

KC Weed News – September 2012

King County, Washington

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

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Weed of the Month: **Hairy Willow-herb** (*Epilobium hirsutum*), a **Regulated Class B Noxious Weed** in King County, Washington

Two things come to mind when I think about this month's featured noxious weed. First, I am reminded that sometimes the plants we recommend as alternatives to invasive plants can end up being just as bad. And second, I am relieved to remember that it is possible to prevent invasive plants from getting a hold if we work quickly enough to stop them when they are discovered.

Hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) is an attractive plant from Europe that thrives in sunny, wet areas such as lakeshores and marshes, just like purple loosestrife. This might explain why it was recommended as an alternative to the invasive **purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*). Unfortunately, it turns out that hairy willow-herb is almost as troublesome given the right conditions. In one wetland on Whidbey Island, for example, the plant is so extensive that it looks like a sea of purple from above. And in Whatcom County, the noxious weed program has its hands full with all the infestations growing up in the Bellingham area, where it was a popular garden choice before its invasiveness was discovered. Ironically, when purple loosestrife and hairy willow-herb grow together, they can be even more damaging. Purple loosestrife spreads

most quickly in the spring and hairy willow-herb grows most in the fall, so together they leave little opportunity for native plants to grow.

When we first learned about hairy willow-herb and heard that there were several counties in Washington and many northeastern states that had considerable infestations of this plant, we definitely worried about what it could do in King County. There had been a couple of historical reports of it being in the county, but we didn't find any existing populations until 2005, when we discovered about half an acre of this plant in a wetland by the UW Bothell campus and a small patch on the Duwamish River. Since then, we have only found two other infestations, both fairly small. Left alone, these populations certainly would have become big maintenance headaches. However, with a little help from us, the respective maintenance crews for the sites have been able to keep this plant at bay and essentially stop it in its tracks. It is satisfying to be able to prevent a problem plant like this before it gets to the point where it becomes prohibitively expensive or too established to eradicate.

Hairy willow-herb is most likely to be found in a sunny, wet area or at least near water, although it is capable of growing away from water as well. The plant itself is a fairly big perennial, upright with branched stems and pink-purple flowers, similar in size and general appearance to purple loosestrife and our native fireweed. The flowers are really quite pretty and larger than loosestrife or fireweed flowers but a similar color – somewhere between pink and purple. The flowers have four pink-purple petals that are notched (making it look a bit like eight petals) and the flower centers are whitish. The leaves are arranged opposite on the stems and are somewhat toothed along the edges. I think the most distinctive feature of the plant is how soft it is to the touch due to the short hairs covering the leaves and stems. When hairy willow-herb goes to seed, it makes the same long capsules that fireweed makes, splitting open to disperse fluffy white seeds everywhere. If you dig up a plant, you will notice the extensive, thick, fleshy rhizomes (underground root-like stems). Although it clearly spreads by seed, hairy willow-herb seems to mostly spread by rhizomes, either creeping out from existing infestations or creating new populations when fragments are moved to new locations.

The impacts of hairy willow-herb are similar to purple loosestrife. It can create dense populations that exclude other vegetation and clog waterways, and it replaces native plants that are valuable wildlife habitat in wetlands and along lakeshores. Although it doesn't appear as persistent or as difficult to control as purple loosestrife, once it is established over a large area, it becomes increasingly challenging to eradicate due to its extensive rhizomes and ability to disperse its seeds over long distances. Also, the hairiness of the plant and its tendency to grow in sensitive wetland habitats makes it challenging to control with herbicides. Fortunately, our experience with controlling small infestations shows that is very manageable at this early stage. All four populations found in King County have been eliminated or reduced to just a few plants returning each year.

For more information about hairy willow-herb, you can start by visiting our [website](#) and following the links there for further information, or feel free to [contact our office](#) with any questions. Given the very limited amount of hairy willowherb in the county and its potential negative impacts, please let us know if you see any by [reporting it online](#).

Weed Tips for September and October

Look for and control garlic mustard before it's covered by leaves. Young [garlic mustard](#) rosettes grow throughout the fall and winter, building up roots so they can bolt and flower early

next spring. Fall is an effective time to use chemical control or to simply dig the plants up if there aren't too many and you can get all the roots out. However, fall leaf cover makes it hard to spot the low-growing rosettes, so don't wait too long. And remember, we need to know where you find garlic mustard so we can watch the area carefully in the years to come, making sure it doesn't spread. So please [report to us](#) when you find garlic mustard anywhere in King County, Washington.

