

Field Guide to Weeds of the Oregon Coast



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Photo credits

Photos by staff at Institute for Applied Ecology unless
otherwise noted.

Cover photo: European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*)

Acknowledgments

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numerous sources including Flora of the Pacific
Northwest (Hitchcock and Cronquist, 1973), Flora of
North America North of Mexico (Flora of North America
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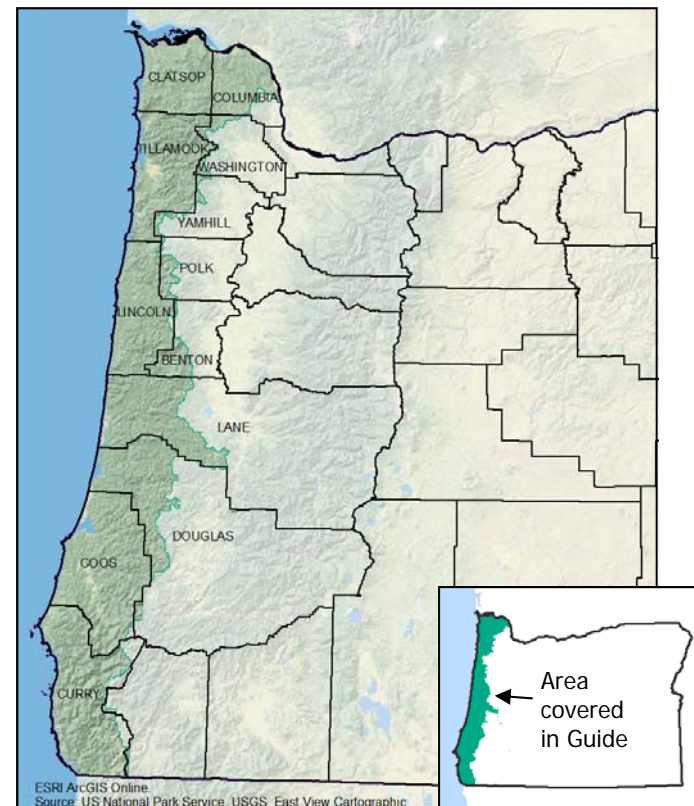
Report plants with this symbol by visiting
www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org
or calling **1-866-INVADER**



Plants with this symbol are toxic to humans.

How to use this guide

Weeds that are imminent “new invaders” as well as
those that are already known to occur in the area are
included in this book. Plants are arranged by type and
then by color. The purpose of this guide is to help land
managers and private landowners identify non-native
invasive plants along the Oregon coast (see map
below) and prevent their spread.



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False indigo

Amorpha fruticosa

Description: Perennial shrub growing up to 20 ft (6 m) tall and up to twice as wide. Leaves have 13-25 leaflets that are each 1-2 in (2.5-5 cm) long. Flowers are purple, in long spikes, growing on the ends of the branches. The 2-seeded pods are 0.25 in (0.6 cm) long, with resinous dots.

Where found: Riparian areas, where it is often planted for streambank stabilization.

Butterfly bush

Buddleja davidii

Description: Perennial shrub with arching branches, growing 10-15 ft (3-5 m) tall. The stems and leaves are typically hairy. The leaves are narrow, opposite, and green to blue-gray with toothed edges. Plants bloom from mid to late summer with small, purple flowers.

Where found: Disturbed areas, natural forests, riparian zones, urban places, riparian areas, and wetlands.

False indigo



Butterfly bush





Evergreen clematis

Clematis vitalba

(Also called traveler's joy or old man's beard)

Description: Perennial, deciduous, woody vine. Leaves are opposite, and compound with five leaflets. Plants bloom in summer, producing small, greenish white, perfect flowers (stamens and pistils in each flower), found in clusters in upper leaf axils. Seed heads remain visible in winter.

Where found: Roadsides, river banks, gardens, disturbed forest, forest edges, and waste areas, often growing up and overtaking trees. May be moderately toxic to livestock.

Photos Opposite: Above (L) flowers and (R) seed heads. Below (L) aggressive spread up a tree and (R) foliage.

Look-alike: Western white clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*) is native and looks very similar to old man's beard. Western white clematis has imperfect flowers (male or female only), the leaves on its flowering stems are generally toothed (smooth on old man's beard), and seed heads don't persist through winter. However, the best characteristic for distinction is growth habit: the native Western white clematis does not demonstrate the aggressive growth that old man's beard does.





