2014 King County Noxious Weed List

What are Noxious Weeds?

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

Where Do They Come From?

People have introduced non-native species both intentionally, such as in gardens or for erosion control, or accidentally, such as in contaminated seed mixes, hay, aquarium plants, or other materials. A small number of these introduced species have turned out to be highly invasive and damaging. Noxious weeds now occur in all parts of our county, from cities to farms, from forests to rivers and lakes, from Puget Sound to the mountain passes.

What Are the Costs of Noxious Weeds?

Each year, these plants cost King County millions of dollars in lost agricultural production, environmental degradation, and maintenance 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.

What Is the Noxious Weed Law?

Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires landowners – including city, county and state land agencies – to control or eradicate certain noxious weeds that occur on their property. The county noxious 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.

Why Is There a Law to Control Noxious Weeds?

Noxious weeds affect everyone. Weeds do not obey property lines and 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 way to effectively stop the spread of the new and most damaging weeds.

Which Weeds Should Be Controlled?

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board annually adopts a state noxious weed list (WAC 16-750) that categorizes weeds as class A, B, or C based on distribution in the state, abundance, and level of threat (how dangerous the plant is to humans, animals, private and public lands, and native habitats). Each county weed board then passes a county weed list that specifies which weeds landowners are required to control in that county. The county list includes at minimum all Class A weeds and those Class B and C weeds that landowners are required to control in that county, and sometimes additional weeds that are recommended for control.*

Class A weeds are the highest priority and property owners are required to eradicate all Class A noxious weeds from their property. Class B weeds have a split distribution in the state and are designated for required control where they are limited in distribution or where they are a local priority. Most Class C weeds are widespread and not required to be controlled, but they can be selected at the county level if they are a local priority. The purpose is to focus resources where they will be most effective. Stopping weeds while they are still limited in distribution is much more cost-effective than trying to eradicate them once they are widespread.

What Do Control And Eradicate Mean?

"Control" means to prevent all seed production and to prevent the dispersal of all propagative parts capable of forming new plants (for example, rhizomes, stem fragments, or root crowns of species that can spread by those plant parts). "Eradicate" means to eliminate a noxious weed within an area of infestation (WAC 16-750).

Giant Hogweed: *Class A Regulated Noxious Weed*

What Is the Role of The King County Noxious Weed Program?

The program educates property owners about identification, impacts, and control methods for noxious weeds. It is also the program's job to locate noxious weed infestations that are not being effectively controlled. To achieve this, the program conducts annual surveys to look for new sites and follows up on known locations until the weeds are gone.

What Does the County Do When Noxious Weeds Are Found?

The program provides the landowner with information about how to identify and control the noxious weeds on the property. If requested, program staff will meet with the owner or property manager to review the weed locations and discuss site-appropriate control methods.

What Will Happen If the Noxious Weeds Are Not Controlled?

The program will make several attempts to contact the landowner to achieve control. If the landowner wishes to control the weeds but is unable to do so because of a hardship, the program will offer assistance. If the landowner refuses to control the weeds or does not respond, a Notice of Violation may be issued requiring that the weeds be controlled within 10 days (or 48 hours if the weeds are about to go to seed). If the weeds are still not controlled, the program is authorized by Washington's noxious weed law to hire a contractor to control the weeds, and bill the owner for the contractor's fees plus administrative costs.

*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 **360-725-5764** or visit **www.nwcb.wa.gov.**

English Ivy: *Class C Non-Regulated Noxious Weed*

King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Noxious Weed Control Program

Noxious weeds should be controlled wherever they occur and should not be introduced to new sites. For questions, please call our program line at 206-477-WEED (206-477-9333), email *noxious.weeds@kingcounty.gov* or visit our website at *kingcounty.gov/weeds*

This information is available in alternate formats. Call 206-477-WEED (206-477-9333) or TTY: 711.

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Our Mission:

To minimize impacts of noxious weeds to the environment, recreation, public health and the economy.

King County Noxious Weed Control Program

What can I do?

