



*Amorpha fruticosa*

WA – Class B Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

OR – Class B Noxious Weed

## Indigobush

False Indigo, Ibush, Lead Plant

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Origins:** Native to central and eastern United States, Indigobush was first documented in Washington in 1893.

**Range:** Found throughout much of the United States. In Washington and Oregon, infestations are denser near the Columbia River.

**Habitat:** Commonly found along streams and rivers, in prairies, hillsides, and sandy roadsides.

**Impact:** Indigobush forms dense impenetrable thickets in riparian areas that crowd out native wildlife communities. It reproduces by seed and vegetatively from suckers and cuttings. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to five years; they move downstream, stick to people, and transfer on equipment.

**Description:** Indigobush is a thornless, deciduous, multiple stem shrub that can grow to over 12 feet tall. Stems are erect and commonly branched near the tips. Leaves are deciduous and alternately arranged on stems. Leaves are made up of 13 to 25 leaflets, which are one to two inches long. They are gland-dotted and hairy with smooth margins.

Blue-violet to dark purple flowers are in dense, upright clusters in the upper branches. Leaves emerge in the spring, and flowers typically bloom from May to July, depending on environmental conditions. Seed pods contain one or two seeds in a small, dark brown, curved pod. Pods are dotted with glands, develop in summer, and mature by fall.

**Common Look-Alikes:** Spirea, Purple Loosestrife, Bristly Locust, Clammy Locust, Black Locust.

*\* Indigobush contains alkaloids that are toxic to humans and livestock.*



### Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines 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. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

#### Non-Herbicide Control

<p><b>Mechanical</b> (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)</p>	<p>Seedlings or small plants may be dug out of the ground. Cutting plants may result in re-sprouting stems. Repeated cutting may be used to control seed production each year.</p>
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<b>Cultural</b>	Maintaining healthy, desirable vegetation can prevent Indigobush infestations.
<b>Biological</b>	Biological agents are currently not available for Indigobush in Washington State.

### **Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment**

<b>Aminopyralid</b> (Milestone)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants prior to the bloom stage or in late summer. <b>Remarks:</b> Many desirable plants can be seriously injured or killed; using a non-ionic surfactant will help enhance control under adverse conditions; do not apply near the root zone of desirable trees; do not compost plant material that has been sprayed by this product; do not use manure from fields that have been sprayed with this product; do not apply near water.
<b>Clopyralid</b> (Transline, Stinger)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants prior to the bloom stage. <b>Remarks:</b> Consult label for site registration; may injure or kill sensitive broadleaf forages; do not contaminate water.

### **Herbicide Control: Cut Stump Treatment**

<b>Glyphosate</b> (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	<b>Timing:</b> Spring to the growing plants before flowers are in full bloom. <b>Remarks:</b> Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Glyphosate to the freshly cut surface; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
<b>Imazapyr</b> (Imazapyr, Arsenal, Habitat)	<b>Timing:</b> Spring to the growing plants before flowers are in full bloom. <b>Remarks:</b> Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Imazapyr to the freshly cut surface; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
<b>Triclopyr +2,4-D</b> (Crossbow, Crossroad, Brush Killer)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants. <b>Remarks:</b> Observe all grazing and harvesting restrictions; avoid drift to sensitive crops; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

\* 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.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), [nwcb.wa.gov](http://nwcb.wa.gov). Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.