

KC Weed News – May 2011

King County, Washington

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

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Weed of the Month: [Yellow Hawkweed \(*Hieracium caespitosum*\)](#), a Class B Noxious Weed in King County, Washington

Yellow hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*) is also commonly called meadow hawkweed, and as you would expect, can usually be found growing in open, grassy areas. This European introduction is what we might call a stealth weed. Its impacts are somewhat subtle, although rather insidious, when compared to more outrageous noxious weeds like gorse or giant hogweed. It has no thorns, it isn't really toxic (although it's unpalatable to most animals), and it looks a whole lot like the common dandelion, a plant most of us hardly notice anymore.

However, the damage caused by yellow hawkweed is very real and hard to reverse. Once it gets established in a natural meadow habitat, or pretty much any grassy area, it is very difficult to eradicate. Hawkweeds as a group are well-suited to thrive in poor soils in mountain meadows, and the non-native hawkweed species like yellow hawkweed soon run rampant over the slower growing native wildflowers in places like Snoqualmie Pass.

Unlike many other mountain wildflowers, non-native yellow hawkweed spreads by rhizomes and stolons as well as by seed. The dense patches of flat rosettes of leaves can exclude other plants from getting established and allow it to expand its territory without producing any seeds or having to rely on growing tender seedlings. Also, yellow hawkweed doesn't require pollination to set seed, giving it a huge advantage in areas with a short growing season where pollinators are in high demand and short supply. The seeds spread by wind but also by mechanical disturbance and animal movement, helping it to move easily to new locations. These adaptations are combined with the general toughness of this plant – it can withstand some pretty poor growing conditions – and a lack of natural enemies to keep it in check.

There are two very large infestations of yellow hawkweed in King County, and many smaller ones. The Tolt Watershed, owned by Seattle Public Utilities, has the unfortunate honor of having one of the most extensive populations we've found. In the watershed, yellow hawkweed

can be found everywhere from the grassy slopes around the reservoir, to the roadsides, to the woods. It seems to be limited mostly to deciduous forests and open areas, but otherwise it is capable of growing pretty much everywhere. SPU has devoted years and considerable resources trying to control and reduce the extent of the hawkweed population in the Tolt Watershed. However, yellow hawkweed has proven that it deserves its status as a noxious weed and refuses to be eradicated. The other large, somewhat entrenched population of yellow hawkweed is on the slopes of the Snoqualmie Pass ski area. Here you can find yellow hawkweed battling it out with the more photogenic but equally damaging [orange hawkweed](#). Although efforts have begun by the various agencies and the ski resort to control the hawkweed here, it will be likely be many years of work to reverse the level of infestation.

If you have seen pictures of yellow hawkweed, you might ask how you could possibly tell it apart from other common dandelion-like weeds. It's not easy. In fact, my daughter says that yellow hawkweed should make us all want to pull all our dandelions just in case they are actually hawkweed. I don't think we need to do that, but to identify it you will have to look closely.

Yellow hawkweed leaves are bright green to yellow-green and somewhat hairy on both sides. Distinct from dandelions, the leaves are smooth along the edges, not lobed. Also the mostly leafless flower stems are noticeably covered with stiff hairs and topped by dense clusters of 20-50 round, tightly-packed flower buds that appear to be black before they open. When they open, the flowers are small and yellow and look like little dandelion flowers. Dandelions and other similar weeds don't usually have flat-topped clusters of flowers on top of a single stem like yellow hawkweed has. And if you carefully uproot a hawkweed, you will see a clump of fibrous roots and perhaps some stolons or short rhizomes, not a single taproot like a dandelion.

You can see where we have located yellow hawkweed by checking out our interactive map or by contacting us. Yellow hawkweed is mostly found in eastern King County, on highways and county roads as well as private properties, and in the mountains. Yellow hawkweed is more abundant on the east side of the Cascades, but we have our hands full of it on this side as well.

If you think you see yellow hawkweed anywhere in King County, we would appreciate knowing about it. This plant is one of our higher priorities. Because eradicating it is so tough, it is especially important to find hawkweed early when it is still possible to get rid of it. Our [website](#) has photos and more resources to help you decide if it is in fact yellow hawkweed and how to control it. You can also [report infestations online](#) or [contact us](#) for more information.

And, for those of you curious about plant names, the name hawkweed evidently comes from an ancient Greek belief that hawks would tear apart a plant called the hieracium and wet their eyes with the juice to clear their eyesight (Pojar and MacKinnon 1994). If anyone sees a hawk actually do this, I would be very interested to know!