Check mowed areas for re-flowering weeds; they are shorter but will still produce seeds. Weeds are sneaky and they are survivors. After they are mowed, many biennial and perennial weeds will continue to grow and will produce flowers and seeds well into the fall. Particularly common around here in September and October is short but flowering [tansy ragwort](#) and [spotted knapweed](#). Sometimes mowing these weeds again will keep them from seeding, but often they flower shorter than the mower cuts and may even flower again later if we don't get a hard frost. To make sure they don't spread, it may be time to consider manually digging up these persistent weeds or using an appropriate herbicide.

There's still time to control some late flowering plants that are lingering this fall. For instance, [European hawkweed](#) is still flowering. This Class A noxious weed isn't common, but if you have it, go check for flowers now. Also, [purple loosestrife](#) seeds are slow to develop so there may still be time to cut and bag the flowerheads before the seeds disperse. [Phragmites](#) is in full flower and this is definitely the time to get it controlled. [Policeman's helmet](#) is mostly in seed, but there may be pockets of late bloomers you can still get to. [Butterfly bush](#) seeds are just getting started, so now is the time to cut off faded blooms and prune back overgrown stems (or just remove the whole plant and replace it with a better behaved shrub).

Fall is the time for the last gasps of knotweed control. Depending on how dry your site is and when the first hard frost comes, you will likely see [knotweed](#) continuing to grow well into October or even later. And, as long as knotweed is growing, it can be controlled. Until the leaves start to turn color, knotweed can be sprayed (assuming you can find a dry day or two!). Or you can still use the stem-injection method through September, but the stems get more brittle as they dry out, so you may have to go higher on the stem to avoid splitting them with the needle. If you are using manual control methods, you can cut re-growth down one last time or, if the soil is loose and the patch is small, carefully remove any surviving roots and discard in the garbage. And, of course, the most important step is to assess how things went this year and make plans for next year, since the knotweed is almost certainly going to be back!

Fall planting is great, but don't plant where you will be controlling tough noxious weeds next year. Although the temptation is to plant as soon as possible, controlling noxious weeds is tough enough without having to work around tender new plants. It is important to wait until you have mostly eradicated weeds like [knotweed](#), [blackberry](#) and other tough, vegetatively spreading weeds. Their roots and rhizomes will spread into and around the new plants' roots, making it next to impossible to control the weeds without harming your new plants. Unless you have excavated all the top soil on a site (and maybe even if you have), expect blackberry and knotweed to come back strongly for at least one or more seasons after the initial control. If you must plant right after you control weeds, make sure to leave plenty of room between plants to allow for access and equipment, and use mulch around the new plants to suppress weed growth where it will be most difficult to control the weeds.

Fall is a great time to control many noxious weeds. In the cool, autumn months after the rains start up again and before the hard frosts of winter, there is a window of opportunity for controlling many weeds. Weeds that grow in the fall and build up roots are available for control

with herbicides or manual methods like digging. Some prime targets for fall weed control include [Canada thistle](#), [bull thistle](#), [milk thistle](#), [spotted knapweed](#), [garlic mustard](#), [poison-hemlock](#), [sulfur cinquefoil](#), and [tansy ragwort](#). Chemicals that are useful in the fall on broadleaf weeds that don't harm grass include aminopyralid (e.g. Milestone) and 2,4-D. If there is no grass, glyphosate (e.g. Roundup, Aquamaster) or imazapyr (Habitat) will also be effective for fall treatment of many perennial and woody weeds. Digging is very effective in the fall when the soil loosens up with the rain and before it gets too soggy and heavy to work. Also, some weeds germinate from seed in the fall, so this is a good time to spread cardboard and wood chips or other mulch in order to keep weeds from developing and to prevent germination of other weeds in the early spring.

