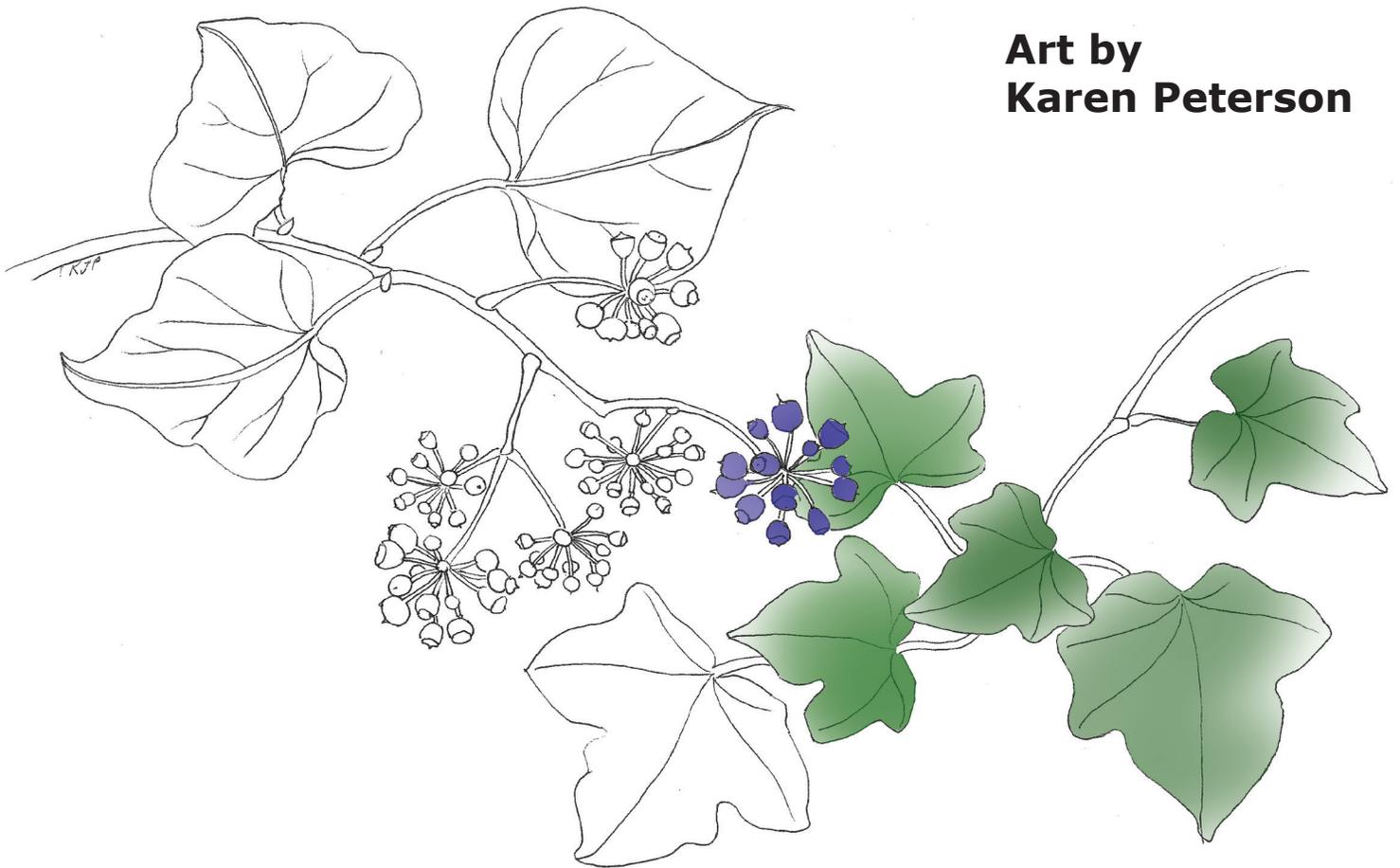


a noxious weed

COLORING BOOK



Art by
Karen Peterson

Noxious weeds can be pretty but they are also invasive and can harm people, animals and the environment.

