



IDENTIFYING HIGH PRIORITY WEED TARGETS

What are “noxious” weeds? “Noxious” weed is a legal term under RCW 17.10, that refers to plants that when established, are highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices. The WA State Noxious Weed Control Board is responsible for determining which plants are listed under the law as noxious weeds. The law requires landowners to eradicate, control and prevent the spread of certain noxious weeds.

What are invasive plants of special concern? “Invasive plant of special concern”, for the purposes of this plan, means an invasive plant identified as a threat by the US Department of Agriculture, the Washington Departments of Agriculture and Ecology, or the Washington Invasive Species Council. An invasive plant of special concern may be targeted when it is in the early stages of invasion or when it poses a serious threat.

In the IRWM plan weeds are categorized and assigned a priority as follows:

Category 1 weeds are Class A, B designate, and selected B or C noxious weeds, additional noxious weeds and invasive species of special concern that are very limited in distribution, and newly discovered invaders that were previously unknown in the county (EDRR - early detection, rapid response).

- Category 1 weeds are the *highest priority* for control.

Category 2 weeds are noxious weeds that are widespread, but of particular concern to the general public or an affected public entity. Category 2 weed infestations will be added to the annual work plan in an effort to methodically reduce widespread weeds over time and to accommodate requests.

Category 3 weeds are those that are so widespread they are generally considered naturalized or a nuisance. Control is not considered feasible.

- Category 3 weeds are tolerated unless they pose a special threat.

The following abbreviations are used in the "status" column in the Weed Table:

ISSC = Invasive Species of Special Concern

NCR = Noxious, Control Required

NR = Noxious, Rare

NW = Noxious, Widespread

WR = Weedy, Rare

WW = Weedy, Widespread

The Weed Table contains known roadside weeds for Clallam County. The table is arranged to show which weeds are the highest priority for control based on potential economic or environmental impacts and feasibility for control. The list is not comprehensive and will change as conditions change.

Weed Table: Known roadside weeds in Clallam County.

Common Name	Category	Status	Threat
alyssum, hoary	1	NCR	Aggressive invader in fields of forage crops; toxic to horses
bindweed, field	1	NR	Seriously interferes with agriculture
brome, ripgut	1	ISSC	Long seed awns cause injury to nose and eyes of grazing animals; known to occur in Clallam County, but not on roadsides; will be treated under EDRR protocol if observed.
butterfly bush	1	NR	Invades natural areas; dense stands crowd out native vegetation in riparian areas and interfere with natural succession
cheatgrass or downy brome	1	ISSC	Depletes soil moisture in early spring; fire hazard in summer; known to occur in Clallam County, but not on roadsides; will be treated under EDRR protocol if observed.
chicory	1	ISSC	Only found in the Dungeness Valley where it is starting to spread
cinquefoil, sulfur	1	NCR	Not readily grazed by livestock and wildlife; forms dense stands
comfrey	1	ISSC	Used medicinally for poultices; liver damage when ingested; can form dense stands; difficult to control once established
fennel, common*	1	NCR	Dense stands exclude native vegetation
hawkweed, orange	1	NCR	Dense stands exclude other species; bitter and unpalatable, little forage for livestock and wildlife
herb Robert	1	N**	Spreads rapidly; displaces native herbaceous plants; allelopathic, inhibits the germination of small seeded forbs in forest understory
hogweed, giant	1	NCR*	Skin contact with sap causes severe dermatitis and blistering on people and animals
knapweed, diffuse	1	NCR*	Spreads seed by tumbling; prickly flower heads; unpalatable after early spring
knapweed, meadow	1	NCR	Outcompetes pasture species; degrades wildlife habitat; interferes with agriculture
knapweed, spotted	1	NCR	Allelopathic plant that can inhibit the germination of grasses; forms dense stands that exclude desired plants and wildlife
knotweed, Bohemian	1	NCR	Easily spreads by disturbance; dense colonies eliminate other plant species and can degrade fish habitat; causes structural damage to human structures
knotweed, giant	1	NCR	Easily spreads by disturbance; dense colonies eliminate other plant species and can degrade fish habitat; causes structural damage to human structures
knotweed, Japanese	1	NCR	Easily spreads by disturbance; dense colonies eliminate other plant species and can degrade fish habitat; causes structural damage to human structures
laurel, spurge	1	NR	Toxic to humans and animals; contact with plants can cause dermatitis
loosestrife, purple	1	NCR*	Dense stands eliminate other plant species; poor palatability; degrades wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing areas.
old man's beard	1	NR	Climbing growth smothers other plants, even trees
poison hemlock	1	NCR	Highly toxic to humans and animals; all parts of the plant are toxic; severe birth defects
ribbon grass	1	NR	Aggressive invader displaces other plants in wet sites; an ornamental form of reed

Common Name	Category	Status	Threat
			canarygrass; may also be used as a source for psychedelic drugs
tansy ragwort	1	NCR	Poisonous to horses, cattle, and pigs; animals grazing tansy can produce tainted milk, may result in potentially toxic residue in honey
tansy, common	1	NR	Dense stands degrade forage value; toxicity issues for humans and livestock
teasel, common	1	NCR	Forms dense stands of prickly, unpalatable plants; degrades habitat and reduces accessibility
whitetop, hairy	1	NR	Monocultures displace desirable plants; unpalatable; can be toxic to cattle
wormwood, absinth	1	NR	Aggressive invader, will outcompete desirable forbs and grasses in pastures, fields and native grasslands; plants have a strong bitter taste and odor, may affect milk quality
blackberry, evergreen	2	NW	Dense canopies crowd out native species; impenetrable barrier
blackberry, Himalayan	2	NW	Dense canopies crowd out native species; impenetrable barrier
broom, Scotch	2	NW	Forms dense stands; unpalatable; interferes with forest regeneration; fire hazard; scent can exacerbate human grass allergies; seeds are toxic to horses and livestock
burdock, common	2	WR	Forms large rosettes; hooked spines on seeds become entangled in fur of animals
canarygrass, reed	2	NW	Unpalatable unless young, dense stands crowd out native plants; especially difficult to control; serious wetland invader; can stop the process of succession in riparian sites, impedes tree seedling establishment
carrot, wild	2	NW	Damages agricultural commodity as it may cross pollinate with domestic carrot, seriously degrading the quality of commercial carrot seed production
iris, yellow flag	2	NR	Toxic to humans and animals; displaces vegetation at wet margins of ditches, ponds, and lakes; plant resins can cause skin irritation in humans
peavine, everlasting	2	ISSC	Forms dense thickets; can be toxic to livestock; seeds poisonous; seriously interferes with forest regeneration
thistle, bull	2	NW	Aggressive competitor, unpalatable for cattle
thistle, Canada	2	NW	Aggressive competitor, unpalatable; decreases forage; host species for several agricultural pests
bindweed, hedge	3	WW	
buttercup, creeping	3	WW	
catsear, common	3	NW	Crowds out palatable forage species
clover, various	3	WW	
daisy, oxeye	3	NW	Livestock avoid grazing; milk from dairy cows has unpleasant flavor
dandelion, common	3	WW	
horsetail	3	WW	
orchard grass and other pasture grasses	3	WW	
St Johnswort, common	3	NW	Causes photo-sensitization when grazed; toxic at all stages of growth

*No active sites, but previously documented; **Insufficient distribution information