Orange cotoneaster

Cotoneaster franchetii

Description: Evergreen to semi-evergreen shrub, up to 10 ft (3 m) tall with arching branches. Ovate leaves are smooth and glossy on top and yellowish to greyish-white woolly below (0.6-1.2 in/1.5-3 cm long). Plants bloom in late spring–early summer with small, tight clusters of pink to rose flowers. Fruits are orange-red with three seeds.

Late cotoneaster

Cotoneaster lacteus

Description: Evergreen shrub, up to 10 ft (3 m) tall. Elliptical leaves are conspicuously veined and smooth or grey white-woolly below (1.2-3 in/3-8 cm long). Plants bloom in late spring–early summer with large clusters of white flowers. Fruits are red and oval with two seeds.

Where found: Both cotoneasters are landscape plants that have escaped to invade diverse natural areas, especially coniferous forests. Seeds are spread by animals, mainly birds.

Orange cotoneaster



Late cotoneaster





Scotch broom

Cytisus scoparius

Description: Evergreen shrub growing 3-10 ft (1-3 m) tall. Stems are distinctly 5-ridged with leaves that are generally 3-parted and slightly hairy below, although stems may be leafless for much of the year. Pea-like flowers (1 in/2.5 cm long) varying from yellow to red occur singly or paired in leaf axils and are not fragrant. Fruit pods are flattened and have hairs mostly at the seam. Blooms April to June.

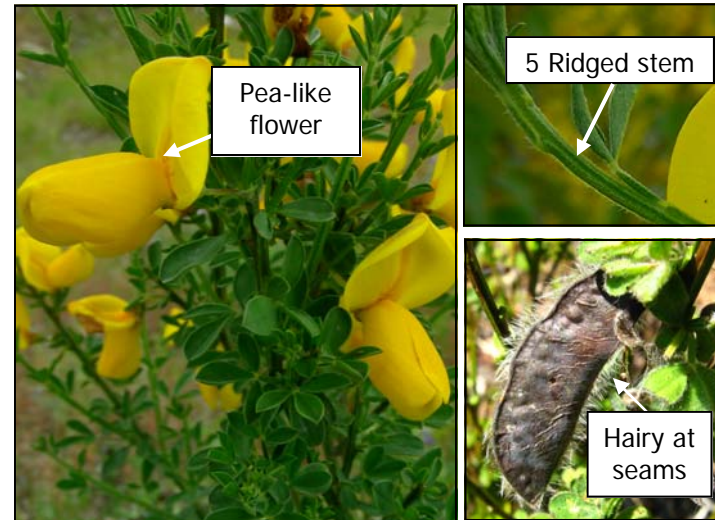
Portuguese broom

Cytisus striatus

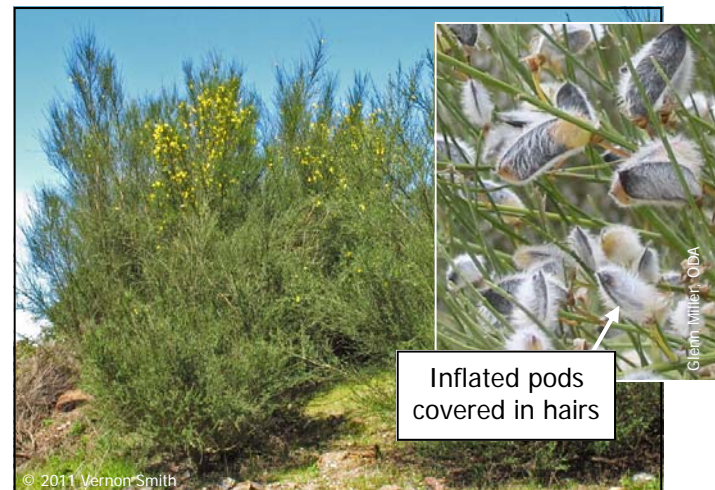
(Also called striated broom)

Description: Evergreen shrub growing 7-10 ft (2-3 m) tall. Stems are 8 to 10-ridged and sparsely covered in 1 to 3-parted leaves. Flowers are pale yellow, not fragrant, and occur singly or paired in leaf axils. Seed pods are inflated and covered in hairs. Blooms April to June.