Think about doing blackberry control in the fall. Both of our [invasive blackberry](#) species, Himalayan and evergreen, are still growing quite actively in September and October, and this can be a good time to control them while minimizing impacts on dormant native vegetation. Spraying blackberry foliage with glyphosate is effective until leaves start to turn color and die back. Also, cutting back canes and digging up the roots works anytime, but is even easier in the fall when the soil is looser than in the hot, dry summer months. As a bonus, birds aren't nesting now, so removing blackberries now will reduce impact on any birds that might have been using the thickets in the spring. However, when digging up blackberry, avoid exposing soil near streams and rivers where it will wash into the water during the storms and high waters of the winter. In sensitive areas, make sure to use hand-operated tools only, not heavy equipment that can increase erosion and soil damage. For cutting, there are heavy-duty blades that can be used on weed trimmers or brush cutters or there is the always effective, if time-consuming, long-handled loppers. Digging roots out with a shovel works fine, but somewhat easier is a claw-style mattock that can hook onto the base of the plant and help you lever out the root ball.

Good fall pasture management will reduce weed problems next year. The same practices that help you protect healthy pasture soils and reduce erosion will also reduce your pasture weed problems. It's important to keep livestock off saturated soils to avoid damaging pasture plants and leaving openings for weeds. Weeds do much better in compacted soils than grasses so protecting your soil in the wet months will help reduce weed issues. Also, any exposed soil is an opportunity for a weed to take hold, so make sure to spread an appropriate pasture seed mix over any thinly vegetated areas or where there was a lot of traffic over the summer. To get ready for the winter, control the weeds, fertilize, and add lime now to reduce your work in the spring. Also, storing manure under cover will help reduce the amount of weed seeds blowing into it and will improve the quality of the manure for mulch.

Noxious Weed News and Updates

King County being asked to Require Knotweed Control on the Cedar River Stewardship in Action (SiA), a coalition working to control [invasive knotweed](#) on the Cedar River, has proposed that the King County Noxious Weed Control Board designate areas along the Cedar River for required control of knotweed. Currently, knotweed control is recommended but not required in King County, except along the upper and middle Green River and its tributaries, where the noxious weed program and its partners have successfully controlled most of the knotweed (see the knotweed footnote on the King County weed list or at [King County Non-Regulated Noxious Weeds](#) for the complete Green River designation area).

Since 2007, the King County Noxious Weed Control Program, partnering with other public agencies, non-profits, community groups and private landowners, has worked to rid the Cedar

River of invasive knotweed through a cooperative, grant-funded, voluntary program. This project has significantly reduced the level of knotweed infestation on the river. However, to be completely successful, knotweed control along a waterway like the Cedar River requires the participation of all property owners along the river. This is because knotweed is continually moved downstream with high water flows and winter floods and will quickly re-infest areas that have previously been cleared of knotweed. The King County Noxious Weed Control Board plans to hear a presentation of the proposal at its October meeting and encourages anyone interested in this issue to attend. The meeting will be held on October 17, from 4:15-5:45 p.m., at the [Lake Hills Library](#) meeting room, at 15590 Lake Hills Blvd., Bellevue, 98007. For more information, please contact Steve Burke at steven-j.burke@kingcounty.gov or 206-205-6927.

Yellow Starthistle Found on Burke-Gilman Trail in Lake Forest Park

Weed specialist Karen Peterson's recent discovery of two [yellow starthistle](#) (*Centaurea solstitialis*) plants next to the popular bike and walking trail on the north end of Lake Washington was one of the more unusual weed finds this year in King County. Although this spiny cousin of knapweed is all-too-familiar to invasive weed managers in drier parts of Washington and Oregon as well as California and many other western states, we rarely see this plant in King County. Yellow starthistle is a tough and very invasive plant from the Mediterranean that has invaded millions of acres of rangeland in the western United States. It is a problem in pastures, recreational areas, edges of cultivated fields, and open, sunny habitats where it can out-compete native grassland and meadow species. Yellow starthistle is also a big problem for livestock, not only because of the long spines and low nutritive value, but also because it causes chewing disease in horses. More information and photos of yellow starthistle can be found on the [Washington State Noxious Weed Board website](#).

The origin of this particular patch of plants is still unknown, but given how many people bike and walk this trail, seeds could have easily hitchhiked here on a bike, shoe or even a dog. Also, Karen noticed some wildflowers planted in the same area, so it's possible the starthistle seeds were a contaminant in the planting mix. Yellow starthistle has also occasionally been found as a contaminant in hay and straw mulch, so that's another possibility. However it got there, it will now be removed and the site monitored to make sure it doesn't reappear. Karen also has plans to survey the surrounding area to see if there are any other patches of yellow starthistle on the trail or nearby. If you see [yellow starthistle](#) in King County, please let us know by [reporting it online](#), [emailing us](#), or calling our office at 206-296-0290. This is definitely a weed we don't want here.

