

# New and Unusual Weeds to Watch For in the Seattle Area

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# Today's talk

- Noxious weed definition review
- A few new and lesser known noxious weeds\*
- A few monitor list species we are watching\*

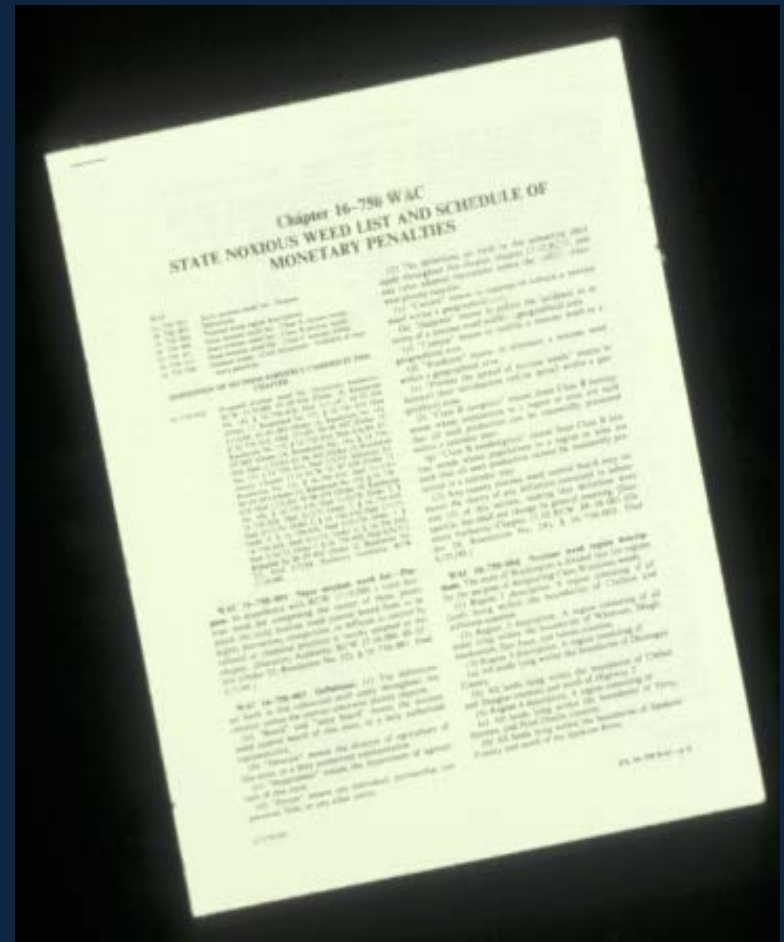


\*Note: Plants chosen for interest and variety, not because they are the worst plants.

# Noxious Weed

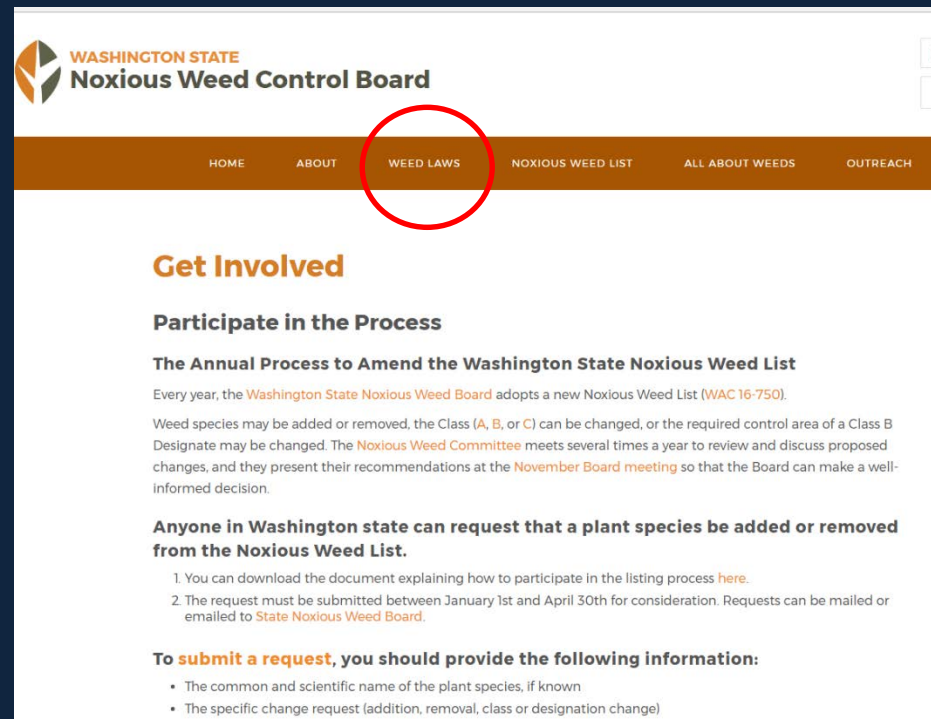
- “Noxious weed” means a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices.

