

# 2009 KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST



**STOP the Invaders!**



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources Division

**Noxious Weed Control Program**  
206-296-0290 TTY Relay: 711  
email: noxious.weeds@kingcounty.gov  
www.kingcounty.gov/weeds/

Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires public and private landowners – including city, county and state land agencies – to control and prevent the spread of designated noxious weeds on their property. "Control" is defined in WAC 16-750 as the prevention of all seed production. Federally owned lands are subject to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (Public Law 93-629). Since many people are unfamiliar with noxious weeds, the county weed program is available to provide information on identification and control methods. Landowners can choose the control method they feel is most appropriate for their property.

## WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Each year noxious weeds cost King County millions of dollars in lost agricultural production, environmental degradation and control costs. Once invasive plants become established, it is very expensive to eradicate them. In natural areas, it may not even be feasible to remove them once they take hold.

## WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Noxious weeds are found everywhere in King County, from cities to farms, from forests to rivers and lakes, from Puget Sound to the mountain passes. Over the years, people have introduced non-native species to our region either intentionally in gardens and landscapes or unintentionally through contaminated hay, seeds or bark. A small but dangerous number of these species have turned out to be highly invasive and damaging.

## WHAT ARE NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are highly destructive, competitive and difficult to control or eliminate. They can reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, lower land values, and poison humans and livestock.

*Non-designated Noxious Weed*  
**English Ivy**



The goal is to prevent the spread of new and recently introduced weeds while it is still cost-effective. Class A weeds are the most limited in distribution and therefore the highest priority for control. Class B and C weeds vary in priority based on local distribution and impacts. Noxious weeds that are widespread in King County are called non-designated noxious weeds and control of these is recommended but not required.

## WHY IS THERE A LAW TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Noxious weeds affect everyone. Weeds do not obey property lines or jurisdictional boundaries. It takes a coordinated effort to prevent new noxious weeds from establishing and to control and eradicate the weeds already here. The noxious weed law provides a tool to quickly and effectively stop the spread of the new and most damaging weeds.

## WHICH WEEDS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED?

To help protect people, resources and private lands, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts a state weed list each year (WAC 16-750). \* Noxious weeds are separated into classes A, B and C based on distribution, abundance, and level of threat (how dangerous the plant is to humans, animals, private and public lands, and native habitats).

\*Between November and April, any person may request a change to the Washington State Noxious Weed List for the following year. For more information, call the State Noxious Weed Control Board office at 360-902-2094.

We will make several attempts to contact the landowner to achieve control. If there is no control when we return to survey at the specified time, landowners may be issued a Notice of Violation giving them 10 days (or 48 hours if weeds are in flower or seed) to control the noxious weeds. If the noxious weeds are not completely controlled by the end of the NOV time limit, the program is authorized by Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) to hire a contractor to complete the control work, and bill the owner for the contractor's fees plus the program's administrative costs of the enforcement.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE NOT CONTROLLED?

Program staff provide the landowner with information on how to identify and control the noxious weeds on their property. If requested, we will meet with the owner or property manager to review the weed locations and discuss site-appropriate control methods.

## WHAT DOES THE COUNTY DO WHEN NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE FOUND?

We educate property owners on identification, impacts and control methods for state-listed noxious weeds. It is also our job to locate noxious weed infestations that are not being effectively controlled. To achieve this, the program conducts annual surveys and follow up checks on existing noxious weed locations.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM?

We educate property owners on identification, impacts and control methods for state-listed noxious weeds. It is also our job to locate noxious weed infestations that are not being effectively controlled. To achieve this, the program conducts annual surveys and follow up checks on existing noxious weed locations.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### Prevent weed infestations:

- ★ Use weed-free seed and forage.
- ★ Obey noxious weed laws and quarantines.
- ★ Choose non-invasive species for your gardens and landscapes.
- ★ Check vehicles, clothing, boats, boat trailers, and camping equipment for weeds and seeds.
- ★ Never dump aquarium plants into a pond, stream or other waterbodies.
- ★ Cover compost, topsoil and mulch piles with a tarp.

### Control weed infestations:

- ★ Remove or control weeds safely and appropriately.
- ★ Replant with appropriate species to prevent weeds from returning.
- ★ Prevent seed production and spread of weeds.
- ★ Properly dispose of noxious weeds and weed seeds.
- ★ Follow best management practices for pastures and open spaces.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT HOW TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS?

The King County Noxious Weed Program has Best Management Practices and easy to use Fact Sheets on noxious weeds in the county. These are available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/weeds](http://www.kingcounty.gov/weeds) or from the office by calling 206-296-0290.

## KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

### OUR MISSION:

Provide benefits to the environment, recreation, public health, and economic resources of King County by preventing and minimizing harmful impacts of noxious weeds.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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Noxious weeds should be controlled wherever they occur and should not be introduced to new sites. For questions, please call our program line at 206-296-0290 or visit our website at [www.kingcounty.gov/weeds](http://www.kingcounty.gov/weeds)

This information is available in alternate formats. Call 206-296-0290 or TTY: 711.

