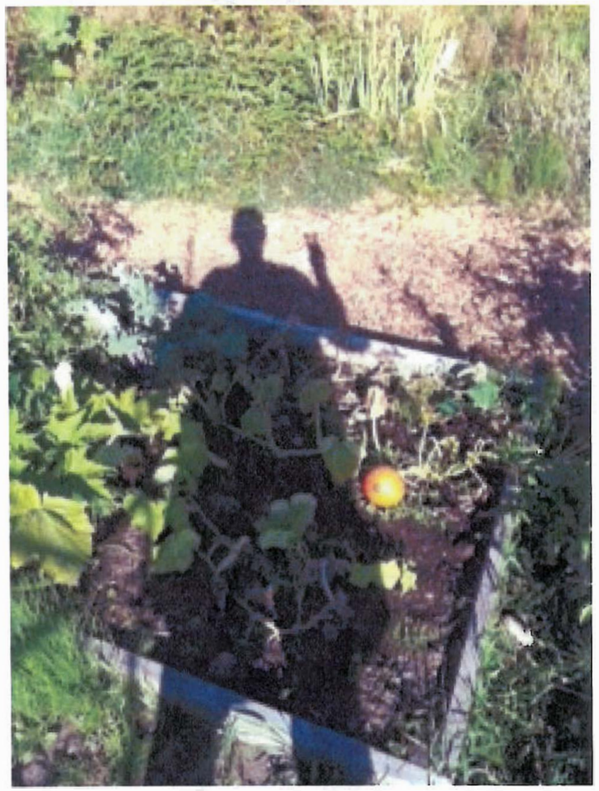

"FARMING LOOKS MIGHTY EASY WHEN YOUR PLOW IS A PENCIL AND YOU'RE A 1000 MILES FROM THE CORNFIELD"

-Dwight D Eisenhower

VISIT THE GARDEN OFTEN

Seattle Neighborhoods

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

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P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

P-PATCH INVASIVE PLANT GUIDELINES

In community gardens there are many plants that people love to grow for food, spice or herbal uses that can become problematic and spread easily by seeds, roots, or plant parts. This is an attempt to teach about how invasive some plants we grow can be. Also, to create some best practices for eradication and containment using organic methods or grown in a way that they will not become a problem for the whole garden. It is not meant to be an all inclusive list or match any one garden, but as a tool for conversation and enforcement citywide at all p-patches.

Invasive plants in community gardens

What is an invasive plant? Common invasive species traits include:

Fast growth
Rapid reproduction
High dispersal ability
Ability to alter growth form to suit current conditions
Tolerance of a wide range of environmental conditions

:Poison

:Must be Removed

Category 1: eradication required in plots and common areas (include best strategies for removal)

Bamboo *(Bambusa)*

Best Practices:

- Withhold water to control
- Dig deeply and frequently
- Be consistent and persistent

Poison Hemlock
(conium maculatum)
* Class A King County

Best Practices: Physical damage can occur include proper clothing and other protection recommendations

- Deadhead prior to seed set.
- Dig entire taproot.
- Bag and put in garbage.

Garlic Mustard
(alliaria petiolata)
*Class A King County

Best Practices:

- Deadhead prior to seed set
- Remove upper portions of roots and stem as root crown can produce additional stems.

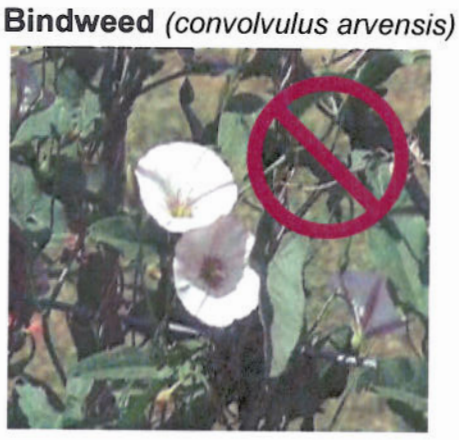
Category 2: These are abundant in some gardens and rare in others, control is required in all gardens.

Quack Grass *(elymus repens)*

Best Practices:

- Dig deeply and frequently (lateral roots create new plants)
- Remove roots and runners (do not till or compost)
- Be consistent and persistent
- Shading helps to decrease vigor of plants.
- Cover Cropping can block growth

Bindweed *(convolvulus arvensis)*



Best Practices:

- Deadhead prior to seed set
- Collect and dispose of roots (do not till or compost)
- Be consistent and persistent

Japanese and Giant Knotweed
(polygonum)

Best Practices:

- Dig deeply and frequently
- Remove roots and runners (do not till or compost)
- Cutting shoots close to the ground reduces the viability
- Be consistent and persistent

Category 3: These are common in all gardens and containment is required

Fennel-perennial type
(Foeniculum valgare)

Horseradish
(Armoracia rusticana)

Best Practices:

- Deadhead prior to seed set
- Dig entire taproot.

Mints

Oregano *(Origanum vulgare)*

Raspberries *(Rubus)*

Best Practices:

- Barrier to control roots
- Cut back frequently
- Deadhead prior to seed set

Plants of concern: These are common in all gardens control and containment is recommended

Borage *(Borago officinalis)*

Calendula *(Colendula officinalis)*

Best Practices:

- Deadhead prior to seed set
- Frequent harvesting.

Sunchoke *(Helianthus tuberosus)*

Burdock *(Arctium Lappa)*

Best Practices:

- Deadhead prior to seed set
- Dig entire taproot

Horsetail *(Equisetum arvense)*

Best Practices

- Dig deeply and frequently
- Remove roots and runners (do not till or compost)
- Adjust pH, likes wet acidic soils to reduce vigor

*Some plants are listed on the King County Noxious Weed list. For more information on King County Noxious Weeds: http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/laws/list.aspx