Washington's Noxious Weed List to Get a Much-Needed Makeover

Since 1881, Washington has required landowners and public agencies to control certain noxious weeds in order to reduce their impact on the state's economy and resources. Over time, as new weeds were introduced to the state or became important as the state shifted to different crops and new agricultural activities, and increased conservation and stewardship of natural resources, additional species were added to the state's [noxious weed list](#). The weeds were classified based on how widespread they were. They were called Class A weeds if they were very limited and could still be eradicated, Class B weeds if they were limited in parts of the state and could be contained to those areas, and Class C weeds if they were widespread in the state or only a priority in parts of the state where they impacted particular agricultural crops or resources.

Modifications to the weed list have been made over the years, with species occasionally removed as well as added. However, the changes haven't always kept up with the shifts in

priorities, changing state and county resources, and the changing dynamics of the weed species. One result has been the sheer length of the state weed list. There are currently over 140 species on the list. Not only is the list very long, but the classification of the weeds doesn't always reflect their current distribution or the priorities of the communities where they occur. This is especially evident in the middle of the weed list - the Class B weeds. This class is meant to include only those species that have potential statewide impacts but that haven't become established throughout the state. However, over the years, the Class B list has grown ever longer and includes a number of species that don't fit that description any more. In some cases, the spread of the species has overwhelmed the efforts to control them, and they are now so entrenched that containment isn't an option. For other species, they don't have significant impacts throughout the state and so there isn't as strong a need to control them everywhere.

In order to address these issues, the [Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board](#) has begun a careful and systematic review of the weed list in coordination with the county weed boards. One of the main goals is to make sure the classification and designation area for each species matches its actual distribution on the ground and the priorities for that species. The Weed Board is also changing how the counties are grouped into regions in order to simplify the designation areas (currently some counties are split into multiple regions, and areas where control is required is quite complex for some species).

For 2013, the proposed changes are mostly to the state's Class B list, which has grown very long (over half of the state-listed species are Class B's). For this initial step, The State Weed Board is proposing to shift eleven of the Class B weeds to the Class C list, allowing the county weed boards to continue requiring control or not based on their local priorities, but not requiring control at the state level. Also, a number of adjustments are being made to the designation areas for many Class B's to better reflect the current distribution of the weeds in the state. Overall, these changes should help make the weed list a better and more accurate tool for planning weed management strategies at the state and local levels.

Although there are many changes being proposed at the state level, they won't have much noticeable effect on the King County Noxious Weed List. With one exception, the weeds being moved to the Class C list either aren't designated for control in King County or aren't present in the county and are not likely to have much impact should they occur here. The one exception is [perennial sowthistle](#), which would move from being a Class B regulated species to being a non-regulated Class C species on the county list. This species has some localized impact in a few places, but is not considered a significant threat to King County resources.

In addition to the proposed shifts in class and designation areas, there are also a few new species being proposed for the 2013 list including [French broom](#) (Class A), [tall hawkweed](#) (Class B) and [common teasel](#) (Class C). If these additions are approved, they would be added to the King County list, but control would be required only for French broom and tall hawkweed, unless the King County Weed Board selects common teasel for required control at its annual weed list hearing in January 2013.

There will be a public hearing on all the proposals for the 2013 weed list on November 6, 2012, 1 pm to 3 pm. This hearing will be held in Yakima at the Washington State Department of Agriculture Building in Yakima, located at 21 North First Avenue Yakima, WA 98902 and can be attended in person or online through GoTo Meeting. Public comments are welcome and can be submitted ahead in writing by mail to WSNWCB, PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560 or email to noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov, or in person at the November hearing.

If you have questions about how the proposed changes will affect the King County Weed List or requirements for control in King County, please feel free to contact us: [Steve Burke](#) or [Sasha Shaw](#). For a list of all the proposed changes to the state list, information on the listing process or for more information on any of the proposals, please contact [Alison Halpern](#) or [Wendy DesCamp](#) with the State Noxious Weed Control Board.