WA State Law: RCW  
17.10.10



# How does a plant get on the state list?

- **Jan-April**: submission of proposals from anyone
- **May**: Noxious Weed Committee (NWC) begins to review requested changes
- **September**: NWC makes recommendations to State Weed Board
- **November**: Public hearing, State Weed Board votes on changes
- **January**: New changes take effect in new Noxious Weed List





# Noxious weeds are not all “bad” – nothing is black and white

- State weighs the beneficial uses with the detrimental impacts
- Plants may provide erosion control, ornamental value, medicinal properties, or nectar and pollen for bees
- For noxious weeds, ecological or economic impacts outweigh the beneficial uses
- Right plant, right place!



Images: Tim Miller WSU Extension

Butterfly bush

# Monitor List

- Before listing, often need to gather more info
- Monitor for occurrence, spread, impacts
- Information collected may be used to justify future inclusion on the state noxious weed list
- No legal or regulatory aspect to this list

Green alkanet (*Pentaglottis sempervirens*)





# Noxious weeds are ranked by how widespread they are

- **Class A Weeds** – control required statewide, still a chance to eradicate

**Class A: garlic mustard**



- **Class B Weeds** – control required only in particular counties or regions where there is still a chance to contain them

**Class B: tansy ragwort**



- **Class C Weeds** – control usually not required; counties may require control but focus is usually on technical assistance and awareness

**Class C: English ivy**



# State List to County List



## County List

- All Class A's
- Class B's designated in WAC 16-750
- Class B's and Class C's counties select for mandated control
- Educational Weeds - Other B's and C's and any "weeds of local concern" (control not required)

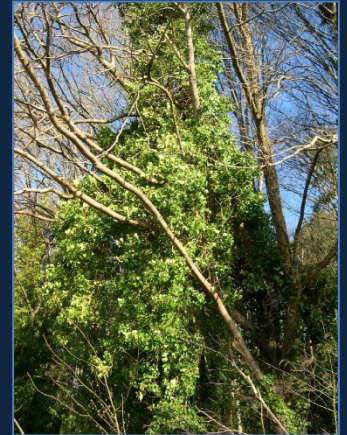


# Goal is to reduce impacts

- Environment
- Economy
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Public Health
- Personal



Crowd out native plants, reduce habitat for wildlife



Lower property value, cost money to control



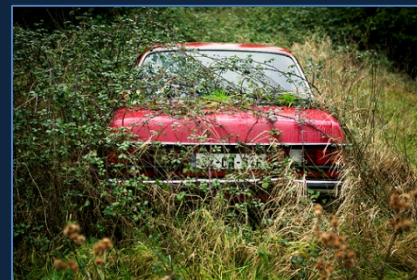
Reduce forage, poison animals



Swimming and boating hazards, lower water quality, damage fish habitat



Can be harmful to people



And, they are really annoying



# Responsibility for control is shared

## *All* Landowners

- Private landowners
- Public Landowners
  - City and county
  - State



# A few new or lesser known noxious weeds

- Small-flowered jewelweed, *Impatiens parviflora*
  - New Class A
- Spotted jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*
  - New Class C Non-Regulated
- False brome, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*
  - Class A Regulated
- Meadow knapweed, *Centaurea x moncktonii*
  - Class B Regulated

# *Impatiens parviflora*, small-flowered jewelweed

- Class A noxious weed
- Native to Asia
- Annual, hairless, up to about 1 meter
- Leaves alternate, sharply serrated margins
- Flowers one to several in upper leaf axils, pale yellow
  - Also self-fertilizing flowers



Image by Alexander J. Wright



Image by Alexander J. Wright



Image by Tim Miller



# Small-flowered jewelweed

- Capsules, up to 1 inch, elastically dehiscent, 1 to 5 seeds
- Spreads by seed, 220 seeds to 1,000-2,000 seeds per plant
- Invasive in Europe, widespread
- Dominating herbaceous layer



Image by Wayne C. Weber





# Small-flowered jewelweed

- Grows in shade to part-shade, dry to moist soils: wooded areas, forest edges, paths, riverbanks
- U.S.: Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington (only two locations!)

