

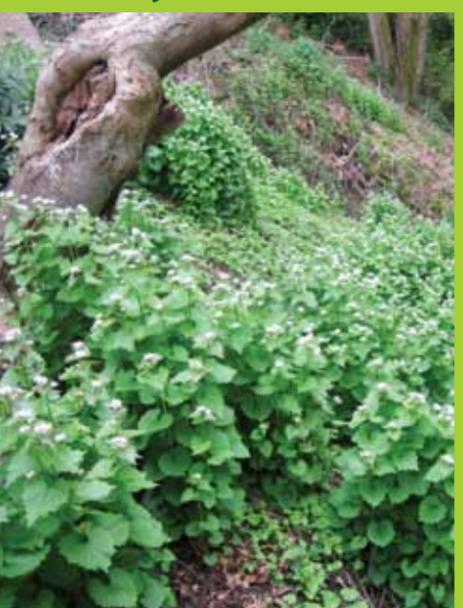
KING COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM



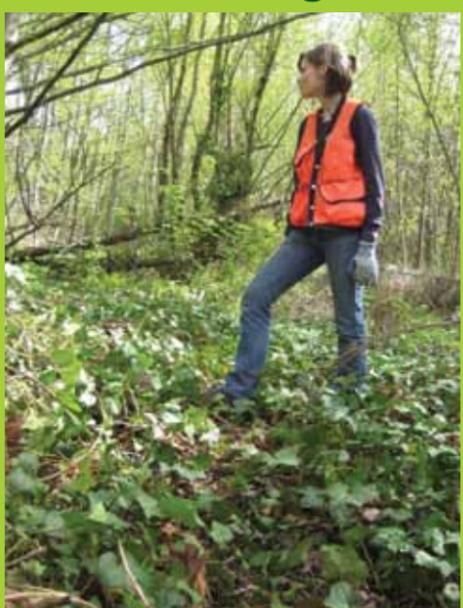
# Invasive Weeds in Our Midst

Many noxious weeds start as garden favorites. They thrive wherever planted and can even be pretty. **But they are also destructive and dangerous.**

**How Weeds Spread**  
Weed seeds and plant parts are moved by wind, water, birds and other animals. But weeds also spread with help from people on mowers, boats, cars, bikes and boots. Weeds can grow out of yard waste piles dumped in the woods or from fill materials. Aquarium dumping brings weeds to our waterways.



*Garlic Mustard covers hillsides and crowds out native plants.*



*English Ivy blankets forests and topples trees.*

**What is Lost**  
Invasive weeds overrun our parks, trails, lakes and waterways. They replace the plants that make our region unique and crowd out trees and understory plants that support local birds and wildlife. When we let invasives take over, we lose the peaceful forests and parks that help relieve the stresses of modern day living.

# What Can We Do?

**Prevention: don't give weeds a chance.**

- **Ask before you plant.** Choose non-invasive species for your gardens and landscapes.
- **Don't leave the door open.** Weeds thrive in bare soil and neglected garden areas. Replace any diseased or dying plants quickly to prevent weed invasions.

**Cultural Control: a healthy landscape is the best weed control.**

- **Choose the right plants for the site** and treat them well because they are the best defense against unwanted visitors.
- **Smother weeds with weed barriers** or a lot of mulch. Mulching also preserves moisture in the soil for more desirable plants.

**Physical control: be a control freak with problem weeds.**

- **Remove weeds before they go to seed.** A single flower can produce thousands of seeds.
- **Dig up entire plants** including roots when the soil is moist to avoid leaving root fragments.
- **Mow regularly.** This will weaken root reserves and prevent most seed production but will not eliminate most noxious weeds.

**Chemical Control: may be necessary for the toughest weeds.**

- **Use the least toxic herbicide available** for the weed site and carefully apply it as directed on the label. Read the label carefully to make sure it will work on the type of weeds you are controlling.
- **Don't use herbicides in wetlands, streams, lakes, or their buffers.**
- **Target herbicide applications to weeds,** not beneficial plants.
- **Don't use "weed and feed"** or persistent pre-emergent products, which can run off into streams and the Puget Sound and lower water quality.
- **Fix landscape and soil problems** to reduce the need for regular herbicide use.
- **For more information** on specific herbicide recommendations and methods to control noxious weeds contact:

**King County Noxious Weed Control Program**  
Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources Division  
201 S. Jackson St., Suite 600  
Seattle WA 98104