City of Seattle Pesticide Recertification Seminar being held October 30-31

This two day seminar provides continuing education for municipal and commercial landscape practitioners and others seeking to improve their understanding of IPM practices. The theme this year is "IPM on the Ground: Field Notes" and the seminar will be held at the South Seattle Community College, Brockey Conference Center, 6000 16th Ave SW, Seattle. The cost is \$30 per day and ISA, WSNLA and WSDA pesticide recertification credits are being offered.

Some of the highlights most relevant to noxious weed control include: an update on changes to the state noxious weed list by the Washington State Noxious Weed Board education specialist Wendy DesCamp, an update on pesticides that impact Puget Sound by Kelly McLain from the WA Dept of Ecology, a presentation on the EZ-ject lance for controlling invasive trees by Seattle Parks ecologists Michael Yadrick and Rory Denovan, efficacy trials of the new herbicide Fiesta by Parks gardener Rosellen Brittenham, and a presentation on biocontrol as part of IWM by WSU biocontrol expert Jennifer Andreas.

Registration forms are due October 12, 2012. For more information and registration forms, please contact Betsey Searing at Betsey.searing@seattle.gov at 206-386-1650, or Barb DeCaro at Barbara.DeCaro@seattle.gov.

Free Spanish Language Landscaping Class on Weed ID and Control – Capacitación profesional en español para jardineros profesionales (gratis)

Identificación y Control de la Maleza, George Ortiz, Caring Landscape Services; y Gonzalo Yepes, Colombian Gardens

- Martes, 16 octubre 2012, 1pm-4pm, South Seattle Community College (Seattle)
- La identificación de la maleza
- Modos menos toxicos de controlar la maleza
- Técnicas y productos ecológicos
- Estrategias como antorcha , mulching, y más

Se debe registrar antes del 1 de octubre. Registren online:

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/264145. Más información: Maryellen, 206-449-1179.

Patrocinado por Seattle Public Utilities, Green Gardening Program.

Annual Weed Management Conferences Being Held in Oregon and Washington

The Oregon Vegetation Management Association (OVMA) conference is being held in Seaside, Oregon this year on October 9-11, 2012. Register online at <http://www.ovma.ws/>. The cost is \$150 for the three day conference. The agenda is online at:

http://www.ovma.ws/2012_OVMA_Brochure_Printable.pdf

The Washington State Weed Association 62nd Annual Weed Conference in Yakima will be held this year on November 7-9, 2012. For more information check the website at

<http://www.weedconference.org/upcoming.html> or contact the Washington State Weed Association at 509.783.4676 or info@weedconference.org.

Ecology Accepting Applications for Aquatic Weed Management Grants

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) will be accepting applications for Aquatic Weeds Management Fund (AWMF) grants for FY2014 beginning October 1, 2012. Ecology must receive all grant applications at its Olympia address by 5 p.m., November 15, 2012.

Ecology expects to have an estimated \$400,000 in grant funds available for AWMF project work for FY2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014). The AWMF provides grants to counties, cities, state agencies, tribes, and special purpose districts to reduce the spread of freshwater weeds and manage the problems caused by these weeds. The types of activities funded include: planning, education, monitoring, implementation of aquatic plant management plans, pilot projects (using innovative aquatic weed control technologies), demonstration projects (using new, emerging, or accepted but unfamiliar aquatic weed control technologies), mapping and surveillance. Grant recipients can use these funds only for water bodies that have public boat launching facilities or are designated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as fly fishing-only lakes.

Ecology will give funding priority to projects that deal with noxious aquatic invasive plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Brazilian elodea, and purple loosestrife. In water bodies with well-established populations of non-native invasive aquatic plants, applicants must develop an integrated aquatic plant management plan before Ecology can award grants for control projects. Applicants may apply for funding to develop integrated aquatic plant management plans.

Additional information and applications for aquatic weed projects are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/grants/index.html>. Please contact Lizbeth Seebacher at Ecology if you have any questions at Lizbeth.Seebacher@ecy.wa.gov or by calling 360-407-6838.

Ecology Accepting Applications for Freshwater Algae Control Grants

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has approximately \$250,000 available for Freshwater Algae Control Program (FACP) grants beginning fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013). The application period for these grants is October 1, 2012 through November 15, 2012. Ecology must receive all grant applications at its headquarters office in Lacey no later than 5:00 p.m., November 15, 2012.