Weed Tips for May and June

Spread the word to friends and neighbors about [giant hogweed](#). It's sad to hear about children who get burns from playing with hogweed stems, or gardeners using a weed whacker on hogweed and getting blisters all over their bare legs. If you have giant hogweed in your neighborhood, make sure to tell everyone to watch out for this plant and to call the noxious weed program for help if they don't know how to remove it safely. Check the [noxious weed map](#) for King County on our website to see if it has been seen in your area. Late May and June, hogweed's large, thick, purple-blotched stalks will be rising above the giant jagged leaves and starting to flower. Digging up hogweed when it is full grown is tricky. Make sure to wear gloves

and long sleeves and pants and carefully cut down the flowering stem without getting the juice on you. Then remove the leaves enough to get access to the roots. Dig up as much root as you can, at least 6 inches deep if possible. If there is a risk of anyone coming into contact with the plant or if there are flowers, place the hogweed in a sturdy plastic bag and discard in your garbage. Please [contact our program](#) if you find this plant or need assistance removing it.

Pull [tansy ragwort](#) before you see yellow. Bolting tansy ragwort is taking energy from the roots. This means weak roots that are easy to pull out of the ground. If you pull it before the yellow flowers open, it can be left to compost without risk of seeds forming. However, make sure to keep pulled plants away from livestock – tansy ragwort remains toxic when dry and is more palatable after being pulled. Look for tansy ragwort anywhere it was growing last year – seeds last up to 16 years in the soil, so you are sure to get new plants where it was last year. Remember to look for low-growing rosettes as well as tall, bolting plants.

Act quickly to stop flowering weeds from going to seed. We've had a cool, wet spring this year. This means large, leafy weeds that are generally slower to flower than usual. This gives us more time to find them before it is too late, but as the weather turns sunny, we're sure to see weeds flowering in a hurry. When weeds are flowering, it means there's no time to lose and it's also the easiest time to spot hard-to-find weeds. There is still time to find and control [garlic mustard](#), which is already flowering and starting to set seed. Pulling it now is important since once the seeds mature, there are at least seven more years of bad luck. Noxious weeds that will probably be flowering later in May or June include: [Dalmatian toadflax](#), [spotted knapweed](#), [meadow knapweed](#), [milk thistle](#), [orange hawkweed](#), [yellow hawkweed](#), and [poison-hemlock](#). Many more noxious weeds will start flowering later in June including: [diffuse knapweed](#), [sulfur cinquefoil](#), [giant hogweed](#), [tansy ragwort](#) and [goatsrue](#).

Report [designated Class A and B noxious weeds](#) on roads and trails. County, city and state crews are all busy working on noxious weeds along roadsides, trails and parks. However, even with their hard work and our own efforts to send them locations of regulated noxious weeds, we can't be everywhere and some sites get missed. If you see a patch of tansy ragwort or any other regulated noxious weed growing on public land or a roadside, please contact our office and we will make sure the right agency or property owner gets notified quickly. We can be reached at 206-296-0290 or you can use our [online infestation report form](#).

Cool, wet springs are a great time to pull weeds. Pulling weeds right now is very satisfying. The weeds are big and leafy and easy to find and grab hold of. Even better, the roots come up more or less intact this time of year with much less work. The soil is still moist and loose and roots don't break off like they will later in the season. This means much less re-growth. And because the soil is damp (and getting damper with all our rain), mulching where you clear weeds will keep the soil nice and moist for your garden plants all summer long.

Garlic Mustard is on the Move in Covington Area and on the Cedar River

In keeping with its reputation, the noxious weed [garlic mustard](#) is making moves on our county. Found at several new locations on the Cedar River last year, garlic mustard recently showed up without explanation on SE 292nd St., a county road south of Covington in rural King County. There aren't any known infestations nearby so this new population is very alarming. Also, the populations on the Cedar River appear to be more extensive than we saw last year. Also, in one case, garlic mustard was found growing in the footprints of an elk. It is known that this forest weed hitchhikes on deer and other wildlife, and now we see it following one of the largest wildlife in our county. This is bad news for the wildlife since garlic mustard is not a desirable

food source for them. Although people might like the garlicky flavor, wildlife in our area turn their noses up at it.