Prevent Weed Infestations

- Choose non-invasive species for your gardens and landscapes
- Never dump aquarium plants into ponds, streams, or other waterbodies
- Follow noxious weed laws and quarantines
- Use weed-free seed and forage
- Cover compost, topsoil, and mulch piles with a tarp
- Remove weeds, seeds, and soil from vehicles, mowers, boots, boats and trailers, and camping equipment

Control Weed Infestations

- Control weeds safely and effectively before they go to seed
- Properly dispose of noxious weeds and weed seeds
- Replant with appropriate species to prevent weeds from returning
- Reduce weed problems by following best management practices for pastures and open spaces

How Do I Find Out How To Control Noxious Weeds?

The King County Noxious Weed Control Program has Best Management Practices and easy to use Fact Sheets on noxious weeds in the county. These are available online at **kingcounty.gov/weeds** or from the office by calling 206-477-WEED (206-477-9333).

King County

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

Regulated Class A Weeds:

These weeds are the highest priority in the state due to their significant potential impact and limited distribution. Property owners throughout Washington are required to eradicate Class A weeds.

CONTROL REQUIRED

Common Name	Scientific Name
common crupina	*Crupina vulgaris*
cordgrass, common	*Spartina anglica*
cordgrass, dense flower	*Spartina densiflora*
cordgrass, salt meadow	*Spartina patens*
cordgrass, smooth	*Spartina alterniflora*
dyers woad	*Isatis tinctoria*
eggleaf spurge [1]	*Euphorbia oblongata*
false brome	*Brachypodium sylvaticum*
floating primrose-willow	*Ludwigia peploides*
flowering-rush	*Butomus umbellatus*
French broom [1]	*Genista monspessulana*
garlic mustard	*Alliaria petiolata*
giant hogweed [1]	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*
goatsrue [1]	*Galega officinalis*
hydrilla	*Hydrilla verticillata*
johnsongrass [1]	*Sorghum halepense*
knapweed, bighead	*Centaurea macrocephala*
knapweed, Vochin	*Centaurea nigrescens*
kudzu	*Pueraria montana var. lobata*
meadow clary	*Salvia pratensis*
oriental clematis	*Clematis orientalis*
purple starthistle [1]	*Centaurea calcitrapa*
reed sweetgrass	*Glyceria maxima*
ricefield bulrush	*Schoenoplectus mucronatus*
sage, clary	*Salvia sclarea*
sage, Mediterranean	*Salvia aethiopis*
shiny geranium	*Geranium lucidum*
silverleaf nightshade [1]	*Solanum elaeagnifolium*
Spanish broom [1]	*Spartium junceum*
spurge flax	*Thymelaea passerina*
Syrian bean-caper	*Zygophyllum fabago*
Texas blueweed	*Helianthus ciliaris*
thistle, Italian	*Carduus pycnocephalus*
thistle, milk [1]	*Silybum marianum*
thistle, slenderflower	*Carduus tenuiflorus*
variable-leaf milfoil	*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*
wild four o'clock	*Mirabilis nyctaginea*

Regulated Class B Weeds:

Class B weeds are regulated in counties where they are limited in distribution or where they are a local priority. The following Class B weeds have been designated for control in King County by the State Weed Board or selected by the King County Weed Board. Property owners in King County are required to control these species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
blueweed; viper's bugloss [1]	*Echium vulgare*
Brazilian elodea [3]	*Egeria densa*
bugloss, annual	*Anchusa arvensis*
bugloss, common	*Anchusa officinalis*
camelthorn	*Alhagi maurorum*
common reed (non-native genotypes)	*Phragmites australis*
Dalmatian toadflax	*Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica*
fanwort	*Cabomba caroliniana*
gorse	*Ulex europaeus*
grass-leaved arrowhead	*Sagittaria graminea*
hairy willowherb	*Epilobium hirsutum*
hawkweeds; All non-native species and hybrids of the meadow subgenus [5]	***Hieracium, subgenus Pilosella***
hawkweeds; All non-native species and hybrids of the wall subgenus [5]	***Hieracium, subgenus Hieracium***
hawkweed, orange	*Hieracium aurantiacum*
hawkweed oxtongue	*Picris hieracioides*
hoary alyssum	*Berteroa incana*
houndstongue [1]	*Cynoglossum officinale*
indigobush	*Amora fruticosa*
knapweed, black	*Centaurea nigra*
knapweed, brown	*Centaurea jacea*
knapweed, diffuse	*Centaurea diffusa*
knapweed, meadow	*Centaurea jacea x nigra*
knapweed, Russian [1]	*Acroptilon repens*
knapweed, spotted	*Centaurea stoebe*
kochia	*Kochia scoparia*
loosestrife, garden	*Lysimachia vulgaris*
loosestrife, purple	*Lythrum salicaria*
parrotfeather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*
perennial pepperweed	*Lepidium latifolium*
policeman's helmet	*Impatiens glandulifera*
rush skeletonweed	*Chondrilla juncea*
saltcedar	*Tamarix ramosissima*
spurge, leafy [1]	*Euphorbia esula*
sulfur cinquefoil	*Potentilla recta*

Regulated Class B Weeds Continued

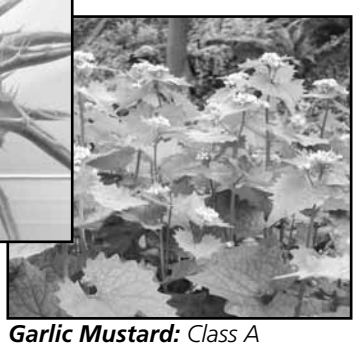
Common Name	Scientific Name
tansy ragwort [1]	*Senecio jacobaea*
thistle, musk	*Carduus nutans*
thistle, plumeless	*Carduus acanthoides*
thistle, Scotch	*Onopordum acanthium*
velvetleaf	*Abutilon theophrasti*
water primrose	*Ludwigia hexapetala*
white bryony [1]	*Bryonia alba*
wild chervil [1]	*Anthriscus sylvestris*
yellow floating heart	*Nymphoides peltata*
yellow nutsedge	*Cyperus esculentus*
yellow starthistle [1]	*Centaurea solstitialis*

Regulated Class C Weeds:

Class C weeds are generally widespread, but may be selected on a local level. The following Class C weeds have been selected by the King County Weed Board based on potential threats and feasibility of control. Property owners in King County are required to control these species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
absinth wormwood [1]	*Artemesia absinthium*
buffalobur	*Solanum rostratum*

Milk Thistle: *Class A Regulated Noxious Weed*



Garlic Mustard: *Class A Regulated Noxious Weed*

Non-Regulated Noxious Weeds:

The following Class B and C weeds from the state noxious weed list also impact the county, but are already widespread. Property owners in King County are not required to control these species, but control is recommended where feasible.