Learn more about noxious weeds at kingcounty.gov/weeds.

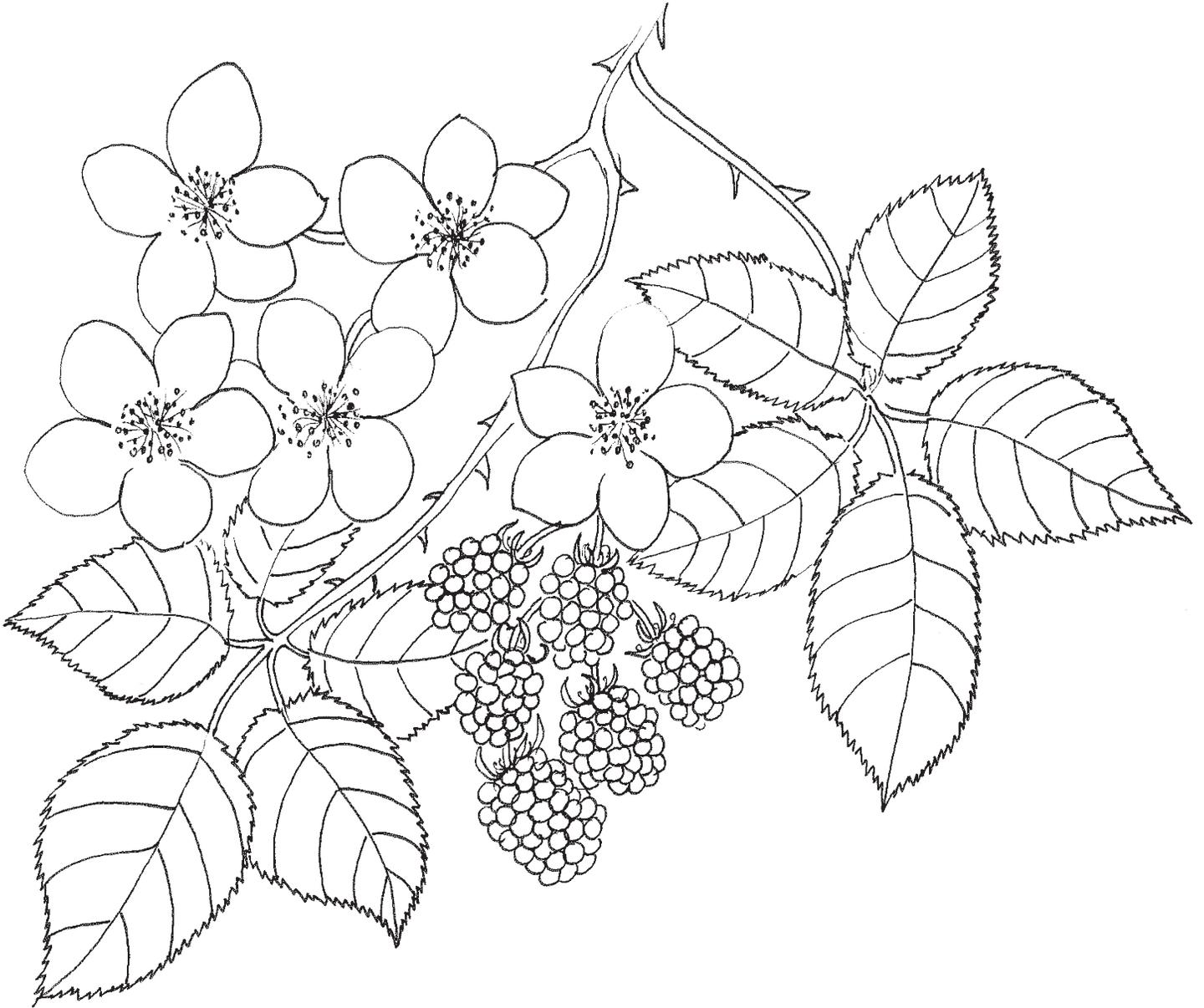


King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Noxious Weed Control Program