Register Now for our Workshops on Invasive and Noxious Weeds

If you would like to know more about the invasive and noxious weeds in our area, then you might want to attend one of our upcoming free workshops. We will show slides and live specimens of some of the new and most worrisome invaders as well as some more familiar weeds, teach how to recognize these plants, and share information on some of the problems they are causing. We will also give tips on how to keep them from taking over in our backyards, parks and forests. [Register online](#) or [email us](#) for more information about these classes:

- **May 25**, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Vashon Land Trust Building, Sponsored by the Vashon Master Gardeners (no need to register for this class)
- **June 7**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, [Kent Regional Library](#), 212 2nd Avenue N., Kent, 98032

If you belong to a community group or neighborhood association interested in invasive and noxious weeds, I encourage you to contact us and we can schedule a presentation on noxious weeds for your group. For more information on any of these workshops or to schedule a presentation, contact Sasha Shaw at 206-263-6468 or by email at [<sasha.shaw@kingcounty.gov>](mailto:sasha.shaw@kingcounty.gov).

Learn How to Control [Knotweed](#) (and Qualify to Borrow a Stem Injector)

We will be holding four workshops on knotweed control in June and July. We want to show what's involved in effectively getting this plant controlled and how and where to use different methods. It can be frustrating to keep trying to get rid of knotweed and not have it work, year after year. Hopefully we can help you figure out what to do that will work better. These workshops will be very hands on and interactive. We will also be providing specific training on using the knotweed stem injectors effectively. Participants in this training will be eligible to borrow our stem injectors for use on their own land.

The two sessions on July 20 will be a combination control demonstration and work party, where participants will get a chance to practice injecting actual knotweed in an infestation that we would like to control. These sessions will be limited to 25 people and pre-registration is required.

Although we have grant projects to help control knotweed on the upper reaches of some of the major rivers in the county, we don't have the resources to tackle knotweed everywhere. Our goal is to encourage and help more people begin to fight back against knotweed in order to reduce its impact on our natural resources.

The workshops are free and open to the public. Register online or contact Sasha Shaw [<sasha.shaw@kingcounty.gov>](mailto:sasha.shaw@kingcounty.gov) or Frances Lucero [<frances.lucero@kingcounty.gov>](mailto:frances.lucero@kingcounty.gov) for more information or call us at 206-296-0290. See our [website](#) for more details.

Knotweed Workshop Dates and Locations:

- **June 14**, 7:00-8:30 pm, [Redmond Regional Library](#), 15990 N.E. 85th, Redmond, 98052
- **June 25**, 1:00-4:00 pm, [Cedar Grange](#), 22531 SE 218th, Maple Valley
- **June 30**, 7:00-8:30 pm, Tree House Point, Fall City (Sponsored by PRKC & MTSGT)

- **July 19**, 7:00-8:30 pm, [Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center](#), 1711 Boalch Ave, North Bend, WA 98045
- **July 20th**, 9:00 am-12:00 pm OR 1:00-4:00 pm, hands-on treatment demonstration and work party at [Three Forks Natural Area](#) (between Snoqualmie and North Bend), two sessions (contact us for more information on meeting location and other logistics).

Field Trip to Learn about Native and Non-native Plants in Golden Gardens Park

The [Washington Native Plant Society](#) is sponsoring a field trip to Golden Gardens Park, led by our very own Karen Peterson and Sasha Shaw. We will tour the native and non-native plants in the forest, wetlands, dunes and landscaped areas of this diverse urban park in northwest Seattle. Hunt for the pernicious [garlic mustard \(*Alliaria petiolata*\)](#) and other invasives, watch for mountain beaver holes, identify cool dune plants, tour the wetland restoration, and watch ducks in the ponds. This park has lots to offer for plant enthusiasts and is a great place to learn about the impacts of invasive plants on our lowland ecosystems and urban forests. The terrain is varied at this park, from steep hillsides to level trails to sandy beaches. It is a family-friendly park with nice facilities, easy parking and bus access on Route 46 ([see Seattle Parks website](#)). We will meet in the upper parking lot next to the off-leash dog area (that way we will be mostly hiking downhill as we tour the forest) and make our way down to the beach in time for lunch, followed by botanizing on the dunes and in the restored wetland area.

- **Date & Time:** Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.
- **Location:** Seattle's Golden Gardens Park, meet in upper parking lot near off-leash dog area on Golden Gardens Dr NW (http://www.seattle.gov/parks/park_detail.asp?ID=243)
- **Contact:** Sasha Shaw at sasha.shaw@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-6468.

