

To learn more about noxious weeds and noxious weed control in Island County, please contact:



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2021 ISLAND COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST

(arranged alphabetically by common name)



Bull thistle
Cirsium vulgare

Class C Regulated Weed in Island County

The control of noxious weeds is a community effort

WHAT ARE NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that are highly destructive, competitive, and difficult to control. They can reduce crop yields, destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational areas, clog waterways, lower land values, and poison humans and livestock.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

People have introduced non-native species both intentionally, such as in gardens or for erosion control, or accidentally, such as in contaminated seed mixes, hay, aquarium plants, or other materials. A small number of these introduced species have turned out to be highly invasive and damaging. Noxious weeds now occur in all parts of Island County.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Each year, these plants cost Washington State millions of dollars in lost agricultural production, environmental degradation, and maintenance costs. Once invasive plants become established, it is very expensive to eradicate them. In natural areas, it may not even be feasible to remove them once they take hold.

WHAT IS THE NOXIOUS WEED LAW?

Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires landowners - including city, county and state land agencies - to control or eradicate certain noxious weeds that occur on their property. The county noxious weed program is available to provide information on identification and control methods. Landowners can choose the control method they feel is most appropriate for their property. Noxious weeds affect everyone. Weeds do not obey property lines and jurisdictional boundaries. It takes a coordinated effort to prevent new noxious weeds from establishing and to control and eradicate the weeds already here. The noxious weed law provides a way to effectively stop the spread of the new and most damaging weeds.

WHICH WEEDS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED?

To help protect the State's resources and economy, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts a state noxious weed list each year (WAC 16-750) that categorizes weeds as Class A, B, or C based on distribution in the state, abundance, and level of threat (how dangerous the plant is to humans, animals, private and public lands, and native habitats). Each county weed board then passes a county weed list that specifies which weeds landowners are required to control in that county. The county list includes at minimum all Class A weeds and those Class B and C weeds that landowners are required to control in that county, and sometimes additional weeds that are recommended for control.

Weeds of Concern

The following plant species are not listed as noxious weeds under state law and property owners are not required to control them. However, the Island County Noxious Weed control board recognizes these non-native plants as invasive, recommends control or containment of existing populations, and discourages new plantings.

Common Name	Scientific Name
English Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Yellow Bush Lupine	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>



Scotch broom flower, *Cytisus scoparius*, a class B non-regulated noxious weed in Island County

2021 Island County Noxious Weed List

Regulated Class A Weeds

These weeds are the highest priority in the state due to their significant potential impact and limited distribution. Property owners throughout Washington are required to eradicate Class A weeds.

Common Name	Scientific Name
common crupina	Crupina vulgaris
cordgrass, common	Spartina anglica
cordgrass, denseflowered	Spartina densiflora
cordgrass, saltmeadow	Spartina patens
cordgrass, smooth	Spartina alterniflora
dyer's woad	Isatis tinctoria
South American Spongeplant	Limnobium laevigatum
eggleaf spurge	Euphorbia oblongata
false brome	Brachypodium sylvaticum
floating primrose-willow	Ludwigia peploides
flowering rush	Butomus unbellatus
French broom	Genista monspessulana
garlic mustard	Alliaria petiolata
giant hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum
goatsrue	Galega officinalis
hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata
Johnsongrass	Sorghum halepense
knapweed, bighead	Centaurea macrocephala
knapweed, Vochin	Centaurea nigrescens
kudzu	Pueraria montana var. lobata
meadow clary	Salvia pratensis
oriental clematis	Clematis orientalis
purple starthistle	Centaurea calcitrapa
Ravenna grass	Tripidium ravennae
reed sweetgrass	Glyceria maxima
ricefield bulrush	Schoenoplectus mucronatus
sage, clary	Salvia sclarea
sage, Mediterranean	Salvia aethiopsis
silverleaf nightshade	Solanum elaeagnifolium
Small flowered jewelweed	Impatiens parviflora
Spanish broom	Spartium junceum
Syrian beancaper	Zygophyllum fabago
Texas blueweed	Helianthus ciliaris
thistle, Italian	Carduus pycnocephalus
thistle, milk	Silybum marianum
thistle, slenderflower	Carduus tenuiflorus
thistle, Turkish	Carduus cinereus
variable-leaf milfoil	Myriophyllum heterophyllum
wild four o'clock	Mirabilis nyctaginea

