



Buddleja davidii

WA – Class B Noxious Weed

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

Butterfly Bush

Summer Lilac, Orange Eye

Family: Buddlejaceae

Origins: Native to China, the Butterfly Bush was first introduced into Great Britain in the 1800s. It is currently one of the “top 20 invasive weeds” of Great Britain and is found on every continent except Antarctica.

Range: Found throughout much of the United States.

Habitat: Commonly cultivated as a garden ornamental, Butterfly Bush also grows near roadsides, riverbanks, gravel bars, and disturbed areas. It is capable of establishing in a low-nutrient substrate and is drought tolerant.

Impact: Butterfly Bush produces up to 3 million seed per plant, which can remain viable for five years and are easily dispersed by the wind and water. Butterfly Bush can reach maturity in less than one year, which allows it to spread quickly, forming dense thickets that discourage native vegetation.

Description: Butterfly Bush is a large, deciduous shrub with arching branches reaching a height of 15 feet. Flower clusters form upright or nodding spikes or cones at the end of stems, reaching a length between 4 to 10 inches. Individual flowers have four petals and are commonly purple with an orange center.

Young stems are green, while older stems have peeling, gray-brown bark. The leaves are oppositely arranged, lance-shaped or egg-shaped, and may reach 10 inches long and 1 to 3 inches wide. Leaves are green to blue-gray above and whitish below due to small fuzzy hairs.

Common Look-Alikes: Common Lilac.



Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the combined use of various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. See the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed’s IPM Resources & Strategy Guide for more information or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

Non-Herbicide Control

<p>Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)</p>	<p>Cutting alone is not effective, Butterfly Bush will quickly re-sprout when cut at the base. Young shrubs can be dug up, although this is not recommended for well-established populations.</p>
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Cultural	Consider alternative plants for your landscape, such as the California or Common Lilac, which are showy shrubs that attract butterflies and bees, and can grow in both shade and sun.
Biological	Goats will eat Butterfly Bush and can damage it; however, they will not kill or eradicate this plant.

Herbicide Control: Cut Stem Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	Timing: Spring to the growing plant, before flowers are in full bloom. Remarks: Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Glyphosate to the freshly cut surface; do not apply near water.
Triclopyr Ester/ Triclopyr Amine (Garlon 4 / Garlon 3A, Remedy)	Timing: Spring to the growing plant, before flowers are in full bloom. Remarks: Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Triclopyr to the freshly cut surface; Garlon products are registered for range & pastures, non-crop areas, rights-of-way, industrial sites, and forestry sites; do not apply near water.
Imazapyr (Imazapyr, Arsenal, Habitat)	Timing: Spring to the growing plant, before flowers are in full bloom. Remarks: Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Imazapyr to the freshly cut surface; do not apply near water.

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

Information for this control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.