

Noxious Weeds are non-native plants introduced to Washington State that can be highly destructive, competitive, and difficult to control once established. These plants invade our croplands, rangeland, forests, parks, landscapes, roadsides, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and estuaries causing both ecological and economical damage that impact us all. Noxious weeds can:

- Lower crop yields
- Reduce forage quality
- Destroy plant and animal habitat
- Displace native plants
- Reduce recreational opportunities (fishing, hunting, swimming and hiking)
- Clog waterways
- Decrease land values
- Increase erosion and wildfire risk
- Be toxic to humans and livestock

RCW 17.10, Washington State's Noxious Weed Law, establishes all property owners' responsibility to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds. Since plants grow without regard to property lines or political jurisdictions, everyone's cooperation is needed - private citizens, businesses, government agencies, and all other landowners have a role to play. Washington's noxious weed laws spell out these responsibilities and create the government infrastructure needed to educate citizens and ensure that the laws are respected. In accordance with RCW 17.10 Cowlitz County activated our Noxious Weed Control Board in 1974.

Our Mission

"To protect lands within Cowlitz County from the degrading impacts of invasive and noxious weed species by educating residents, landowners, land managers, county departments, city governments, and state and federal agencies to be responsible stewards."

Noxious Weed Classification

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts a State Noxious Weed List each year (WAC 16-750) to help protect our local resources and economy. This list classifies noxious weed species into three major classes based on the extent of invasion and the significance of the threat they pose to Washington State. This classification system:

- Prevents small infestations from expanding by eradicating them at first detection;
- Restricts established weed populations to regions of the state where they occur and prevents their spread to new areas;
- Allows flexibility in weed control at the local level for widespread weeds.

Class A Weeds

Non-native, invasive species with limited distribution. The statewide goal is to prevent them from advancing in Washington.

Landowners are required to completely eradicate all Class A weeds.

Class B Weeds

Non-native, invasive species presently limited to portions of the state. The statewide goal is to "draw the line" around and contain infested regions, to keep these noxious weeds from spreading into new areas. Species are **designated** for control in regions where they are not yet widespread. In regions where a Class B species is already abundant, control is decided at the local level, with containment as the primary goal.

Landowners are required to control Class B weeds based on state and local priorities.

Class C Weeds

Noxious weeds that are typically widespread in Washington State, or are of special interest to the state's agricultural industry. The Class C status allows counties to require control if locally desired. Other counties may choose to provide education or technical consultation.

Landowners are required to control some Class C weeds based on local priorities.

Contact us to report noxious weeds or to learn more about controlling noxious weeds in Cowlitz County:

Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board

207 4th Ave N. Room 103
Kelso, WA 98626
360-577-3117

Email: noxiousweeds@cowlitzwa.gov

Website: co.cowlitz.wa.us/noxiousweeds



For information at the state level, contact:

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

P.O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
360-725-5764

Email: noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov

Website: nwcb.wa.gov

or:

Washington State Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
360-902-1800

Website: agr.wa.gov



2026 Cowlitz County Noxious Weed List

List arranged alphabetically by:
Class & Common Name



Class A Noxious Weeds (Eradication required)

Common Crupina	<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>
Cordgrass, Common	<i>Spartina anglica</i>
Cordgrass, Dense-Flowered	<i>Spartina densiflora</i>
Cordgrass, Saltmeadow	<i>Spartina patens</i>
Cordgrass, Smooth	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>
Delta Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>
Dyer's Woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>
*Eggleaf Spurge	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>
*False Brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Floating Primrose-Willow	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>
Flowering Rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
French Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
*Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
*Giant Hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
Goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
*Knapweed, Bighead	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>
Knapweed, Vochin	<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Meadow Clary	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>
Oriental Clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>
Palmer Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>
Purple Starthistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>
Reed Sweetgrass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>
Ricefield Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus mucronatus</i>
Round Leaf Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Sage, Clary	<i>Salvia sclarea</i>
Sage, Mediterranean	<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>
Silverleaf Nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
Small-Flowered Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>
South American Spongeplant	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i>
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>
Sunflower Broomrape	<i>Orobanche cumana</i>
Syrian Bean-Caper	<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i>
Texas Blueweed	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>
*Thistle, Italian	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
*Thistle, Milk	<i>Silybum marianum</i>
*Thistle, Slenderflower	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>
*Thistle, Turkish	<i>Carduus cinereus</i>
Variable-Leaf Milfoil + Hybrids	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>
Waterhemp	<i>Amaranthus tuberculatus</i>
Wild Four O'Clock	<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>