The FACP provides financial and technical assistance to help manage algae problems in Washington lakes, rivers, and streams. The FACP provides small grants to counties, cities, state agencies, tribes, and special purpose districts to manage the excessive growth of freshwater algae. Applicants can use the funds for freshwater lakes, rivers, or streams in Washington State. Ecology will give funding priority to projects involving the treatment of lakes that have had harmful algal blooms within the past three years. In addition, Ecology will give higher funding priority to projects dealing with potentially toxic blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) rather than projects dealing with other algae, such as filamentous green algae.

The FACP also provides a mail-in algae identification service as part of the program. Lake residents, local health districts, conservation districts, and other entities can collect a sample from an algae bloom and coordinate with Ecology for algae identification and toxicity analysis, if applicable. All information about the sample will be posted to Ecology's on-line database at: <http://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/>

Grant guidelines, information and applications are available online at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/algae/grants/index.html. If you have any questions, please contact Lizbeth Seebacher at Ecology at Lizbeth.Seebacher@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6938.

Local Hazardous Waste Program Promotes Pesticide-Free Outdoor Areas in King County

[Pesticide-Free Places](http://www.HazWasteHelp.org/Pesticide-FreePlaces) website (www.HazWasteHelp.org/Pesticide-FreePlaces) is a new online resource that provides an easy-to-use searchable map of outdoor parks and other places in King County, Washington where the landscapes are managed without pesticides or with reduced pesticides. The website is provided through a partnership between the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, King County Parks, Seattle Parks and Recreation and suburban cities. The website defines a pesticide-free place to mean that no EPA-registered pesticides are used in the normal maintenance of the park or recreation area. Special exemptions are given for limited IPM (Integrated Pest Management) based use of an herbicide to remove a noxious weed where this is the only feasible recommended method according to King County Best Management Practices, or in the case of an insecticide used to remove dangerous insects (wasps, hornets), as long as adequate notification or signage is used to warn the public. A pesticide-reduced place means that children's play areas and lawns are pesticide free. In outlying areas of the site: flower beds, fence lines, natural areas and playing fields, grounds managers use their own IPM (Integrated Pest Management) policy to determine pest control needs and minimize use of pesticides.

According to a recent press release about the website, parks staff from across King County are working to reduce pesticide use in the lands they manage. [King County Parks](#) manages more than 26,000 acres of parks and natural lands; of the 189 total sites, 102 are pesticide free and 87 are pesticide reduced. [Seattle Parks and Recreation](#) has been reducing pesticides by using alternative strategies since 2001 at 390 parks, and is maintaining over 4,550 acres with few to no pesticides. Other cities that manage their parks pesticide-free are: [Black Diamond](#), [Duvall](#), [Shoreline](#) and [Hunts Point](#). Cities that manage their parks pesticide-free or with limited pesticide use are [Auburn](#), [Kenmore](#), [Medina](#), [Newcastle](#), [Redmond](#), [SeaTac](#) and [Snoqualmie](#). For King County residents who have decided to reduce pesticides in their own yards, this resource allows them to easily find parks that do the same. For information on natural yard care and ways to reduced pesticide use, you can call the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224, or visit www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org. More information on the [Pesticide-Free Places](#) website can be found through the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program at www.hazwastehelp.org, a partnership of local governments including Seattle, King County, the suburban and other cities in King County, working together to manage hazardous wastes and protect health and the environment.

Siuslaw National Forest Announces Job Opening for Restoration Botanist

The Siuslaw National Forest recently sent out an outreach notice announcing that they will soon be advertising one permanent, full-time Restoration Botanist, GS-0430-09 based in Waldport, Oregon. The purpose of the Outreach Notice is to inform the potential applicant pool of this position. If you are interested in this position please contact Jeff Uebel at juebel@fs.fed.us to request the Outreach Response Form, which must be returned to Jeff no later than October 15, 2012. The vacancy announcement for this position will be posted on USAJOBS, the U.S. Government's official website for employment opportunities at www.usajobs.gov. The position will be stationed in Waldport, Oregon. Applicants must apply to this location if they wish to be considered.