CONTROL RECOMMENDED

Common Name	Scientific Name	Class
blackberry, evergreen	*Rubus laciniatus*	C
blackberry, Himalayan	*Rubus armeniacus*	C
butterfly bush	*Buddleja davidii*	B
common barberry	*Berberis vulgaris*	C
common catsear	*Hypochaeris radicata*	C
common fennel	*Foeniculum vulgare (except var. azoricum)*	B
common groundsel [1]	*Senecio vulgaris*	C
common St. Johnswort	*Hypericum perforatum*	C
common tansy [1]	*Tanacetum vulgare*	C
common teasel	*Dipsacus fullonum*	C
curly-leaf pondweed	*Potamogeton crispus*	C
Eurasian watermilfoil	*Myriophyllum spicatum*	B
field bindweed	*Convolvulus arvensis*	C
fragrant water lily	*Nymphaea odorata*	C
hairy whitetop 1	*Cardaria pubescens*	C
herb Robert	*Geranium robertianum*	B
hoary cress [1]	*Cardaria draba*	C
English ivy (four cultivars only: 'Baltica', 'Pittsburgh','Star', and 'Hibernica') [1]	*Hedera helix 'Baltica'* *Hedera helix 'Pittsburgh'* *Hedera helix 'Star'* *Hedera hibernica 'Hibernica'*	C
knotweed, Bohemian [5]	*Polygonum x bohemicum*	B
knotweed, giant [5]	*Polygonum sachalinense*	B
knotweed, Himalayan [5]	*Polygonum polystachyum*	B
knotweed, Japanese [5]	*Polygonum cuspidatum*	B
lesser celandine	***Ficaria verna***	B
old man's beard [1]	*Clematis vitalba*	C
oxeye daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	C
perennial sowthistle	*Sonchus arvensis*	C
poison-hemlock [1]	*Conium maculatum*	B
reed canarygrass	*Phalaris arundinacea*	C
Scotch broom [1, 2]	*Cytisus scoparius*	B
spurge laurel [1]	*Daphne laureola*	B
thistle, bull	*Cirsium vulgare*	C
thistle, Canada	*Cirsium arvense*	C
tree-of-heaven [1]	*Ailanthus altissima*	C
wild carrot	*Daucus carota*	C
yellow archangel	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*	B
yellow flag iris [1]	*Iris pseudacorus*	C
yellow toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*	C

Weeds Of Concern:

The following plant species are not listed as noxious weeds under state law and property owners are not required to control them. However, the King County Weed Board recognizes these non-native plants as invasive, recommends control or containment of existing populations, and discourages new plantings. King County's Critical Areas Ordinance cites this list, formerly known as the Obnoxious Weed List, as invasive vegetation that threatens native ecosystems by displacing beneficial vegetation and degrading wildlife and native plant habitat. The Noxious Weed Control Program provides education and outreach services for these weeds (as authorized by RCW 17.10.090).

Common Name	Scientific Name
bittersweet nightshade [1]	*Solanum dulcamara*
buttercup, creeping [1]	*Ranunculus repens*
buttercup, tall [1]	*Ranunculus acris*
common hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
English holly [1]	*Ilex aquifolium*
English laurel [1]	*Prunus laurocerasus*
European mountain ash	*Sorbus aucuparia*
hedge bindweed, morning glory	*Calystegia sepium*
multiflora rose	*Rosa multiflora*
spotted jewelweed	*Impatiens capensis*

Orange Hawkweed *Class B Regulated Noxious Weed*

Tansy Ragwort *Class B Regulated Noxious Weed*

DEFINITIONS (RCW 17.10, WAC 16-750)

Noxious Weed – a non-native plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control

Control – in a given year, prevent all seed production and prevent the dispersal of all propagative parts capable of forming new plants

Eradicate – completely eliminate a noxious weed within an area of infestation

Key

Known to occur in King County.

Weeds in bold are new for this year.

[1] 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.

[2] 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.

[3] Brazilian elodea is designated for control throughout King County except in Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Lake Union, Lake Fenwick, Lake Doloff and the Sammamish River.

[4] Control of Bohemian, Japanese, giant and Himalayan knotweed (*Polygonum xbohemicum, P. cuspidatum, P. sachalinense, P. polystachyum*) is required on the Green River and its tributaries above the Auburn City Limits and on the Cedar River and its tributaries above the Renton City Limits (tributaries included are those defined as Type S, F or N aquatic areas in KCC 21A.24.355). 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. This requirement to control knotweed is contingent upon the noxious weed program or program partners providing knotweed control services in the selected area for affected private land landowners who request assistance.

[5] Non-native yellow-flowered hawkweeds *Hieracium* species: The 11 separate listings of yellow-flowered hawkweeds that were on the noxious weed list are now consolidated into two Class B listings by subgenus - meadow (*Pilosella*) and wall (*Hieracium*).

- In general, the meadow subgenus species have stolons present, have no or few stem leaves, and leaf edges are smooth or minutely toothed.
- In general, the wall subgenus species do not have stolons, have stem leaves, and leaf edges are toothed or lobed.

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