Where to Find our Weed Info Booth This Summer

You will be able to ask weed questions in person, check out live weed specimens, and pick up fact sheets and booklets at the following locations this spring and summer (check out our [complete schedule](#) online and if you have a community event that could use a booth on invasive and noxious weeds, please [contact us](#)):

- May 14, [Tukwila's 10th Annual Backyard Wildlife Festival](#), 9am-3pm, Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Avenue South
- June 11, [Issaquah Farmer's Market](#), Pickering Barn, Issaquah
- June 15, [Sammamish Farmer's Market](#), 4-8pm, [Sammamish Commons](#), 801 228th Ave SE
- June 25, [Maple Valley Farmer's Market](#), 9am-1pm, Rock Creek Elementary School, Maple Valley
- June 28, [Renton Farmers Market](#), 3-7pm, Renton
- July 2, [Vashon Low Tide Festival](#), Vashon Island
- July 7, [North Bend Farmers Market](#), Si View Community Center, North Bend
- July 12, [Carnation Farmers Market](#), 3-7 pm, downtown Carnation
- July 14, [Bellevue Farmers Market](#), 3-7pm, First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE
- July 16-17, [Vashon-Maury Island Strawberry Festival](#), Vashon Island
- July 22-23, Enumclaw Street Fair, 9am-8pm both days, downtown Enumclaw
- July 23, [Redmond Farmers Market](#), 9am-3pm, 7730 Leary Way NE, Redmond
- July 31, [Auburn International Farmers Market](#), 10am-3pm, Auburn Station Plaza
- August 13, [Rock the Green Clean](#), Middle Green River Coalition, Kanaskat State Park

Help Protect Wilderness Areas and Lakes: Volunteer as a Weed Watcher

We often hear about the importance of finding new weed infestations early and responding quickly to stop them while we still can. Well, now you can do just that. In our two weed watcher programs we are focusing on a short list of target weeds growing in certain areas. Then we will be taking the data and acting on it so you will have the satisfaction of making a real difference.

Lake Weed Watcher Program:

If you have a canoe or small boat and would like to help keep noxious weeds out of our small lakes, then consider joining our lake weed watcher program. Our goal is to catch water weeds *before* they have a chance to cause major problems. All it takes is attendance at one of two trainings in late June and two summertime lake surveys. We'll teach you how to identify the target weeds and their native look-alikes, and we'll provide all the equipment and materials you'll need (other than a boat). The half-day trainings will be **Saturday June 25** at Lake Sawyer in Black Diamond (SE King County) and **Saturday July 9** at the Mercer Slough Environmental Learning Center in Bellevue. For more information or to sign up for training, contact Katie Messick at 206-263-6461 or katie.messick@kingcounty.gov.

Trail Weed Watcher Program:

If hiking is more your passion, then consider joining our [Middle Fork South Fork Snoqualmie Weed Watcher group](#). The Mid Fork-South Fork Weed Watchers are part of an ongoing cooperative effort with [Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust](#) and the King County Noxious Weed Program to find and remove invasive plants from the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley and the Cascade Gateway trails of the South Fork Snoqualmie basin, including state and federal forest lands and wilderness areas. We need people who can hike a trail or two this summer and take note of where they see invasive plants growing. It helps to have a GPS and some plant knowledge, but we will train you so don't worry about being an expert. If you can't make it to the training, let me know and I'll work out a way to get you up to speed and out on the trails.

When: Sunday, June 5, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: North Bend Ranger Station (in the conference hall behind the main building)

Logistics: Starts in classroom, then in the field. Be ready for a short hike and bring lunch, water, GPS and compass if you have them, and something to write on.

To Sign Up: Email Sasha Shaw <sasha.shaw@kingcounty.gov>.

Proposals for New Noxious Weeds

The [Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board](#) has received several proposals for changes to the state noxious weed list for next year that they will be reviewing this summer. Anyone is eligible to submit a proposal to change the weed list and then the state weed board reviews the proposals and gathers more information before making a decision on whether to approve or reject the proposals.

This year, the State Noxious Weed Board will also be codifying its listing guidelines into [WAC 16-750](#), including the process by which the resubmission of previously rejected proposals will be handled.

Nominations for listing have been received for: Tree of Heaven, Japanese Eelgrass, Wild Teasel, French Broom, Italian Arum, Oriental Clematis, Common Barberry and Russian Thistle.

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a fast-growing small tree in the mostly tropical Quassia family. It is a prolific seeder and forms dense thickets. It is allelopathic and can rapidly outcompete native plants.