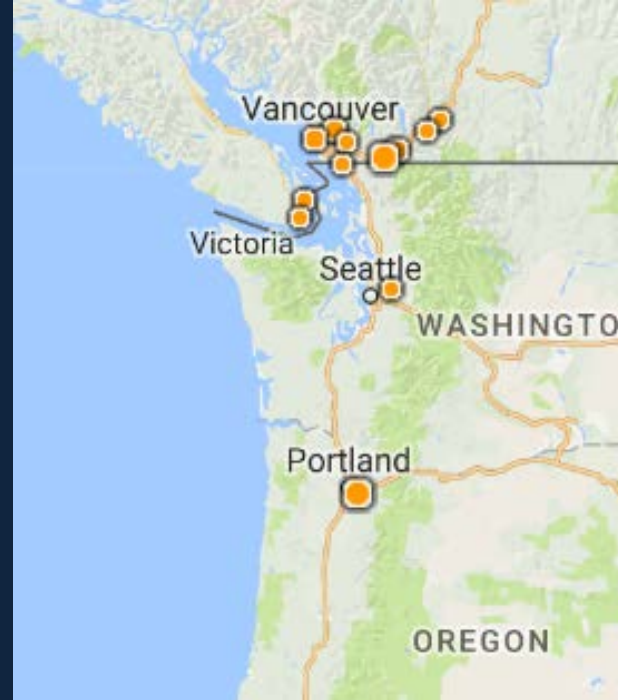


Image by Alexander J. Wright





# Small-flowered Jewelweed in King County

**Woodland Park Zoo**



**Novelty Hill Road Area**





# Spotted Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)

- New state Class C, not regulated in King County
- Native to the Eastern U.S. but invasive in the Pacific Northwest
- Widespread in King Co.





Image by Whatcom County NWCB



## Spotted Jewelweed

- Flowers spurred
- Spurs hooked or curve
- Flowers orange (occasionally pale yellow)
- Flower spots are red to orange
- Blooms August-October



Image: © 2004, Ben Legler

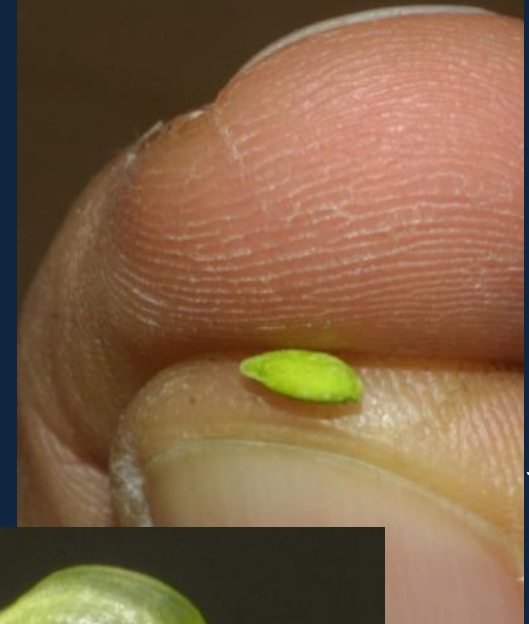


Image: © 2004, Ben Legler



# Fruit/Seed

- Capsule ~ 1 inch
- Explosively open and propel seeds a short distance
- Seeds shoot 4 – 6 feet



