



Overview of the Washington State Noxious Weed Law

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Wait, there's a noxious weed law
in Washington?

Does this have anything to do with
the new Washington weed law?



Washington has had a noxious weed law since 1881 in order to reduce the impact of introduced weeds

(and no, this has nothing to do with the other weed law)



Weeds don't obey property lines so Washington's noxious weed law shares the job among all landowners – public and private. All landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property.

State noxious weed law is designed to:

- Contain and eradicate new weeds when first detected in the state
- Prevent further spread of already established weeds to un-infested areas
- Allow flexibility of weed control at the county level for widespread weeds that are of local concern



Early detection and rapid response for new outbreaks



Containment and control to prevent further spread

Where would I find the actual law?

- [RCW 17.10](#), (Revised Code of Washington) is the state's basic weed law.
- The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) contains the rules and regulations needed to carry out the state law.
 - [WAC Chapter 16-750](#) includes the state Noxious Weed List, definitions and descriptions of region boundaries for Class B weeds, and the schedule of monetary penalties.
 - [WAC Chapter 16-752](#) describes the quarantine list maintained by the state Department of Agriculture. (The state law that calls for the creation and maintenance of the quarantine list is RCW 17.24.)

Washington's two weed lists

- **Noxious Weed List
(WAC 16-750)**

- Dictates which weeds need to be controlled statewide or in particular counties or regions
- Passed by the State Weed Board, administered by county noxious weed boards
- **Not all Noxious Weeds must be controlled; varies by county**

For preventing spread of weeds from existing infestations

- **State Prohibited Plants List
(WAC 16-752 – Quarantine List)**

- Determines what can't be sold
- Determined by WSDA and administered by WSDA's Nursery Inspection Program
- Goal is to prevent introduction of new weeds
- **Not all Noxious Weeds are Prohibited Plants**

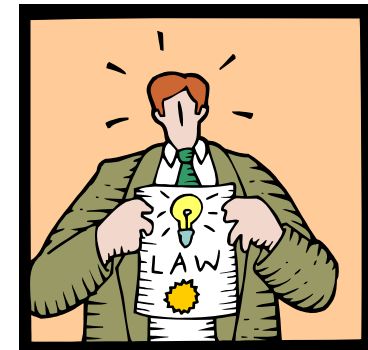
For preventing spread of weeds through sale and transport