Scotch broom



Portuguese broom





French broom

Genista monspessulana

Description: Evergreen shrub growing 3-8 ft (1-2.5 m) tall. Stems are 8 to 10-ridged and covered in silvery hairs. Leaves are three parted, leaflets are waxy above and slightly hairy below. Flowers (< 1/2 in/1.5 cm) are yellow, not fragrant, and clustered in groups of 4 to 10 at the ends of short branchlets. Seed pods are slightly flattened and hairy all over. Blooms April to June.

Gorse

Ulex europaeus

Description: Spiny, evergreen shrub growing 1-9 ft (1-3 m) tall in dense thickets. Mature plants have leaves modified into stiff spines 0.2-1.2 in (5-30 mm) long. Ridged stems are highly branching. Yellow pea-like flowers are 0.6-0.8 cm (15-20 mm) long. Seed pods are 0.5-0.8 in (1-2 cm) long and covered with wavy hairs. Blooms March to May.

Where found: French broom and gorse invade disturbed area such as coastal bluffs, roadsides, and fields.

French broom



Flattened seed pods covered in hairs

Gorse



Leaves modified into spines



Spurge laurel

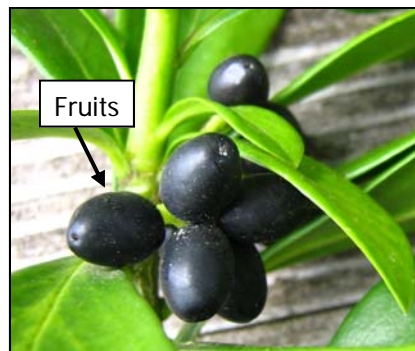
Daphne laureola

Description: Evergreen shrub growing 2-4 ft (.6-1.2 m) tall, with dark green, glossy, 4 in (10 cm) long oblong leaves that are spirally arranged and clustered at shoot tips. Plants bloom from March to May. Honey-scented yellow-green bell-shaped flowers grow in clusters between leaves near the top of stems. Fruits are green egg-shaped berries (<0.5 in/1 cm long) that ripen to black.

Where found: Spurge laurel is an escaped landscape plant that is found invading woodlands and shady places.

This recent invader blocks out sunlight, outcompetes native plants and alters soil chemistry. Seeds are spread by birds.

Leaves, bark and fruit are toxic to humans and pets.



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Spanish heath

Erica lusitanica

Description: Evergreen shrub growing 10 ft (3 m) tall, with needle-like 0.1-0.3 in (3-7 mm) long leaves. White to pink bell-shaped flowers grow in clusters along the stems. Plants produce millions of small, black pepper sized fruits, 0.1 in (3 mm) long. Plants bloom from December to April.

Where found: Spanish heath is an escaped landscape plant that invades roadsides, riparian areas, and rights-of-way. It can be found growing with gorse and Scotch broom.



Bell shaped flowers





Redclaws

Escallonia rubra

Description: Evergreen branching shrub or sometimes small tree growing to 10-15 ft (3-4.5 m) tall. Its dark green leaves are 1-2 in (2.5-5 cm) long and doubly serrated on margins with glands on the undersides. Clusters of 7-30 pink or red flowers occur at the end of branches. The flowers have fused sepals with sticky glands and 5 petals forming a tube, 0.5-0.8 in (1.2-2 cm) long.

Where found: Redclaws is an ornamental plant that has escaped to invade a variety of habitat types, including shoreline areas where it tolerates salt spray.

Petals separate but arranged to form a tube



William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org



Japanese knotweed

Fallopia japonica

(Also identified as *Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Description: Shrub-like herbaceous perennial growing in clumps 8 ft (2.4 m) tall. Stems are hollow and reddish, bearing 4-6 in (10-15 cm) long oval leaves with flat bases. Small white to green flowers are borne in clusters that droop from the leaf axils.

Giant knotweed

Fallopia sachalinensis

(Also identified as *Polygonum sachalinense*)

Description: Shrub-like herbaceous perennial growing in mounds 12 ft (3.7 m) tall. Plants appear similar to Japanese knotweed but are taller and have larger leaves (up to 1 ft / 3 dm long) that are more heart-shaped.

Look-alike: Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia xbohemica*) is a hybrid between giant and Japanese knotweed and has leaves that are intermediate between Japanese and giant knotweeds.



Japanese knotweed



Giant knotweed



All photos Bruce Newhouse



Himalayan knotweed

Persicaria wallichii

(Also identified as *Polygonum polystachyum*)

Description: Herbaceous perennial growing 6 ft (1.8 m) tall with red stems and leaf stalks. Leaves are oblong, lance-shaped and 4-8 in (10-20 cm) long. Brown persistent sheaths are present at the base of leaf stalks. The white to pink flowers occur in loose, branched clusters.

