



2025 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.

☼ Known to occur in King County	☼ Historically present, but thought to be eradicated
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REGULATED CLASS A WEEDS

State law requires property owners to eradicate all Class A species due to potential threat and limited distribution.

	Scientific name	Common name	Class
☼	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	garlic mustard	A
	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>	palmer amaranth	A
☼	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	false brome	A
	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	flowering rush	A
	<i>Carduus cinereus</i>	thistle, ashen²	A
	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	thistle, shore²	A
	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	thistle, slenderflower	A
☼	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	roundleaf bitterweet³	A
	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	purple starthistle	A
☼	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>	knapweed, bighead	A
	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>	knapweed, short fringed²	A
	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	thistle, marsh³	A
	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>	orange peel clematis²	A
☼	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	common crupina	A
☼	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	eggleaf spurge	A
☼	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goatsrue	A
☼	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	soft broom²	A
☼	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	reed sweetgrass	A
	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>	Texas blueweed	A
☼	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	giant hogweed	A
☼	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla	A
☼	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	small flowered jewelweed	A
	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	dyers woad	A
☼	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i>	smooth frogbit²	A

REGULATED CLASS A WEEDS CONTINUED...

✿	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	floating primrose willow	A
	<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>	wild four o'clock	A
	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i> and <i>M. heterophyllum</i> x <i>M. hippuroides</i>	variable leaf milfoil and hybrids	A
	<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i>	kudzu	A
	<i>Salvia aethiopis</i>	sage, Mediterranean	A
✿	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	meadow clary	A
✿	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>	sage, clary	A
✿	<i>Schoenoplectus mucronatus</i>	ricefield bulrush	A
✿	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	thistle, milk	A
✿	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	silverleaf nightshade	A
	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnsongrass	A
	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>	cordgrass, smooth	A
✿	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	cordgrass, common	A
	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>	cordgrass, dense flowered	A
	<i>Spartina patens</i>	cordgrass, salt meadow	A
✿	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	rush broom²	A
	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>	bean-caper²	A

REGULATED CLASS B WEEDS

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

	Scientific name	Common name	Class
✿	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	velvetleaf	B-Reg
	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>	camelthorn	B-Reg
	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	indigobush	B-Reg
✿	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	bugloss, common	B-Reg
✿	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	wild chervil	B-Reg
✿	<i>Bassia scoparia</i>	kochia	B-Reg
✿	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	hoary alyssum	B-Reg
✿	<i>Bryonia alba</i>	white bryony	B-Reg
	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	fanwort	B-Reg
✿	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	thistle, plumeless	B-Reg
✿	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	thistle, musk	B-Reg
✿	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	knapweed, diffuse	B-Reg
✿	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	knapweed, brown	B-Reg
	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	tocalote²	B-Reg
	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	knapweed, black	B-Reg
✿	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	starthistle, yellow	B-Reg
✿	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	knapweed, spotted	B-Reg
✿	<i>Centaurea x gerstlaueri</i>	knapweed, meadow	B-Reg
✿	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	rush skeletonweed	B-Reg

REGULATED CLASS B WEEDS CONTINUED...

✿	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	wild basil	B-Reg
✿	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	houndstongue	B-Reg
✿	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	yellow nutsedge	B-Reg
✿	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	blueweed; viper's bugloss	B-Reg
✿	<i>Egeria densa</i>	egeria^{1a}	B-Reg
✿	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	hairy willowherb	B-Reg
✿	<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>	spurge, leafy	B-Reg
✿	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	hawkweed, orange	B-Reg
✿	<i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>	hawkweed, autumn²	B-Reg
✿	<i>Hieracium</i> , subgenus <i>Pilosella</i>	hawkweeds, meadow : all non-native species and hybrids of the meadow subgenus	B-Reg
✿	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	policeman's helmet	B-Reg
✿	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	tansy ragwort	B-Reg
✿	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	perennial pepperweed	B-Reg
✿	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i> ssp. <i>dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax	B-Reg
✿	<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>	water primrose	B-Reg
✿	<i>Lycopsis arvensis</i>	bugloss, annual	B-Reg
✿	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	loosestrife, garden	B-Reg
✿	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	loosestrife, purple	B-Reg
✿	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	parrotfeather	B-Reg
✿	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	yellow floating heart	B-Reg
✿	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	thistle, cotton²	B-Reg
✿	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed (non-native genotypes)	B-Reg
	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	hawkweed, oxtongue	B-Reg
✿	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	sulfur cinquefoil	B-Reg
	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>	hardheads²	B-Reg
	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	grass leaved arrowhead	B-Reg
✿	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	saltcedar	B-Reg
✿	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	tussilago²	B-Reg
✿	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	gorse	B-Reg

REGULATED CLASS C WEEDS

The following Class C weeds have been selected by the King County Weed Board based on potential threat and feasibility of control. Property owners in King County are required to control these species.

	Scientific name	Common name	Class
✿	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i> , <i>A. breviligulata</i> , and <i>A. arenaria</i> x <i>breviligulata</i>	beachgrasses (marram) & their hybrid	C-Reg
✿	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	absinth wormwood	C-Reg

NON-REGULATED NOXIOUS WEEDS

Property owners in King County are not required to control the following Class B and C weeds, but control is recommended where feasible due to their impacts. Species that are classified with "selective" require control within specific geographical parameters¹.

