Overview of the Washington State Noxious Weed Law

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Wait, there’s a noxious weed law in Washington?

Does this have anything to do with the new Washington weed law?
Washington has had a noxious weed law since 1881 in order to reduce the impact of introduced weeds

(and no, this has nothing to do with the other weed law)

Weeds don’t obey property lines so Washington’s noxious weed law shares the job among all landowners – public and private. All landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property.
State noxious weed law is designed to:

• Contain and eradicate new weeds when first detected in the state
• Prevent further spread of already established weeds to un-infested areas
• Allow flexibility of weed control at the county level for widespread weeds that are of local concern

Early detection and rapid response for new outbreaks

Containment and control to prevent further spread
Where would I find the actual law?

- **RCW 17.10**, (Revised Code of Washington) is the state’s basic weed law.
- The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) contains the rules and regulations needed to carry out the state law.
  - **WAC Chapter 16-750** includes the state Noxious Weed List, definitions and descriptions of region boundaries for Class B weeds, and the schedule of monetary penalties.
  - **WAC Chapter 16-752** describes the quarantine list maintained by the state Department of Agriculture. (The state law that calls for the creation and maintenance of the quarantine list is RCW 17.24.)
Washington’s two weed lists

• **Noxious Weed List (WAC 16-750)**
  - Dictates which weeds need to be controlled statewide or in particular counties or regions
  - Passed by the State Weed Board, administered by county noxious weed boards
  - *Not all Noxious Weeds must be controlled; varies by county*

• **State Prohibited Plants List (WAC 16-752 – Quarantine List)**
  - Determines what can’t be sold
  - Determined by WSDA and administered by WSDA’s Nursery Inspection Program
  - Goal is to prevent introduction of new weeds
  - *Not all Noxious Weeds are Prohibited Plants*

For preventing spread of weeds from existing infestations

For preventing spread of weeds through sale and transport
### Some differences between Noxious Weed List and Quarantine List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Noxious Weed List</th>
<th>Quarantine List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giant Hogweed (<em>Heracleum mantegazzianum</em>)</td>
<td>Class A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knotweed (<em>Polygonum bohemicum, et al</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Non-Regulated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange Hawkweed (<em>Hieracium aurantiacum</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Regulated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrotfeather (<em>Myriophyllum aquaticum</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Regulated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policeman’s Helmet (<em>Impatiens glandulifera</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Regulated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Loosestrife (<em>Lythrum salicaria</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Regulated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch Broom (<em>Cytisus scoparius</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Non-Regulated</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Broom (<em>Spartium juncceum</em>)</td>
<td>Class A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Bush (<em>Buddleja davidii</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Fennel (<em>Foeniculum vulgare</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Ivy (<em>Hedera helix, H. hibernica</em>)</td>
<td>Class C Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragrant Water Lily (<em>Nymphaea odorata</em>)</td>
<td>Class C Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Celandine (<em>Ficaria verna</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Man’s Beard (<em>Clematis vitalba</em>)</td>
<td>Class C Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Archangel (<em>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</em>)</td>
<td>Class B Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Flag Iris (<em>Iris pseudacorus</em>)</td>
<td>Class C Non-Regulated</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
So, What is a Noxious Weed?

- Invasive, non-native plant that threatens agricultural crops, human health, local ecosystems, natural resources and/or fish and wildlife habitat
  - NON-NATIVE + HARMFUL = NOXIOUS WEED
- Classified based on how widespread they are in Washington
  - Class A, Class B and Class C
- Property owners are required to control selected species based on their county’s noxious weed list
  - County weed lists are a subset of the state list
  - Weeds are regulated only where eradication or containment is possible
- Not all weeds or invasive plants are on the noxious weed list but counties can educate about additional species
Weed labels depend on goals

- Noxious Weeds
- Invasive Plants
- Nuisance Weeds

Legal / Public Policy
Ecosystem-based
Personal / Land use based
Categories on King County Weed List

• **Class A Weeds**
  – Control required statewide, still a chance to eradicate
  – Examples: garlic mustard, giant hogweed

• **Class B and C Regulated Weeds**
  – Control required in King County, still have a chance to stop them from getting established locally
  – Examples: spotted knapweed, policeman’s helmet

• **Non-Regulated Noxious Weeds and Weeds of Concern**
  – We educate about these species but control is not required in King County
  – **Non-regulated noxious weeds** are on state noxious weed list
  – **Weeds of concern** are not on state list and are not noxious weeds
  – Examples:
    • Noxious weeds: English ivy, butterfly bush, Scotch broom
    • Weeds of concern: English holly, multiflora rose, bittersweet nightshade
Most Abundant Regulated Noxious Weeds in King County