Where found: Knotweeds are escaped ornamental plants which have been found along trails, roadsides, and riparian areas.

Knotweeds are able to spread by root and stem fragments. They form dense monocultures that shade out other vegetation and inhibit tree establishment along streams. All parts of the plants may be mildly toxic to livestock.



Photos Bruce Newhouse





English and Irish Ivy

Hedera helix and *H. hibernica*

Description: English and Irish ivy look nearly identical. They are perennial evergreen vines with long, trailing, stems. Leaves are alternately arranged on the vining stems and have a waxy coating. Each dark green leaf has light colored veins and 3-5 lobes. Plants bloom only when light and nutrients are optimal. Clumps of green or white flowers produce black berry-like fruits.

Where found: English and Irish ivy can creep along the ground or climb trees and shrubs in open forests, forest edges, and fields.

Both species are landscape plants that have escaped to native habitats where they create large monocultures. The plants may release chemicals from their roots that retard the growth of other species. Ivy mulch can be used to suppress the growth of ground-covering vegetation. Ivy seeds are spread by birds but the foliage may be mildly toxic to pets.





Silver wattle

Acacia dealbata

Description: Deciduous tree to 40 ft (12 m) tall. Leaves divided into 8-25 pairs of overlapping segments each with 20-70 pairs of overlapping leaflets 0.08-0.2 in (2-5 mm) long. Angled leaf twigs covered in small, silvery hairs. Bright yellow flowers are in spherical heads. Produces flattened peapod-like fruits that split open on both margins.

English holly

Ilex aquifolium

Description: Evergreen tree or shrub growing 15-50 ft (5-15 m) tall. Leaves are thick, glossy, dark green and wavy, 1-3 in (2.5-8 cm) long, and alternately arranged on stems. Sharp, stout, spines occur along leaf edges. The flowers are small, whitish, and sweetly scented. Clusters of red, yellow or orange berries can be found on female trees in winter.

Where found: Silver wattle and English holly are ornamental plants that have escaped to invade a variety of habitat types, especially woodlands and forests.

Silver wattle



English holly





Himalayan blackberry

Rubus bifrons

(Also identified as *R. armeniacus* or *R. discolor*)

Description: Perennial evergreen shrub composed of thick arching stems with large thorns. Leaves are large, rounded to oblong, toothed and usually in groups of five. Clusters of small white to pink flowers produce green fruits that ripen to red then black in late summer.

Where found: Pastures, riparian areas, vacant lands, open areas, tree farms and roadsides.

Look-alikes:

Above: The native trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) is smaller, has three leaflets, and grows along the ground.



Below: The non-native cutleaf blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*) has deeply cut leaves.





European beachgrass

Ammophila arenaria

Description: Perennial grass found growing in tufts along coastal shorelines. Grows to 4 ft (1.2 m) tall. Long underground stems form new shoots. Flower heads are densely compact and spike-like, 6-12 in (15-30 cm) long and ~0.7 in (~1.8 cm) wide. Leaves are 15-45 in (10-45 cm) long and 0.1-0.2 in (2-5 mm) wide when flattened.

Where found: Dunes and sandy shorelines.

American beachgrass (*A. breviligulata*) is invasive on the Pacific Coast from Cape Lookout north, although it is native to the Atlantic and Great Lakes States. It is similar to European beachgrass but has slightly broader, lighter green leaves.

Look alike:

American dunegrass (*Leymus mollis* ssp. *mollis*) is a native grass that forms low dunes. It has flowers in a true spike, where each floret is attached directly to the stem.





False brome

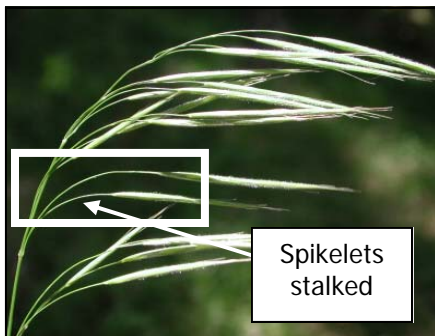
Brachypodium sylvaticum

Description: Perennial bunchgrass growing in short clumps 1.6-2.3 ft (5-7 dm) tall. Leaves are broad, flat, bright yellow-green and have hairs along the edges. Leaf sheaths are open to the base. Flowers are in spikes and the spikelets are not stalked. Flower spikes droop noticeably.