Some differences between Noxious Weed List and Quarantine List

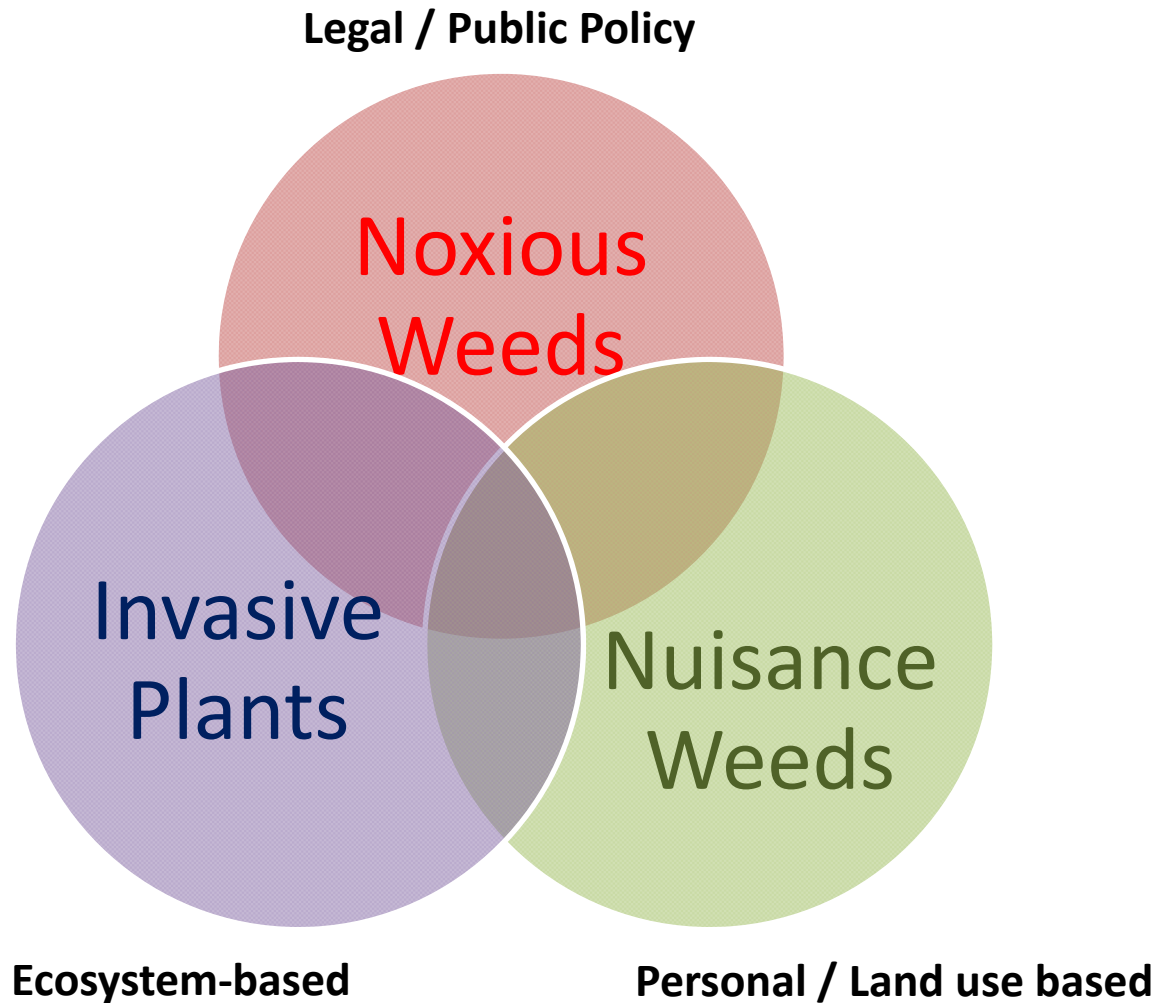
Species	Noxious Weed List	Quarantine List
Giant Hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>)	Class A	Yes
Knotweed (<i>Polygonum bohemicum, et al</i>)	Class B Non-Regulated	Yes
Orange Hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)	Class B Regulated	Yes
Parrotfeather (<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>)	Class B Regulated	Yes
Policeman's Helmet (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>)	Class B Regulated	Yes
Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	Class B Regulated	Yes
Scotch Broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)	Class B Non-Regulated	Yes
Spanish Broom (<i>Spartium junceum</i>)	Class A	Yes
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)	Class B Non-Regulated	No
Common Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>)	Class B Non-Regulated	No
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix, H. hibernica</i>)	Class C Non-Regulated	No
Fragrant Water Lily (<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>)	Class C Non-Regulated	No
Lesser Celandine (<i>Ficaria verna</i>)	Class B Non-Regulated	No
Old Man's Beard (<i>Clematis vitalba</i>)	Class C Non-Regulated	No
Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>)	Class B Non-Regulated	No
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	Class C Non-Regulated	No

So, What is a Noxious Weed?

- Invasive, non-native plant that threatens agricultural crops, human health, local ecosystems, natural resources and/or fish and wildlife habitat
 - **NON-NATIVE + HARMFUL = NOXIOUS WEED**
- Classified based on how widespread they are in Washington
 - **Class A, Class B and Class C**
- Property owners are required to control selected species based on their county's noxious weed list
 - **County weed lists are a subset of the state list**
 - **Weeds are regulated only where eradication or containment is possible**
- Not all weeds or invasive plants are on the noxious weed list but counties can educate about additional species



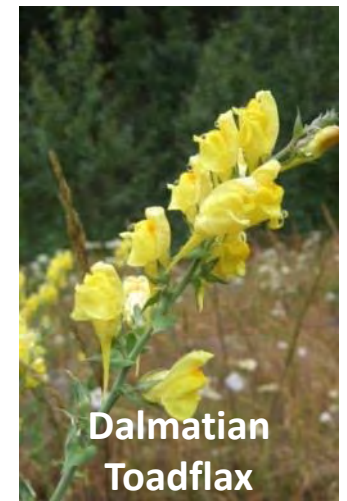
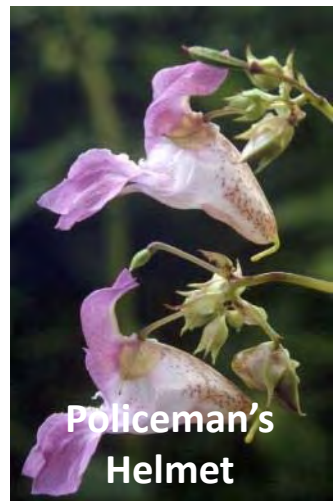
Weed labels depend on goals