# 2009 KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST

The King County Noxious Weed Control Board has adopted this Noxious Weed List in accordance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750.

**CLASS A WEEDS** have limited distribution in Washington. Preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations is the highest priority. **Eradication is required by law throughout Washington state.**

Common Name	Scientific Name
▼ buffalobur	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>
common crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>
▼ cordgrass, common	<i>Spartina anglica</i>
cordgrass, dense flower	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>
cordgrass, salt meadow	<i>Spartina patens</i>
<b>cordgrass, smooth</b>	<b><i>Spartina alterniflora</i></b> (upgraded from B to A list)
▼ dyers woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
eggleaf spurge <sup>1</sup>	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>
<b>false brome</b>	<b><i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i></b>
▼ floating primrose-willow	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>
<b>flowering-rush</b>	<b><i>Butomus umbellatus</i></b>
▼ garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
▼ giant hogweed <sup>1</sup>	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
▼ goatsrue <sup>1</sup>	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
▼ hawkweed, European	<i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>
hawkweed, yellow devil	<i>Hieracium floribundum</i>
▼ hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
johnsongrass <sup>1</sup>	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
▼ knapweed, bighead	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>
knapweed, Vochin	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>
kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>
meadow clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
purple starthistle <sup>1</sup>	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>
reed sweetgrass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>
ricefield bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus mucronatus</i>
▼ sage, clary	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>
sage, Mediterranean	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>
<b>shiny geranium</b>	<b><i>Geranium lucidum</i></b>
silverleaf nightshade <sup>1</sup>	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
▼ Spanish broom <sup>1</sup>	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
spurge flax	<i>Thymelaea passerina</i>
Syrian bean-caper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>
Texas blueweed	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>
thistle, Italian	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
▼ thistle, milk <sup>1</sup>	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
thistle, slenderflower	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>
variable-leaf milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>
▼ velvetleaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>
wild four o'clock	<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>

**NON-REGULATED NOXIOUS WEEDS** are Class B and C weeds from the State Weed List that also impact the county, but are already widespread; control recommended but not required.

Common Name	Scientific Name
▼ absinth wormwood <sup>1</sup>	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
▼ <b>blackberry, evergreen</b>	<b><i>Rubus laciniatus</i></b>
▼ <b>blackberry, Himalayan</b>	<b><i>Rubus armeniacus</i></b>
▼ butterfly bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>
▼ common fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> (except var. <i>azoricum</i> )
▼ common groundsel <sup>1</sup>	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>
▼ common St. Johnswort <sup>5</sup>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
▼ common tansy <sup>1</sup>	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
▼ curly-leaf pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
▼ Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
▼ field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
▼ fragrant water lily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
▼ <b>hairy whitetop<sup>1</sup></b>	<b><i>Cardaria pubescens</i></b>
▼ herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
▼ <b>hoary cress<sup>1</sup></b>	<b><i>Cardaria draba</i></b>
▼ <b>houndstongue<sup>1</sup></b>	<b><i>Cynoglossum officinale</i></b>
▼ English ivy (four cultivars only: 'Baltica', 'Pittsburgh', 'Star', and 'Hibernica') <sup>1</sup>	<i>Hedera helix</i> 'Baltica' <i>Hedera helix</i> 'Pittsburgh' <i>Hedera helix</i> 'Star' <i>Hedera hibernica</i> 'Hibernica'
▼ knotweed, Bohemian <sup>6</sup>	<i>Polygonum bohemicum</i>
▼ knotweed, giant <sup>6</sup>	<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>
▼ knotweed, Himalayan <sup>6</sup>	<i>Polygonum polystachyum</i>
▼ knotweed, Japanese <sup>6</sup>	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>
▼ lawnweed	<i>Soliva sessilis</i>
▼ old man's beard <sup>1</sup>	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
▼ poison-hemlock <sup>1</sup>	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
▼ reed canarygrass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
▼ Scotch broom <sup>1,2</sup>	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
▼ spurge laurel <sup>1</sup>	<i>Daphne laureola</i>
▼ thistle, bull	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
▼ thistle, Canada	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
▼ yellow archangel	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>
▼ yellow flag iris <sup>1</sup>	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
▼ yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>

