report on research at WSU to help organic farmers manage weeds more effectively: [Misconceptions can neutralize campaign against weeds](http://www.capitalpress.com/newest/SB-organic-weed-control-113012) (<http://www.capitalpress.com/newest/SB-organic-weed-control-113012>)

If I missed your favorite story on weeds, let me know. There are so many interesting weed related stories this time of year and it’s always interesting to read how different areas of the world are being impacted and how they are dealing with invasive and noxious weeds.