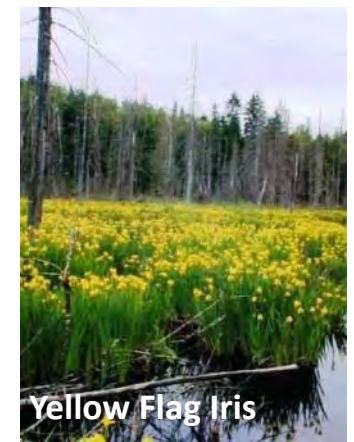
Categories on King County Weed List

- **Class A Weeds**
 - Control required statewide, still a chance to eradicate
 - Examples: garlic mustard, giant hogweed
- **Class B and C Regulated Weeds**
 - Control required in King County, still have a chance to stop them from getting established locally
 - Examples: spotted knapweed, policeman's helmet
- **Non-Regulated Noxious Weeds and Weeds of Concern**
 - We educate about these species but control is not required in King County
 - Non-regulated noxious weeds are on state noxious weed list
 - Weeds of concern are not on state list and are not noxious weeds
 - Examples:
 - Noxious weeds: English ivy, butterfly bush, Scotch broom
 - Weeds of concern: English holly, multiflora rose, bittersweet nightshade

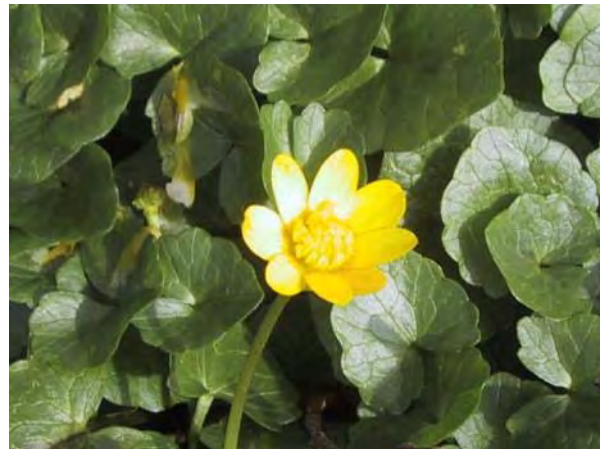
Most Abundant Regulated Noxious Weeds in King County



Examples of Non-Regulated Weeds in King County



A Few Garden Escapees on the State Noxious Weed List



Giant Hogweed

(Heracleum mantegazzianum)

**Class A Noxious
Weed**



**15 feet tall with a stout,
purple-blotched stem,
white umbrella-shaped
flower clusters, and giant,
jagged leaves**



Caution: Giant Hogweed Can Cause Burns

- Juice of giant hogweed contains skin toxins
- Causes skin to be hypersensitive to sunlight
- Burns occur when skin is exposed to sunlight, even a day or two after contact with hogweed
- Causes blisters followed by purplish-dark blotches that persist and can continue to be sun-sensitive for several years
- Washing or flushing with water before sap dries can help reduce blisters
- People vary in their sensitivity