Class B Noxious Weeds

Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>
*Brazilian Elodea	<i>Egeria densa</i>
Bugloss, Annual	<i>Lycopsis arvensis</i>
*Bugloss, Common	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>
*Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Camelthorn	<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>
*Common Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Except bulbing fennel	
*Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Non-native genotypes only	
*Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
*Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica</i>
*Eurasian Watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
*European Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>
*Fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
*Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Grass-Leaved Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>
Hairy Willow-Herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
*Hanging Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i> subsp. <i>pendula</i> and <i>Agastachys</i> .
Hawkweed Oxtongue	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>
*Hawkweed, Orange	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
*Hawkweeds	Non-native & hybrids, Meadow & Wall subgenus <i>Hieracium</i> , subgenus <i>Pilosella</i> and <i>Hieracium</i>
*Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hoary Alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
*Indigobush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
Knapweed, Black	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Knapweed, Brown	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>
*Knapweed, Diffuse	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
*Knapweed, Meadow	<i>Centaurea x gerstlaueri</i>
Knapweed, Russian	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>
*Knapweed, Spotted	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>
*Knotweed, Bohemian	<i>Fallopia x bohémica</i>
*Knotweed, Giant	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>
*Knotweed, Himalayan	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>
*Knotweed, Japanese	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Kochia	<i>Bassia scoparia</i>
*Lesser Celandine	<i>Ficaria verna</i>
Loosestrife, Garden	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
*Loosestrife, Purple	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Loosestrife, Wand	<i>Lythrum virgatum</i>
Malta Starthistle	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>
*Parrotfeather	<i>Microphyll aquaticum</i>

KEY Bold = Required for control * = Documented in Cowlitz County

*Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
*Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
*Policeman's Helmet	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
*Puncturevine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
*Ravenna Grass	<i>Tripidium ravennae</i>
Rough Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>
*Rush Skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
*Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>
*Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Control required, esp. rights-of-way, posing fire danger near structures, and/or threatening agricultural/forest lands.	
*Shiny Geranium	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>
Spurge Flax	<i>Thymelaea passerina</i>
*Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>
Spurge, Leafy	<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>
*Spurge, Myrtle	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>
Sulfur Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
*Tansy Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>
Thistle, Musk	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Thistle, Plumeless	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
*Thistle, Scotch	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
*Velvetleaf	<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>
*Water Primrose	<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>
*White Bryony	<i>Bryonia alba</i>
*Wild Basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
*Wild Chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
*Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>
*Yellow Floatingheart	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>
*Yellow Nutsedge	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>
Yellow Starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>

Class C Noxious Weeds

Absinth Wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
Austrian Fieldcress	<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>
Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>
Beach Grasses (European, American, and hybrid)	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i> , <i>A. breviflulata</i> , and hybrid
Black Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
Blackgrass	<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>
*Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
*Buffalobur	<i>Solanum rostratum</i>
Cereal Rye	<i>Secale cereale</i>
Common Barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>
*Common Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
*Common Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>

*Common Holly, except Commercially grown	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
*Common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
*Common Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
*Curlyleaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
*English Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
*English Ivy (Four cultivars)	<i>Hedera helix</i> 'Baltica', 'Pittsburgh', and 'Star'; <i>H. hibernica</i> 'Hibernica'.
*Eurasian Watermilfoil Hybrid	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> x <i>M. sibiricum</i>
*Evergreen Blackberry	<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>
*Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
*Fragrant Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>
*Green Alkanet	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>
Hairy Whitetop	<i>Lepidium appelianum</i>
*Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>
Containment required; control along property lines.	
Hoary Cress	<i>Lepidium draba</i>
*Italian Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>
Japanese Eelgrass	<i>Nanozostera japonica</i>
Jointed Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>
*Jubata Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>
*Lawnweed	<i>Soliva sessilis</i>
*Longspine Sandbur	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
*Non-native Cattail Species	<i>Typha</i> spp. & hybrids
*Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
*Old Man's Beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
*Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
*Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
*Perennial Sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i> ssp. <i>arvensis</i>
*Reed Canarygrass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
*Scentless Mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>
Smoothseed Alfalfa Dodder	<i>Cuscuta approximata</i>
Spikeweed	<i>Centromadia pungens</i>
Spiny Cocklebur	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>
*Spotted Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Swainsonpea	<i>Sphaerophysa salsula</i>
*Thistle, Bull	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
*Thistle, Canada	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
*Tree-of-Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
*Ventenata	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>
*White Cockle	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
*Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i> Exclude <i>Sativus</i> .
*Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
*Yellow Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>