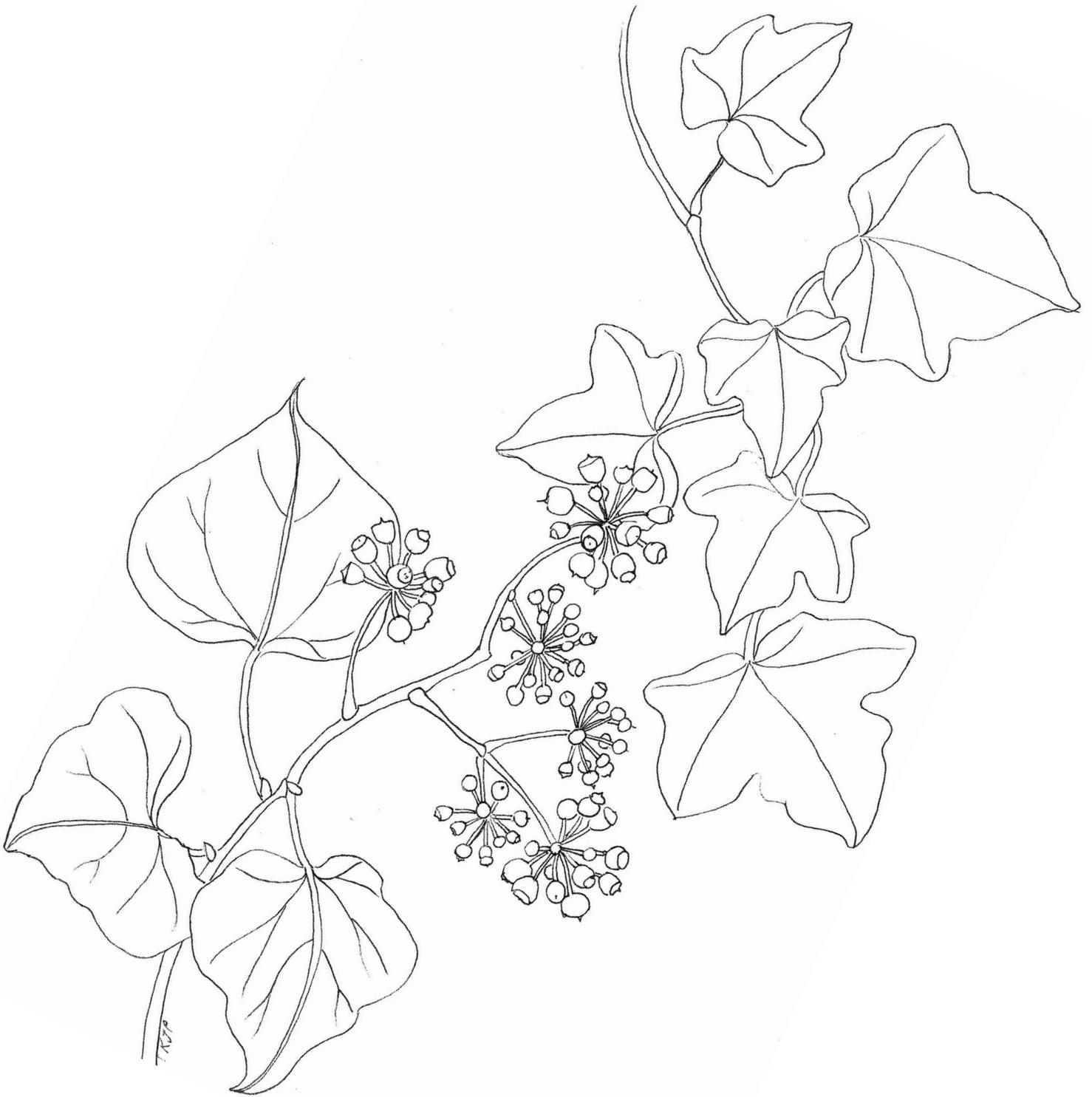
Himalayan blackberry | *Rubus armeniacus*