2003, Steven J. Baskauf

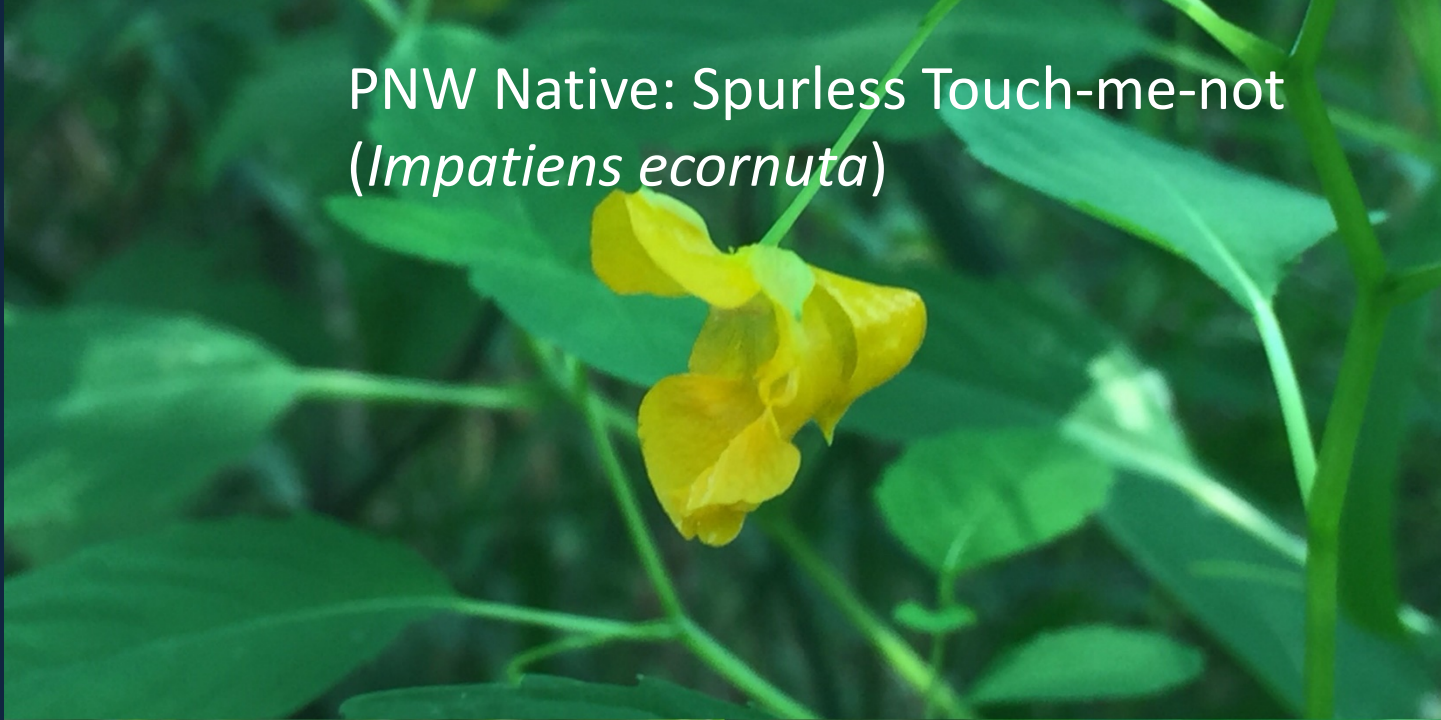


2003, Steven J. Baskauf

CAUTION:  
Native  
jewelweed can  
only be  
distinguished  
when in flower  
(no spur)

Hybrid  
between  
native and  
non-native  
jewelweed  
originated in  
the Pacific  
Northwest

PNW Native: Spurless Touch-me-not  
(*Impatiens ecorruta*)



Hybrid: Pacific Jewelweed  
(*Impatiens x pacifica*)



Spotted Jewelweed  
(*Impatiens capensis*)





# False brome, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*

- Perennial bunch grass native to Eurasia and North Africa
- Generally stays green throughout the year
- Spread extensively in areas of western Oregon and has begun to spread to Washington
- Highly invasive in shaded woodlands, open prairies, and roadsides
- Out-competes forest understory and grassland vegetation



Young plants look somewhat like a many-legged spider spread out over the ground



# False brome, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*

- Leaf blade is flat and lax (floppy) and distinctively bright green
- When held up to the sky, a fringe of fine hairs is easily seen around the edge of the leaf
- Lower stem is thickly covered with fine, even hairs
- Open leaf sheaths



Bruce Newhouse

# False brome, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*

- Mature plants have a graceful, nodding form (both leaves and flowers)
- Flower spikelets droop and have very short or no stalks



Bruce Newhouse



# False brome, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*

- Grows well in shade or sun, moist or dry soils, and can be found from low elevations up to 3500 feet
- Individual bunches spread out and merge into solid mats of plants that overwhelm other vegetation





# False brome in landscape on Vashon



Reported in a planting bed in 2015 by a local plant expert and since removed.