**phone: 206-477-WEED (206-477-9333)**  
**email: noxious.weeds@kingcounty.gov**  
**website: www.kingcounty.gov/weeds**



*Pulling Policeman's helmet.*

*English ivy covering a sign.*

*Digging up knotweed clones.*

*Cutting down giant hogweed.*

**King County**  
Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Water and Land Resources Division  
Noxious Weed Control Program

**Tackling Scotch broom with a weed wrench and a shovel.**

# Invasive Weeds

Bittersweet Nightshade



**Bittersweet Nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*)**

Semi-woody, non-native vine with purple and yellow flowers and clusters of bright red berries that are poisonous to people but attractive to birds; it is often found along creeks where it can overwhelm other plants.

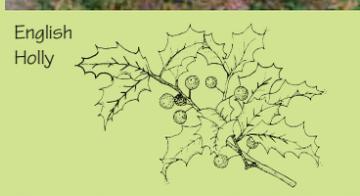


**Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)**

Tall, gangly ornamental from China with spikes of purple flowers and seeds that can move 40 miles in the wind; it is capable of replacing native vegetation along sandy shorelines and in forest openings.



Butterfly Bush



**English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)**

European tree with spiny evergreen leaves that spreads into forests with help from birds eating the berries; it crowds out native understory bushes and young conifers.



**English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)**

Evergreen vine from Europe that can weigh 2,100 pounds and topple trees, blanket tree seedlings and understory plants, and form thick mats that collect garbage and rats.



English Ivy



**Hedge Bindweed/Morning Glory (*Calystegia sepium*)**

Aggressive, climbing, non-native vine that winds its tendrils around stems of plants and trees or any convenient structure; it spreads by long-lived seeds and by deep roots that multiply from even small fragments.

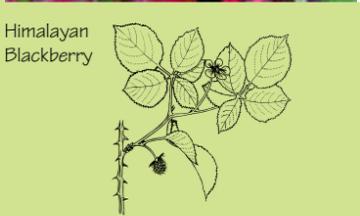


**Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)**

A small shade-tolerant, European geranium—also known as Stinky Bob—with reddish, hairy stems and a strong odor; it spreads by ejecting sticky seeds 15 to 20 feet and can quickly dominate an area.



Herb Robert



**Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)**

Prolific, fast-growing brambles from Central Europe that can overwhelm most other plants, crowding out even small trees and covering nearly every available hillside and vacant area with its imposing thorny thickets.



**Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*, *Polygonum sachalinensis*, and *Polygonum bohemicum*)**

Massive, clump-forming, bamboo-like perennials from Asia that spread aggressively from stem and root fragments and crowd out native vegetation, degrade habitat, and increase erosion.



Japanese Knotweed



**Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)**

An aggressive deciduous, non-native vine, with woody stems up to 100 feet long that blankets entire groves of trees, and becomes festooned with masses of fluffy white seeds that spread in the wind.



**Poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)**

Tall, non-native plant with stout, purple-spotted stems, parsley-like leaves and tons of small, umbrella-shaped flower clusters; often shows up in gardens, parks and roadsides and is deadly if eaten.



Poison-hemlock



**Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)**

Yellow-flowered bush in the pea family from Scotland with very long-lived seeds that has spread widely into open areas and cleared forests throughout the region; it poses a fire hazard and invades grassy areas.



**Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)**

Fast-growing, tough European perennial ground cover with distinctive silvery-gray markings; it is very competitive in shady forests, spreads readily from yard waste piles, and crowds out understory plants.



Yellow Archangel

**The following HIGH PRIORITY noxious weeds are regulated in Washington and control is required on all properties in King County.**



**Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)**

Shade tolerant, garlicky herb from Europe with small, white flowers that quickly takes over in woodlands, harms beneficial soil fungi, replaces native plants, and is extremely tenacious and difficult to eradicate.



**Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)**

Imposing 15-foot tall plant from Russia with jagged leaves, huge flower clusters, and thick, purple-blotched stems that can create burns and blisters when handled; it has spread into parks, ravines, alleys and backyards.



Giant Hogweed



**Policeman's Helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*)**

Up to ten feet tall, hollow-stemmed Asian annual with pinkish flowers that spreads quickly by shooting seeds 15 to 20 feet, grows in dense stands and quickly dominates gardens, parks, and wetlands.