Himalayan blackberry is one of the most common weeds in the Pacific Northwest. It was originally planted for its large, delicious berries. This plant forms dense thickets that shade out baby trees and make our forests less healthy. The canes can grow up to 40 feet long and they can form roots anywhere the cane touches the ground. Plus those thorns sure hurt!

For info about this and other weeds check out our website: kingcounty.gov/weeds

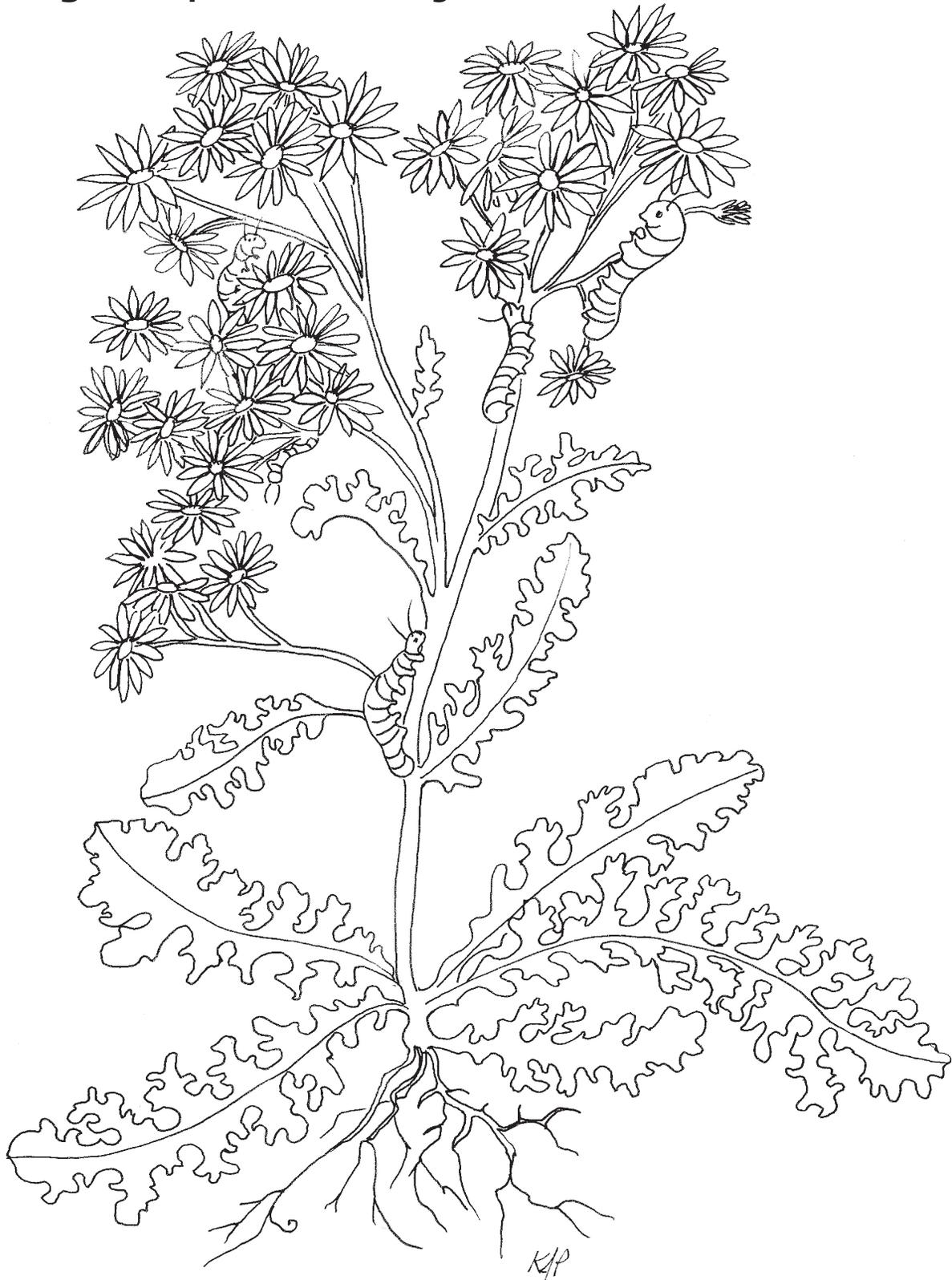
English ivy | *Hedera helix*



English ivy is a vine that grows along the ground until it finds a tree or fence or building to climb up. The vines can grow 90 feet long and they make trees sick and more likely to blow over. The dense, evergreen vines also make attractive habitat for rats and other rodents that can spread disease. The black ivy fruits are eaten by birds but are poisonous to people.

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Tansy ragwort | *Jacobaea vulgaris*



Tansy ragwort has cheerful, daisy-like yellow flowers, but it can make horses and livestock very sick if they eat it. This plant commonly pops up on sunny sites like pastures and the sides of roads. Sometimes you can find cute orange and black Cinnabar caterpillars feeding on the leaves. The Cinnabar moth is a natural enemy of tansy ragwort brought from Europe to help control the weed.

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Fragrant waterlily | *Nymphaea odorata*



Fragrant waterlily grows on the surface of lakes and ponds. It escaped from backyard ponds where people had planted it because of its pretty, sweet-smelling flowers. After the flowers are pollinated by insects the stem winds up like a spring and draws the flower under the water where it will form a seed. This plant forms thick mats that breed mosquitoes and can even be a danger for swimmers who can get tangled in the stems.

For info about this and other weeds check out our website: kingcounty.gov/weeds

Policeman's helmet | *Impatiens glandulifera*