# Meadow Knapweed, *Centaurea x moncktonii*

- From Europe, hybrid of black and brown knapweeds
- Well suited to western Washington, where it invades pretty much any open, grassy area
- Foliage is coarse and tough and not generally palatable to livestock
- Out-competes grass and is difficult to control



# Meadow Knapweed, *Centaurea x moncktonii*

- Flowers from late May to August
- Flower heads solitary at tips of the branches, globose
- Bracts around the flower head are light to dark brown, with paper-fringed margin, and appear shiny and coppery when flowers are mature





# Meadow Knapweed





# Meadow knapweed in Seattle



Meadow knapweed found growing in turf on a reservoir park in Seattle



# Two King County Weeds of Concern (not on state list)

- Bishop's weed/goutweed, *Aegopodium podagraria*
- Multiflora rose, *Rosa multiflora*

# Bishop's weed goutweed, *Aegopodium podagraria*

- Carrot Family, ornamental groundcover
- Variegated variety looks similar to yellow archangel leaves, but not hairy
- Flowers always white, tiny and in umbels
- Leaves divided into leaflets, toothed on edges





# Bishop's weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)



Escaped  
ornamental,  
often sold as  
'Variegata', but  
can revert back  
to solid green



<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>



<http://www.canadaplants.ca/photos/Aegopodium-podagraria-Variegata-form.jpg>

Vigorous plant,  
spreads by seed  
and long,  
branching  
rhizomes;  
dense growth,  
excludes other  
plants; shade  
tolerant



<http://newfs.s3.amazonaws.com>



Variegated  
Bishop's weed  
(also called  
goutweed and  
ground-elder)



[Gregory Phillips, CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

# Bishop's weed

- Quote from Sarah Reichard:

“Argh! That plant! I planted it in my rockery at our Phinney Ridge house and I joke that I moved because I could not kill it.”

- From Perennials.com:

“Also known as Goutweed, this is a popular variegated groundcover that quickly forms a dense, weed-proof carpet, even under difficult growing conditions. A good choice for sites where nothing else seems to succeed. Site carefully, this is difficult to eradicate once established, so don't let this loose in the border!”

“CAUTION: Do not discard unwanted plants in any natural areas, as they will establish themselves and become invasive.”



# Multiflora Rose, *Rosa multiflora*



- Native to Japan, China and Korea
- Introduced to the US in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses; has also been used on highway shoulders
- Forms large, thorny thickets similar to Himalayan blackberry
- Spreads by arching, tip-rooting stems and by seed
- Climbs into lower branches of trees



# Multiflora Rose

## KEY ID FEATURES

- Flowers white to pink, petals notched
- Five to eleven leaflets
- Numerous small, bright red, smooth rose hips; form in summer and turn leathery and persist over the winter





# Multiflora Rose

## KEY ID FEATURES

- Clusters of many flowers
- **Climbing or upright arching stems; 5 to 12 feet tall**
- **Fringed stipules** at the base of each leaf stalk
- Stems bright green to reddish, usually with curved thorns but sometimes thornless





# Multiflora Rose



Image: <http://blog.mass.gov/greatoutdoors/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2013/11/Profile-of-bush-cascading-branches-Westboro-WMA.jpg>