	Scientific name	Common name	Class
✿	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-heaven	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Arum italicum</i>	orange candleflower²	C-NonReg
	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	common barberry	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	butterfly bush	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Carex pendula</i> (ssp. <i>pendula</i> and ssp. <i>agastachys</i>)	hanging sedge^{1d}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	rough chervil^{1d}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	thistle, creeping	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	thistle, bull	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	old man's beard	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	poison hemlock^{1c}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	jubata grass	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	common hawthorn	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom^{1e}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	spurge laurel	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Daucus carota</i> (excluding ssp. <i>sativus</i>)	wild carrot	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	common teasel	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	myrtle spurge	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	knotweed, itadori^{1d}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	knotweed, giant^{1d}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Fallopia x bohemica</i>	knotweed, hybrid^{1d}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	lesser celandine	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> (excluding <i>F. vulgare</i> var. <i>azoricum</i>)	common fennel	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	shiny geranium^{1f}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb Robert	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Hedera helix</i> 'Baltica', <i>Hedera helix</i> 'Pittsburgh', <i>Hedera helix</i> 'Star'	ivy, common²	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	ivy, Atlantic	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Hieracium</i> , subgenus <i>Hieracium</i> (except <i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>)	hawkweeds, wall : all non-native species and hybrids of the wall subgenus except autumn hawkweed	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	common St. Johnswort^{1b}	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	common catsear	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	common holly^{2, 3} (except where commercially grown)	C-NonReg

NON-REGULATED CLASS B & C WEEDS CONTINUED...

✿	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	spotted jewelweed	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag iris	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	yellow archangel	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Lepidium appelianum</i>	hairy whitetop	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Lepidium draba</i>	hoary cress	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	oxeye daisy	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	yellow toadflax	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	spiked watermilfoil²	B-NonReg
	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> x <i>M.sibiricum</i>	spiked watermilfoil hybrid²	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	fragrant water lily	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	green alkanet	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	knotweed, garden^{1d, 2}	B-Selective
✿	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canarygrass	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	curly leaf pondweed	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	blackberry, Himalayan	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	blackberry, cutleaf²	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	common groundsel	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	white cockle	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>	buffalobur	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	common tansy	B-NonReg
	<i>Tripidium ravennae</i>	Ravenna grass	B-NonReg
✿	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	scentless mayweed	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> , <i>T. domingensis</i> , and <i>T. x glauca</i> (and any other nonnative <i>Typha</i> spp.)	cattail , nonnative species and hybrids	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>	ventenata	C-NonReg
✿	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	spiny cocklebur	C-NonReg

WEEDS OF CONCERN

The King County Weed Board also encourages control of non-native, invasive plants that are not on the state noxious weed list but have impacts in King County. Plants on this list are considered Invasive Vegetation in King County's Critical Areas Ordinance (KCC 21A.06.641C). Property owners are not required to control these plants. Education is being provided as authorized by RCW 17.10.090.

	Scientific name	Common name	Category
✿	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	harlequin maple; Norway maple	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	bishop's weed	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	horse chestnut	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	bur chervil	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Calystegia x lucana</i>	bindweed, large/hybrid	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>	silver lace vine	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i> , <i>L. latifolius</i>	introduced peavines	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	birdsfoot trefoil	Weed of Concern
✿	<i>Prunus avium</i>	bird cherry	Weed of Concern

WEEDS OF CONCERN CONTINUED...

☼	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	cherry laurel	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	buttercup, tall	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	buttercup, creeping	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	black locust	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	multiflora rose	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Rubus vestitus</i>	vested blackberry	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet nightshade	Weed of Concern
☼	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European mountain-ash	Weed of Concern

FOOTNOTES

1. County level specifications (*not statewide – regulations specific to King County*)

- Egeria: control required throughout King County except in Green Lake, Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Lake Union, Lake Fenwick, Lake Doloff and the Sammamish River.
- Common St. Johnswort: permit from KC Weed Board required to grow as a crop in King County.
- Poison hemlock: control required on all public lands and public & railroad rights-of-way within King County.
- Rough chervil; hanging sedge; hybrid, itadori, giant, and garden knotweeds: control required up to the ordinary high-water mark on the Green River and its tributaries upstream of the Auburn City Limits and on the Cedar River and its tributaries upstream of the Renton City Limits. 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 landowners who request assistance.
- Scotch broom: control required on the right-of-way of King County's section of SR-2 and on the I-90 right-of-way between mile marker 34 and the King/Kittitas County line.
- Shiny geranium: control required at any elevation equal to or greater than 1000 feet within King County.

2. [Listed common names changed within the last 4 years](#)

NEW Common Name (A-Z)	OLD Common Name	Scientific Name
ashen thistle	Turkish thistle	<i>Carduus cinereus</i>
autumn hawkweed	European hawkweed	<i>Hieracium sabaudum</i>
bean-caper	Syrian bean-caper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>
common holly	English holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
common ivy	English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> ssp.
cotton thistle	Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
cutleaf blackberry	evergreen blackberry	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>
garden knotweed	Himalayan knotweed	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>
hardheads	Russian knapweed	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
orange candleflower	Italian arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>
orange peel clematis	Oriental clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>
rush broom	Spanish broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
shore thistle	Italian thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
short-fringed knapweed	vochin knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>
smooth frogbit	South American spongeplant	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i>
soft broom	French broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
spiked watermilfoil	Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
toalote	Malta starthistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>
tussilago	European coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>

3. Change for 2025 list

Additions from state list: marsh thistle, roundleaf bittersweet, & common holly.

Questions? Email noxious.weeds@kingcounty.gov