Policeman's helmet gets its common name because its flowers look like English policeman's (bobby) helmets. These plants have beautiful, fragrant pink flowers which is why people planted them in their gardens. But they refuse to stay put where they are planted. The seedpods explode when touched, shooting seeds up to 20 feet away. They spread quickly and crowd out all other plants especially in wet areas like streambanks.

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Garlic mustard | *Alliaria petiolata*



Garlic mustard is only a few feet tall but it has a big impact in forests. This plant takes over forest understories because its roots put out a chemical that prevents other plants from growing. It was originally planted as an edible plant (the leaves taste very strongly like garlic) but it has quickly spread out of control. Each plant can produce up to 8,000 seeds.

For info about this and other weeds check out our website: kingcounty.gov/weeds

Purple loosestrife | *Lythrum salicaria*



Purple loosestrife likes growing in wet soil like the edges of lakes and in ditches. People have planted this in their gardens because of the beautiful spikes of purple flowers. But, this plant is really a bully. It spreads quickly in critical natural areas like wetlands and streambanks and has negative impact on fish and wildlife habitat. Loosestrife beetles can help control this weed by eating its leaves and flower buds.

For info about this and other weeds check out our website: kingcounty.gov/weeds

Giant hogweed | *Heracleum mantegazzianum*



Giant hogweed is quite an impressive plant! It grows up to 15 feet tall and has leaves that can be 5 feet wide. It contains a toxic sap that can cause burns, blisters and even scars. This usually happens when people are trying to remove the plant, but sometimes happens when kids play with the large hollow stems. If you see this plant let the King County Noxious Weed Control Program know about it; we will remove it!

For info about this and other weeds check out our website: kingcounty.gov/weeds