Japanese Eelgrass (*Zostera japonica*) is found on beaches, mudflats and tidal areas along the Washington Coast, notably in Willapa Bay and Puget Sound. It is generally found in areas with a soft substrate, i.e. sand or mud. Shellfish growers have significant concerns about the impact of this non-native eelgrass on the productivity of shellfish beds.

Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) is a perennial weed commonly found along roadsides, fields and undeveloped areas. It is sometimes used in horticultural plantings and dried flower arrangements. Each plant can produce 2000 seeds a year and spread can be rapid.

French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) is an aggressive pioneer species and takes advantage of land disturbances to establish and spread. In California, large infestations displace native plant species and significantly increase the costs of reforestation in commercial timberlands.

Italian Arum (*Arum italicum*) is a perennial, herbaceous plant with tuberous roots, also known as Italian Lords & Ladies, that is related to our native skunk cabbage. Although popular as a garden plant, it can be invasive in our region and is hard to get rid of once established. It is most likely to spread from yard waste piles or old garden sites, but it also produces seeds. All parts of the plants are poisonous and the plant sap is a skin irritant.

Oriental Clematis (*Clematis orientalis*) is a perennial vine with mostly solitary flowers with four yellow sepals (petal-like structures). Each flower produces numerous, feathery long-tailed seed head fruits, which are conspicuous all winter. The seeds are widely dispersed by the wind and can result in the invasion of roadsides and natural areas. The impact of this species is similar to the common western Washington invasive old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*), although it seems more likely to spread in drier climates such as in eastern Washington, where it was discovered invading in Yakima.

Common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) is a deciduous shrub growing to 8-10 feet in height. It produces a large number of seeds which have a high germination rate. Seeds are transported to new locations with the help of birds and small mammals that eat it. It can form spiny dense stands that shade out and limit the growth of native plants. It can reduce wildlife habitat and forage. Common barberry is also an alternate host for wheat rust.

Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*), also known as tumbleweed, becomes conspicuous as it breaks from the soil and is blown across highways and fields. In agricultural areas, Russian thistle can reduce yield and quality of numerous crops, particularly alfalfa and small grains. It depletes soil moisture and interferes with tillage operations. Russian thistle can also threaten native plant ecosystems in dry climates.

This summer, the State Noxious Weed Committee will review and research the suggested changes to the weed list. This research may include literature searches, surveys of county programs, discussions with other states, and/or field investigations. The committee will develop an initial recommendation for public comment. The State Noxious Weed Board will then consider the public testimony received and make a final decision on changes to the weed list before the end of the year.

If you have any observations or opinions about the distribution, invasiveness and potential impacts in King County of any of the species proposed for listing, we encourage you to contact [Steve Burke](#) or [Sasha Shaw](#). Information related to other parts of the state or questions on the listing process can be answered by [Alison Halpern](#) with the State Noxious Weed Board.

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

There were many news stories to choose from over the past month. Here are a few that I found most interesting and relevant to weed issues in King County. First, there were a few stories that covered our own hunt for noxious weeds in King County and our upcoming education events.

- [Issaquah residents can learn to tackle noxious weeds](#), Issaquah Press
The least-wanted list includes plants, such as garlic mustard. ... The county's Noxious Weed Program is offering a free class on invasive and noxious weeds ...
- [King County offers free workshops to help residents tackle tough noxious weeds](#), PNW Local News
King County is hunting for the state's top invasive and noxious weed targets, and wants to help County property owners find and control these rogue invaders ...
- [Woodinville Weed Alert: Remove These Non-Native Plants For Your Garden and the Environment](#), Patch.com
Noxious weeds are non-native plants that, once established, are highly destructive, competitive and difficult to control. They have economic and ecological impacts and are very difficult to manage once they get established.

There is really good news about Spartina in Washington State.

- [Invasive spartina has been nearly eradicated from state's shorelines](#), Kitsap Sun
Spartina, an invasive plant that once threatened shellfish beds and saltwater marshes throughout Western Washington, has been nearly wiped out in this state.

You don't often see such comprehensive news articles on invasive plants as this one from High Country News, a broad and yet detailed look at the issue across the western states.

- [Today's garden plants can be tomorrow's invasives](#), High Country News
Western states have been at war with weeds for more than a century. State weed programs, however, tend to focus on plants that hamper agriculture and ranching. Rogue garden plants, typically perennials that farmers can easily vanquish through tilling, primarily threaten wildlands -- less-familiar ground for state ag agencies.

This story about Lake Sammamish is only partly about weeds, but still relevant.