Regulated Class B Weeds

Class B noxious weeds are regulated in counties where they are limited in distribution or where they are a local priority. The following Class B weeds have been designated for control in Island County by the State Weed Board or selected by the Island County Weed Board. Property owners in Island County are required to control these species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
blueweed	Echium vulgare
Brazilian elodea	Egeria densa
bugloss, annual	Lycopsis arvensis
bugloss, common	Anchusa officinalis
camelthorn	Alhagi maurorum
common fennel, (except bulbing fennel)	Foeniculum vulgare (except F. vulgare var. azoricum)
common reed (non-native genotypes)	Phragmites australis
Dalmatian toadflax	Linaria dalmatica ssp. dal-
European Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara
Eurasian watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum
fanwort	Cabomba caroliniana
gorse	Ulex europaeus
grass-leaved arrowhead	Sagittaria graminea
hairy willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum
hawkweed, oxtongue	Picris hieracioides
hawkweed, orange	Hieracium aurantiacum
hawkweeds: All nonnative species and hybrids of the meadow subgenus	Hieracium, subgenus Pilosella
hawkweeds: All nonnative species and hybrids of the wall subgenus	Hieracium, subgenus Hieracium
hoary alyssum	Berteroa incana
houndstongue	Cynoglossum officinale
indigobush	Amorpha fruticosa
knapweed, black	Centaurea nigra
knapweed, brown	Centaurea jacea
knapweed, diffuse	Centaurea diffusa
knapweed, meadow	Centaurea x gerstlaueri
knapweed, Russian	Rhaponticum repens
knapweed, spotted	Centaurea stoebe
knotweed, Bohemian	Fallopia x bohemicum
knotweed, giant	Fallopia sachalinensis
knotweed, Himalayan	Persicaria wallichii
knotweed, Japanese	Fallopia japonica
kochia	Bassia scoparia
loosestrife, garden	Lysimachia vulgaris
loosestrife, purple	Lythrum salicaria
loosestrife, wand	Lythrum virgatum
Malta Starthistle	Centaurea melitensis
parrotfeather	Myriophyllum aquaticum
perennial pepperweed	Lepidium latifolium
poison hemlock	Conium maculatum

REGULATED CLASS B WEEDS (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name
policeman's helmet	Impatiens glandulifera
puncturevine	Tribulus terrestris
rush skeletonweed	Chondrilla juncea
saltcedar	Tamarix ramosissima
shiny geranium	Geranium lucidum
Spurge Flax	Thymelaea passerina
spurge laurel	Daphne laureola
spurge, leafy	Euphorbia virgata
spurge, myrtle	Euphorbia myrsinites
sulfur cinquefoil	Potentilla recta
tansy ragwort	Jacobaea vulgaris
thistle, musk	Carduus nutans
thistle, plumeless	Carduus acanthoides
thistle, Scotch	Onopordum acanthium
velvetleaf	Abutilon theophrasti
water primrose	Ludwigia hexapetala
white bryony	Bryonia alba
wild chervil	Anthriscus sylvestris
yellow archangel	Lamium galeobdolon
yellow floating heart	Nymphoides peltata
yellow nutsedge	Cyperus esculentus
yellow starthistle	Centaurea solstitialis

Regulated Class C Weeds

Class C weeds are generally widespread, but may be selected on a local level. The following Class C weeds have been designated for control by the Island County Weed Board based on potential threats and feasibility of control. Property owners in Island County are required to control these species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
bull thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense

Non-regulated Noxious Weeds

The following Class B and C weeds are also on the state noxious weed list but are already widespread. Property owners in Island County are not required to control these species, but control is recommended where feasible.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Class
absinth wormwood	Artemisia absinthium	C
Austrian fieldcress	Rorippa austriaca	C
babysbreath	Gypsophila paniculata	C
black henbane	Hyoscyamus niger	C
blackgrass	Alopecurus myosuroides	C
buffalobur	Solanum rostratum	C
butterflybush	Buddleja davidii	B
cereal rye	Secale cereale	C
common barberry	Berberis vulgaris	C
common catsear	Hypochaeris radicata	C
common groundsel	Senecio vulgaris	C

NON-REGULATED NOXIOUS WEEDS (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Class
common St. Johnwort	Hypericum perforatum	C
common tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	C
common teasel	Dipsacus fullonum	C
curly pondweed	Potamogeton crispus	C
English hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	C
English ivy - four cultivars only	Hedera helix 'Baltica', 'Pittsburgh', and 'Star'; H. hibernica 'Hibernica'	C
Eurasian Watermilfoil Hybrid	Myriophyllum spicatum x M. sibiricum	C
evergreen blackberry	Rubus laciniatus	C
field bindweed	Convolvulus arvensis	C
fragrant waterlily	Nymphaea odorata	C
hairy whitetop	Lepidium appelianum	C
herb-Robert	Geranium robertianum	B
Himalayan blackberry	Rubus bifrons	C
hoary cress	Lepidium draba	C
Italian arum	Arum italicum	C
Japanese eelgrass	Nanozostera japonica	C
jointed goatgrass	Aegilops cylindrical	C
jubata grass	Cortaderia jubata	C
lawnweed	Soliva sessilis	C
lesser celandine	Ficaria verna	B
longspine sandbur	Cenchrus longispinus	C
medusahead	Taeniatherumcaput-medusae	C
nonnative cattail species and hybrids	Typha spp.	C
old-man's-beard	Clematis vitalba	C
oxeye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	C
pampas grass	Cortaderia selloana	C
perennial sowthistle	Sonchus arvensis ssp.	C
reed canarygrass	Phalaris arundinacea	C
Russian olive	Elaeagnus angustifolia	C
scentless mayweed	Tripleurospermum inodorum	C
Scotch broom	Cytisus scoparius	B
smoothseed alfalfa dodder	Cuscuta approximata	C
spikeweed	Centromadia pungens	C
spiny cocklebur	Xanthium spinosum	C
Spotted jewelweed	Impatiens capensis	C
Swainsonpea	Sphaerophysa salsula	C
tree-of-heaven	Ailanthus altissima	C
ventenata	Ventenata dubia	C
white cockle	Silene latifolia	C
wild carrot (except where commercially grown)	Daucus carota	C
yellowflag iris	Iris pseudacorus	C
yellow toadflax	Linaria vulgaris	C

Boldface Type - Noxious weeds known to occur in Island County