Sap from hogweed causes painful burns

Giant Hogweed ID



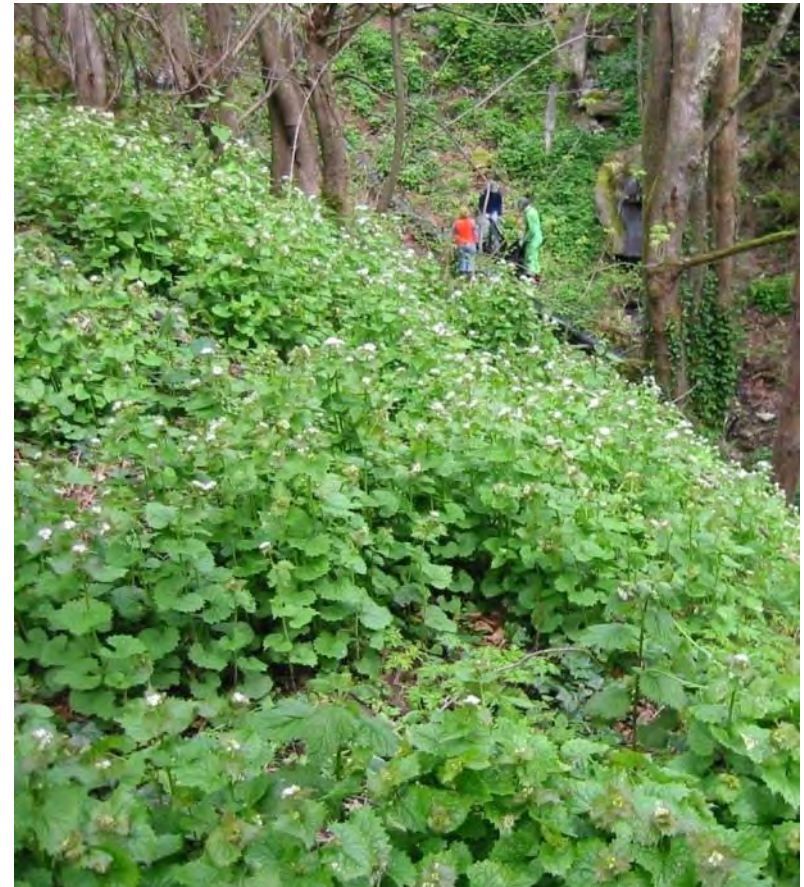


Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



Garlic mustard is an edible European species that harms trees and our local flora and fauna and has no natural enemies in North America.



A single garlic mustard seed can populate a large area in a very short time!!

**Class A Noxious
Weed**

Garlic Mustard Impacts



In forests, garlic mustard spreads up to 120 feet in one year. It inhibits tree growth through negative impacts on beneficial fungi and has no natural enemies in North America.



Now spreading on the Cedar River and Coal Creek area, garlic mustard is on the move in King County

Garlic Mustard Identification



- Small white flowers with 4 petals
- Lower leaves rounded
- Upper leaves longer, more like triangles
- Garlic smell when crushed



- Thin seed pods
- Curved roots

Garlic mustard has lots of look-a-likes



Garlic Mustard
(*Alliaria petiolata*)

Leaves are thin and smooth



Nipplewort
(*Lapsana communis*)



Money Plant
(*Lunaria annua*)



Large-leaf Aven
(*Geum macrophyllum*)



Fringecup
(*Tellima grandiflora*)

Leaves on most of the look-a-likes are fuzzy

Early detection is the best hope for stopping garlic mustard



Over an acre of garlic mustard in Coal Creek Natural Area discovered by its garlic smell



Once established, garlic mustard is very hard to eradicate

Garlic Mustard: How Bad Can it Get?



The green covering on the forest floor on the Bartell stream bank in Peoria is almost entirely garlic mustard.
Photo credit: Adam Davis, University of Illinois. <http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Garlic-Mustard-Streambank.jpg>

Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*)

Class A/B
Noxious
Weed



Shiny Geranium
(*Geranium lucidum*)



Herb-Robert
(*Geranium robertianum*)



Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*)

Class A
Noxious
Weed



Image © 2009, G. D. Carr

Shiny Geranium in Oregon Oak Woodland



Shiny Geranium at Thornton Creek Project



Also, in garden containers at a
Seattle apartment building



Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)



- Floating perennial
- Small yellow flowers with distinctive fringes
- 2 to 5 flowers per stalk
- Heart-shaped or round leaves, wavy margins, often purplish underneath





Yellow Floating Heart on Vashon Island



Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*)

- Groundcover that is only visible in the spring
- Low-growing, dark green, succulent, shiny, heart-shaped leaves
- Flowers symmetrical, bright yellow, 8 to 12 petals, borne singly on delicate stalks that rise above the leaves
 - Green sepals in addition to yellow petals (unlike marsh marigold)
- Flowers March through May
- By June, foliage is gone and only tubers remain
- Also called fig buttercup or *Ranunculus ficaria*



Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*)



How Lesser Celandine Spreads

- Tiny cream colored **bulblets** are produced in stem axils later in the flowering period
- Abundant fingerlike **tubers** are produced by the roots and are easily visible when plants are pulled up





Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board



Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board



Laurel Baldwin, Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board

Lesser Celandine's
Vanishing Act:
February (top left),
April (top right) and
July (bottom left)

Note: these plants were not
controlled, they just go dormant.

Info on Noxious Weeds in King County:

www.kingcounty.gov/weeds

Weed Photo Page:

Search by Weed Name

Annual bugloss	▲	Abutilon theophrasti	▲
Bighead knapweed	▬	Acroptilon repens	▬
Bittersweet nightshade	▬	Alliaria petiolata	▬
Black knapweed	▼	Anchusa arvensis	▼

Click thumbnail picture to get more information and photos



bighead
knapweed