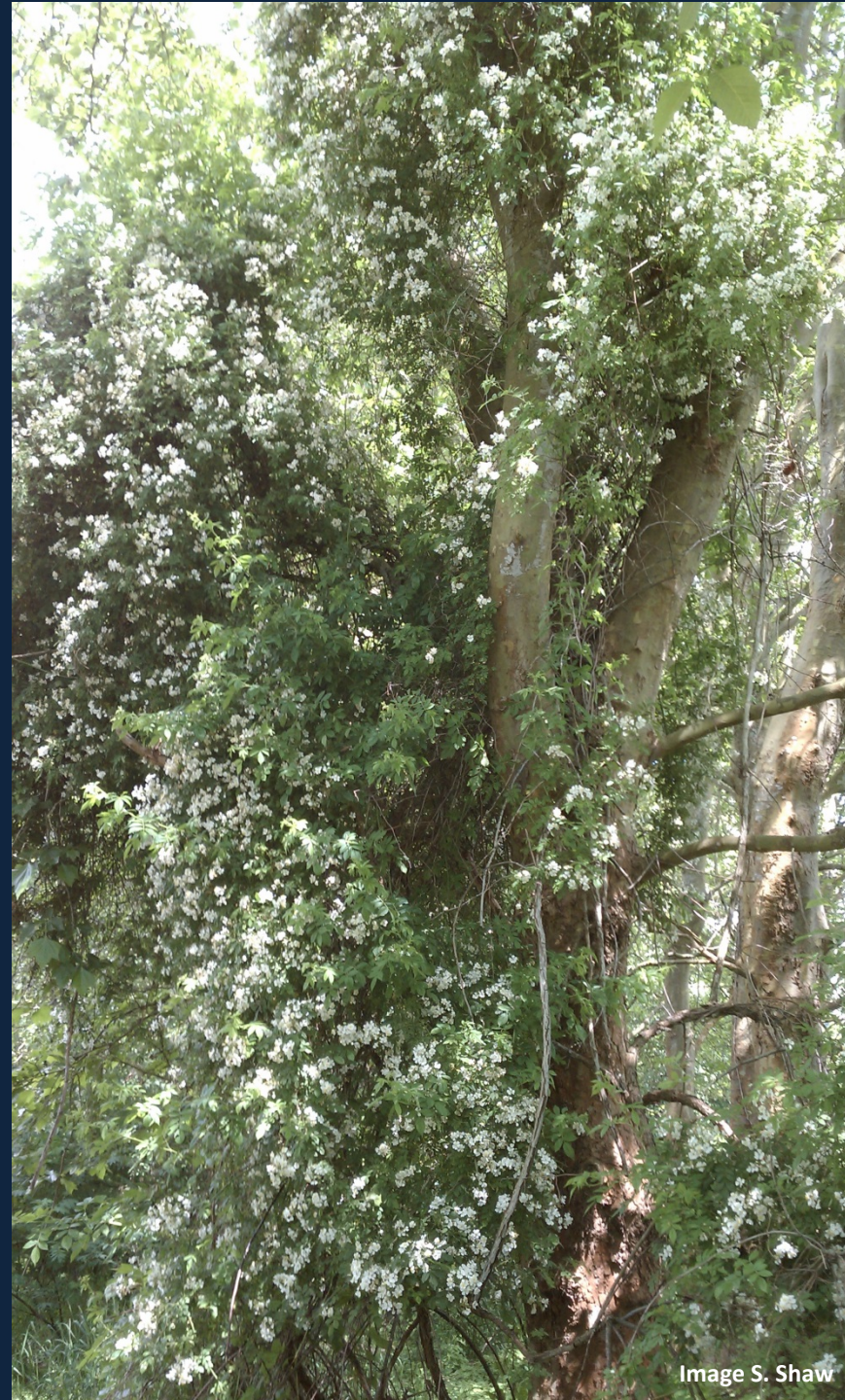


Image S. Shaw



# A few state monitor species and other plants that we are watching

- Rough chervil, monitor list
- Silverlace vine, monitor list
- Garden helleborine, monitor list
- Pokeweed, no status
- Wild parsnip, no status

# Rough Chervil, *Chaerophyllum temulum*

- Becoming established in a few places in the county including in Cougar Mountain area and Vashon
- Similar to poison-hemlock and also poisonous
- Has been around awhile but has slipped under the radar
- Spreads by seed
- Shares some key ID characteristics:
  - red spots on stems
  - leaves similar to parsley
  - little white flowers in umbrella-shaped clusters





# Rough Chervil Identification

- Reddish-purplish spots or blotches on stems
- Stems are rough to the touch and hairy
- Leaves resemble cilantro, shorter and rounder segments than poison-hemlock or carrots
- About 2 to 3 feet tall, much shorter than poison-hemlock
- Seeds smooth and narrow, in pairs





# Rough Chervil near Cougar Mountain





# Rough Chervil on Soos Creek





# Silver Lace Vine, *Polygonum aubertii*



- Related to knotweed
- Deciduous vine that can grow over 25 feet long
- Stems reddish, flowers white or pinkish