- Giant Hogweed
- Garlic Mustard
- Tansy Ragwort
- Purple Loosestrife
- Spotted Knapweed
- Orange Hawkweed
- Policeman's Helmet
- Garden Loosestrife
- Sulfur Cinquefoil
- Dalmatian Toadflax
Examples of Non-Regulated Weeds in King County

Butterfly Bush

Yellow Archangel

Canada Thistle

English Holly

Blackberry

English Ivy

Bittersweet Nightshade

Yellow Flag Iris

Scotch Broom

Knotweed

Poison-hemlock

Bull Thistle
A Few Garden Escapees on the State Noxious Weed List
Giant Hogweed
(Heracleum mantegazzianum)

15 feet tall with a stout, purple-blotched stem, white umbrella-shaped flower clusters, and giant, jagged leaves
Caution: Giant Hogweed Can Cause Burns

- Juice of giant hogweed contains skin toxins
- Causes skin to be hyper-sensitive to sunlight
- Burns occur when skin is exposed to sunlight, even a day or two after contact with hogweed
- Causes blisters followed by purplish-dark blotches that persist and can continue to be sun-sensitive for several years
- Washing or flushing with water before sap dries can help reduce blisters
- People vary in their sensitivity

Sap from hogweed causes painful burns
Giant Hogweed ID
Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)
Garlic mustard is an edible European species that harms trees and our local flora and fauna and has no natural enemies in North America. A single garlic mustard seed can populate a large area in a very short time!!
Garlic Mustard Impacts

In forests, garlic mustard spreads up to 120 feet in one year. It inhibits tree growth through negative impacts on beneficial fungi and has no natural enemies in North America.

Now spreading on the Cedar River and Coal Creek area, garlic mustard is on the move in King County.
Garlic Mustard Identification

- Small white flowers with 4 petals
- Lower leaves rounded
- Upper leaves longer, more like triangles
- Garlic smell when crushed
- Thin seed pods
- Curved roots
Garlic mustard has lots of look-a-likes

Garlic Mustard
(*Alliaria petiolata*)
Leaves are thin and smooth

Nipplewort
(*Lapsana communis*)

Money Plant
(*Lunaria annua*)

Large-leaf Avens
(*Geum macrophyllum*)

Fringecup
(*Tellima grandiflora*)

Leaves on most of the look-a-likes are fuzzy
Early detection is the best hope for stopping garlic mustard

Over an acre of garlic mustard in Coal Creek Natural Area discovered by its garlic smell

Once established, garlic mustard is very hard to eradicate
The green covering on the forest floor on the Bartell stream bank in Peoria is almost entirely garlic mustard.

Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*)

Class A/B
Noxious Weed

http://herbarivirtual.uib.es/eng-med/especie/4203.html
Shiny Geranium
(Geranium lucidum)

Herb-Robert
(Geranium robertianum)
Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*)

Class A Noxious Weed

Image © 2009, G. D. Carr
Shiny Geranium in Oregon Oak Woodland.
Shiny Geranium at Thornton Creek Project
Also, in garden containers at a Seattle apartment building
Yellow Floating Heart
(*Nymphoides peltata*)

- Floating perennial
- Small yellow flowers with distinctive fringes
- 2 to 5 flowers per stalk
- Heart-shaped or round leaves, wavy margins, often purplish underneath
Yellow Floating Heart on Vashon Island
Lesser Celandine
 (*Ficaria verna*)

- Groundcover that is only visible in the spring
- Low-growing, dark green, succulent, shiny, heart-shaped leaves
- Flowers symmetrical, bright yellow, 8 to 12 petals, borne singly on delicate stalks that rise above the leaves
  - Green sepals in addition to yellow petals (unlike marsh marigold)
- Flowers March through May
- By June, foliage is gone and only tubers remain
- Also called fig buttercup or *Ranunculus ficaria*
Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*)
How Lesser Celandine Spreads

• Tiny cream colored bulblets are produced in stem axils later in the flowering period
• Abundant fingerlike tubers are produced by the roots and are easily visible when plants are pulled up
Lesser Celandine’s Vanishing Act: February (top left), April (top right) and July (bottom left)

Note: these plants were not controlled, they just go dormant.
Info on Noxious Weeds in King County:

www.kingcounty.gov/weeds

Weed Photo Page:

Search by Weed Name

Click thumbnail picture to get more information and photos