**CLASS B WEEDS** are abundant in some parts of the state and less common in others. The following Class B weeds have been designated by state law or selected by the County Weed Board as priority weeds in King County. **Control and containment of these species is required by law.**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Austrian fieldcress	<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>
blackgrass	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>
▼ blueweed; viper's bugloss <sup>1</sup>	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
▼ Brazilian elodea <sup>3</sup>	<i>Egeria densa</i>
bugloss, annual	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>
bugloss, common	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>
camelthorn	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>
▼ common reed (non-native genotypes)	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
▼ Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> ssp. <i>dalmatica</i>
fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
▼ gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
grass-leaved arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>
hawkweed oxtongue	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>
▼ hawkweed, mouseear	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>
▼ hawkweed, orange	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
hawkweed, polar	<i>Hieracium atratum</i>
hawkweed, queen-devil	<i>Hieracium glomeratum</i>
hawkweed, smooth	<i>Hieracium laevigatum</i>
▼ hawkweed, yellow	<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i>
hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>
indigobush	<i>Amora fruticosa</i>
knapweed, black	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
knapweed, brown	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>
▼ knapweed, diffuse	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
▼ knapweed, meadow	<i>Centaurea jacea x nigra</i>
knapweed, Russian <sup>1</sup>	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
▼ knapweed, spotted	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>
▼ kochia	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>
lepyrodiclis	<i>Lepyrodiclis holosteoides</i>
longspine sandbur	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>
▼ loosestrife, garden <sup>4</sup>	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
▼ loosestrife, purple <sup>4</sup>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
▼ parrotfeather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
▼ perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
▼ perennial sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i> ssp. <i>arvensis</i>
▼ policeman's helmet	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
▼ rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>

**WEEDS OF CONCERN** are invasive plants in King County that are not listed as noxious weeds under the State Noxious Weed Law. The King County Weed Board recognizes these plants as invasive and is collecting information on their distribution. The Board recommends control and containment of existing populations and discourages new plantings.

King County's Critical Areas Ordinance cites this list of weeds as invasive vegetation that threatens native ecosystems by displacing beneficial vegetation and degrading wildlife and native plant habitat.

Common Name	Scientific Name
▼ bittersweet nightshade <sup>1</sup>	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
▼ buttercup, creeping <sup>1</sup>	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
▼ buttercup, tall <sup>1</sup>	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
▼ <b>common hawthorn</b>	<b><i>Crataegus monogyna</i></b>
▼ English holly <sup>1</sup>	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
▼ English laurel <sup>1</sup>	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>
▼ <b>European mountain ash</b>	<b><i>Sorbus aucuparia</i></b>
▼ hedge bindweed, morning glory	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
▼ <b>spotted jewelweed</b>	<b><i>Impatiens capensis</i></b>

## KEY

▼ Known to occur in King County.

**Weeds in bold** are new for this year.

<sup>1</sup> Reported to be toxic to livestock and/or humans. Sources: USDA Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, WA State Weed Board. This list is for general information only and may not be all-inclusive. Contact a veterinarian, doctor or local Poison Control Center for a complete list and information about treatment.

<sup>2</sup> Control of Scotch broom is required on King County's section of State Route 2 and I-90 between mile marker 34 and the King/Kittitas county line.

<sup>3</sup> Brazilian elodea is designated for control throughout King County except in Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Lake Union and Lake Fenwick.

## Class B Weeds Continued

Common Name	Scientific Name
▼ saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>
▼ spurge, leafy <sup>1</sup>	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
▼ sulfur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
swainsonpea	<i>Sphaerophysa salsula</i>
▼ tansy ragwort <sup>1</sup>	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
thistle, musk	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
thistle, plumeless	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
▼ thistle, Scotch	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
▼ water primrose	<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>
white bryony <sup>1</sup>	<i>Bryonia alba</i>
wild chervil <sup>1</sup>	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
▼ yellow floating heart	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>
▼ yellow nutsedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>
▼ yellow starthistle <sup>1</sup>	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>

**CLASS C WEEDS** are common throughout most of Washington. The King County Noxious Weed Board has selected these as priority weeds in the county dependant on feasibility of control and local threats. **Control and containment of these weeds is required by law.**

Common Name	Scientific Name
▼ hairy willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
▼ hawkweed, common	<i>Hieracium lachenalii</i>
▼ hawkweeds, non-native and invasive	<i>Hieracium spp.</i>

**Garlic Mustard**  
Class A  
Noxious Weed



**Giant Hogweed**  
Class A  
Noxious Weed



<sup>4</sup> Purple and garden loosestrife are county-selected for control in all areas of King County including those excluded by WAC 16-750.

<sup>5</sup> Permit from KC Weed Board required to grow St. Johnswort as a crop in King County.

<sup>6</sup> Control of Bohemian, Japanese, giant and Himalayan knotweed is required on the Green River and its tributaries (defined as Type S, F or N aquatic areas in KCC 21A.24.355 ) upstream of the Auburn City Limits, including but not limited to Newaukum Creek, Soos Creek, Big Soos Creek, Jenkins Creek, Covington Creek, and Crisp Creek. Control of these invasive knotweed species is required up to the ordinary high water mark (or to the top of the bank if the ordinary high water mark cannot be identified) and in the adjacent buffer area as specified in KCC 21A.24.358.



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