# Silver Lace Vine





# Silver Lace Vine in West Seattle





# Silver Lace Vine in North Seattle





# Silver Lace Vine on SW 108<sup>th</sup> St



Photo: P. Renfrow



Photo: S. Shaw



# Garden Helleborine

## *Epipactis helleborine*

- Orchid native to Europe
- Introduced as a garden ornamental
- Prefers shaded woodland environments
- Considered invasive or weedy in eastern US areas such as New England and Michigan
- Has rhizomes, reported to be difficult to control





# Garden Helleborine

## *Epipactis helleborine*

- Flowers greenish pink to purple
- Leaves broad, parallel veins, clasp stems at base
- Plants to 3 feet tall



Image Washington State Noxious  
Weed Board



Image  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epipactis\\_helleborine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epipactis_helleborine)



# Garden Helleborine

- Showing up in parks and backyards as an escapee
- Uncertain how it is spreading and whether it will have significant impact
- Has been spotted in several Seattle parks including Meadowbrook Pond, Thornton Creek NA, Carkeek Park and Woodland Park Zoo
- Also found on several San Juan islands, east Skagit County and in Bellingham





# Pokeweed, *Phytolacca* *americana*

- Perennial herb 6 to 10 feet tall
- Native to US; status in Washington uncertain
- Poisonous
- One or more stems arise from a large, tuber-like taproot
- Stem is pinkish-red, smooth, stout and branched





# Pokeweed

- Leaves somewhat succulent, up to 13 inches long, prominently veined, edges untoothed
- Leaves pungent when crushed
- Flowers in elongated clusters, white to greenish-white or pinkish to purplish
- Fruit purplish-black berries



Photo: Lina Rose



# Pokeweed

- The entire plant is poisonous
- But young leaves and stems when properly cooked are edible and nutritious
- Fruits are eaten by birds
- Plants spread by birds, compost/yard waste dumping and intentional planting



Pokeweed spotted on Mercer Slough in Bellevue rising above spotted jewelweed



# Pokeweed: Should We Worry?

- Oregon has it on their Watch List
- Expert from Portland area reports:
  - “Definitely keep an eye on pokeweed! It’s everywhere in Portland, and starting to crop up in natural areas. I’ve found it in composting materials recently. It’s probably only a matter of time that you find it. “ – Michelle Delepine
- Spotted at Duthie Hill, Skyway Park, Vashon Island, Mercer Slough, UW and other places in King County
- Usually showing up as singular plants, probably spread by birds or yard waste
- Poisonous (even deadly) but also edible when cooked correctly
  - “Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) is a milestone plant for many foragers. It’s the first plant that many of us eat that could also kill us.” --Scott Sexton

# Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*

- Toxic to skin like giant hogweed
  - Juice causes photo-dermatitis; burns and blisters
- European species widely spread in US
- Found in scattered locations in PNW
- Only found in one location so far in Seattle (Ravenna Park)





# Wild Parsnip

- In Carrot Family
- Leaves are yellowish-green, divided into leaflets with coarsely toothed edges
- Stems ridged, not spotted
- Long, thick taproot



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



# Wild Parsnip, *Pastinaca sativa*





# Wild Parsnip

- Single flower stalk, up to 4 feet tall
- Yellow flowers in umbels
- Flowering occurs from May to June, when hundreds of flowers develop
- Fruits are dry, smooth, slightly winged and flattened on back; seeds dispersed in the fall





# Parsnip vs Fennel vs Hogweed



<https://www.visoflora.com/images/original/panais-sauvage---pastinaca-sylvestris-visoflora-114338.jpg>

**Wild Parsnip**

*Pastinaca sativa*



**Common Fennel**

*Foeniculum vulgare*



**Giant Hogweed**

*Heracleum mantegazzianum*



# Info on Noxious Weeds in King County:

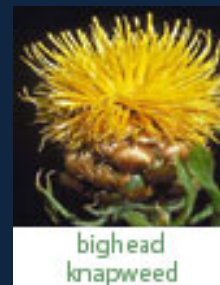
[kingcounty.gov/weeds](http://kingcounty.gov/weeds)

Weed Photo Page:

Search by Weed Name

Annual bugloss	▲	Abutilon theophrasti	▲
Bighead knapweed		Acroptilon repens	
Bittersweet nightshade		Alliaria petiolata	
Black knapweed	▼	Anchusa arvensis	▼

Click thumbnail picture to get more information and photos





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[kingcounty.gov/weeds](http://kingcounty.gov/weeds)