The Outreach Notice contained the following information. This position is assigned to the Natural Resource Section of the Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor's Office with a duty station of Waldport Oregon. The incumbent performs a variety of professional work in the field of Botany with emphasis on managing invasive plant species to restore native plant communities. As the Forest lead in the management of invasive plants, works closely with the Forest Botanist on Proposed, Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive species as well as Survey and Manage Species. Develops and maintains cooperative relationships with state and county agencies as well as conservation districts, watershed councils and stewardship groups.

Duties Include:

- Interdisciplinary team member for planning of land management activities which include: terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration (including commercial and non-commercial vegetative outputs, and recreation and land use permits.
- Developing invasive plant prescriptions. Preparing written and oral reports and making suggestions and recommendations for inclusion in a variety of reports and decision documents.
- Planning and implementing the Forests invasive plant program, including developing program goals, objectives, priorities, monitoring accomplishments and budget expenditures.
- Development and oversight of invasive plant treatment projects and contracts.
- Preparation of grants, agreements, partnership documents, contracts, and environmental documents.
- Working both indoors in an office setting and outdoors in a variety of weather situations and terrain requiring significant physical exertion such as climbing over dense vegetation.

King County Seeks People to Help with Website Usability Testing

It's our goal at the noxious weed program to continually improve our website to increase its usefulness, so I'm including this announcement with the hope that regular users of our website will be able to participate in this study. King County is in the process of doing a site-wide web redesign project and to help guide this project, it will be doing usability tests on the county website and is seeking people willing to help with the testing.

Initial testing will start at the end of September and will continue as needed. The study will be located in downtown Seattle in the King Street building and participants will be compensated for their time for participating in the usability session. Interested participants will be contacted by a professional recruitment firm staff person and asked qualifying questions over the phone. If they qualify to participate and are scheduled, the recruiter will explain the details about the session and answer any other questions. For more information, please contact Fred Bentler at Fred.Bentler@kingcounty.gov or by phone at (206) 296-8050. If you know you are interested in participating, you can simply send your contact information to Fred and he will pass it on to the testing firm.

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

Seattle Magazine writer Roddy Scheer recently wrote about his experiences with garlic mustard and the King County Noxious Weed Program, <http://www.seattlemag.com/article/meet-seattle-s-newest-invasive-plant>

Reporting invasive weeds just got a lot easier in British Columbia with the new Report-a-Weed smart phone app for reporting weeds anywhere in the province,

<http://www.kamloopsnews.ca/article/20120824/KAMLOOPS0101/120829888/-1/kamloops01/help-stop-invasive-plants-species-with-new-app>

Knotweed, “the concrete busting weed”, catches the attention of the construction industry in British Columbia (and should here as well):

<http://www.journalofcommerce.com/article/id51640/--concrete-busting-weed-can-threaten-projects>

Be careful what you plant: here’s a look at some groundcovers that are invasive and very hard to get rid of,

http://www.oregonlive.com/hq/index.ssf/2012/09/aggressive_ground_covers_may_r.html.

A humorous and sobering view on invasive plants in Alaska from former Alaska Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist Rick Sinnott, <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/nasty-alien-weeds-growing-threat-populated-corners-alaska?page=full> (make sure to read the comments for even more food for thought or at least some interesting exchanges).

New York State will be getting a noxious weed list for the first time as part of an increased effort to stop invasive species there thanks to a new law signed by Governor Cuomo in July that gives the state authority to regulate the sale, purchase, possession, introduction, importation and transport of invasive species, including plants and other organisms.

http://blog.syracuse.com/cny/2012/08/wanted_dead_not_alive_nys_compiling_list_of_noxious_weeds.html

Here’s a reminder for horse owners to pull tansy ragwort that comes from equestrians in British Columbia, but is just as true here in King County,

<http://www.oakbaynews.com/news/166777036.html>

And here’s a cautionary article from South Dakota about what you may get in your hay that you don’t want, http://www.tristateneighbor.com/news/regional/article_fd08375c-eb0b-11e1-a5ea-001a4bcf887a.html

And, finally, here’s a headline that definitely caught my attention: “Weed-Killing Robot Dispatches Dandelions with 98 Percent Accuracy”, <http://gizmodo.com/5942814/this-weed-killing-robot-dispatches-dandelions-with-98-percent-accuracy> (it’s only the beginning, but it looks like we might get robots to control weeds before we get jet packs).

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.