- [Lake Sammamish level concerns homeowners](#), Issaquah Press
King County environmental managers plan to tackle the high water level in Lake Sammamish, after aquatic weeds and sediment clogged the outlet from the lake to the Sammamish River.

This story makes me scared to think what will happen if the small amount of Ludwigia in our county ever gets into a major waterway or lake:

- [Invasive weed clogs the Laguna de Santa Rosa](#), Santa Rosa Press Democrat
Erik Hawk, assistant manager with the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District, wades into acres of invasive ludwigia in search of mosquito larvae ...

In the weed control world, eradication is a lofty, uncommon goal, so this story is a nice change of pace.

- [Weed warriors declare saltcedar vanquished](#), Jackson Hole News&Guide
Member organizations of the weed management association launched an aggressive Early ... "Eradicate" is a word we don't get to use much in invasive species ...

Scotch broom is doing much too well this year and here are a few stories about this very problem.

- [Scotch broom, that pesky noxious weed, carries an economic cost](#), The Olympian
Any plant, no matter how beautiful, can turn into a noxious weed, an invasive species, if it is left to flourish in an area where it cannot be controlled. ...
- [Help eliminate Scotch broom](#), Siuslaw News
Scotch broom is classified as a "B-rated" noxious weed by the Oregon Department of ... and residents to seek its help to eradicate this invasive plant.
- [Daily home & garden tip: Weed profile -- Scotch broom is beautiful but invasive](#), OregonLive.com
The extremely invasive perennial has pushed out native species and upset the ... Control: Pull out young plants by hand. Larger shrubs might need to be cut ...

In King County we are still battling giant hogweed, and it is always interesting to read about struggles with this plant elsewhere, such as this story from Vancouver, B.C..

- [Giant hogweed is a dangerous invader](#), North Shore News
This program has helped hold back the spread of this noxious weed and has ... is also working towards developing a policy on invasive plant species by 2012. ...

And of course, tansy ragwort is a perennial problem here (or should I say biennial problem?). This short story from Oregon sums up a common problem about being a good neighbor and the need for controlling this plant on public as well as private lands.

- [Tansy outbreak sparks concern](#), Statesman Journal
Roger Gilbertson, physical plant manager for Mill Creek and other DOC ... think may be a noxious weed should contact the state invasive species program at ...

As boating and swimming season gets going, stories about Eurasian watermilfoil are certainly relevant. Here's one about milfoil showing up in Montana and one about a misunderstanding getting in the way of trying to get biocontrols going on the milfoil in Idaho.

- [Eurasian Watermilfoil - Get to know it... Come to fear it!](#), Liberty County Times
The dreaded invasive plant Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is no longer a stranger to ... These methods of weed control are very expensive and labor intensive. ...

- [AG department shoots down N. Idaho milfoil plan involving weevils](#), The Republic ... because the plan involves moving the invasive weed itself to transport ... the plan as does the Bonner County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. ...

This story from Jefferson County is uplifting in its optimism in the face of very challenging economic times. Even with very limited funds, the county's weed program is able to make a difference and keep the work going to reduce the impact of noxious weeds.

- [Lack of funds not deterring weed control in Jefferson County](#), Peninsula Daily "It's the same plant that killed Socrates." The state mandates that each county fund a noxious-weed control program. Dixon, a Jefferson County employee, ...

Here's a reminder that following the state's noxious weed law can benefit us all.

- [Spring Gardening Special Section: Follow these laws for a beautiful healthy garden](#), Blaine Northern Light
Washington State's first noxious weed law was passed in 1881 to help control invasive plants that were threatening farmer's fields. Today we recognize their ...

I found this story interesting because of the connections between noxious weeds and wildlife. It's also nice to hear about any new funding for noxious weed control.

- [Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Announces Grants for Oregon Habitat](#), AmmoLand.com
Fire suppression and noxious weed infestations are slowly altering the composition of ... treat 800 acres of weeds and invasive plants in Monument area of ...

And I couldn't resist this story on invasive flowering-rush from Edmonton, where I lived for a few years of my childhood, with fond memories of miles and miles of wheat fields, lovely Elk Island where we would go to see trees, and lots of ice skating on the lakes now sadly infested with flowering-rush.

- [Invasive plants choking out native species](#), Edmonton Journal
Garden centres say they check the noxious weed lists on county and ... said he also keeps in touch with the people from the Alberta Invasive Plants Council. ...

If I missed your favorite story on weeds, let me know. There are so many good 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.