Where found: Found along roadsides and in forests, pastures and prairies.

False brome may prevent tree seedlings from establishing, has low forage value, and replaces threatened and endangered species.

Look alike:
Columbia brome
(*Bromus vulgaris*)
has spikelets that
are stalked.



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Japanese sedge

Carex kobomugi

Description: Rhizomatous grass-like plant growing 4-12 in (10-30 cm) tall. The flower stem is three angled with blunt, smooth edges near the flower head. Leaves 0.1-0.2 in (3-6 mm) wide, curving downward. Flowers occur in single, dense cluster consisting of either male or female flowers only. Male flower heads are 1.2-1.6 in (3-4 cm) long and 0.4-0.8 in (1-2 cm) wide. Female flower heads are 1.2-2.4 in (3-6 cm) long and 0.8-1.6 in (2-4 cm) wide, and light to medium brown.

Where found: Japanese sedge spreads aggressively on sandy, disturbed soil.

Look alike:

Big-head sedge (*Carex macrocephala*) is native to coastal sand dunes. The flower stem is three angled with sharp angles near the flower head, with at least one angle serrated. Female flower heads are dark brown.





Purple pampas grass

Cortaderia jubata
(Also called jubatagrass)

Description: Large perennial grass 3-5 ft (1-1.5 m) tall. Bright green leaves, 0.8-4 in (2-10 cm) wide, grow from base of plant horizontally or ascending. Flower clusters are 12-40 in (3-10 dm) long at end of 13 ft (4 m) tall stems. All plants are female, so seeds are produced asexually. Immature flowers are violet to purple and turn pinkish to tan at maturity.

Pampas grass

Cortaderia selloana

Description: Large perennial grass 6.5-13 ft (2-4 m) tall. Leaves bluish-green, 0.8-4 in (2-10 cm) wide, with an erect, fountain-like growth habit. Flowering stalks up to 20 ft (6 m) tall. Plants have either white to tan male flowers or white female flowers.

Where found: Purple pampas grass is an escaped ornamental that invades roadsides, bluffs, and logged forests. Pampas grass is a common ornamental that invades sandy soils and vacant lots.

Purple pampas grass



Pampas grass





Reed canarygrass

Phalaris arundinacea

Description: Perennial grass growing 3-6 ft (0.9-1.8 m) tall. Stems are hollow, up to 0.5 in (1.5 cm) wide, with reddish coloring near the top. Leaf blades are wide, flat, and hairless, and come off the stem at a 45 degree angle. The flowers are formed in large, compact to open spikes. Reed canarygrass may be distinguished from Harding grass by having more open flower spikes and distinct rhizomes.

Where found: Wetlands, roadsides, ditches and streams.

Harding grass

Phalaris aquatica

Description: Perennial grass growing 3-4 ft tall (1-1.3 m) with grayish to bluish green, hairless, leaves. Plants often form dense clumps. Flowering heads are very dense, spike-like and usually 2-5 in (5-13 cm) long.

Where found: Wetlands, pastures, roadsides, ditches and streams.

Reed canarygrass



Harding grass





Common reed



Phragmites australis ssp. *australis*

Description: Large perennial grass with hollow woody stems growing 3-13 ft (1-4 m) tall. Leaves 6-16 in (15-40 cm) long with an open sheath. Plume-like clusters of flowers with long silky hairs occur at end of flowering stalk. Creeping rhizomes (root stems) and stolons form new plant shoots. Plants also spread by broken stems and seeds.

Where found: This aggressively spreading grass is found in shallow water in roadside ditches, marshes, swamps, and brackish estuaries. It can also spread along railroad tracks and other areas where water sits for some part of the year.

Common reed impacts important habitat for wading birds and fish.





Smooth cordgrass

Spartina alterniflora

Description: Perennial grass growing to 8 ft (2.5 m) tall. Grows solitary or in small clumps and spreads by rhizomes. Leaf blades to 2 ft (60 cm) long, 0.1-1 in (3-25 mm) wide. Flower stalk 4-16 in (10-40 cm) long, with 3-25 branches, often partially enclosed in the uppermost sheath; floral branches 2-6 in (5-15 cm) long.

Where found: Intertidal mud or sand flats.

Common cordgrass

Spartina anglica

Description: Perennial grass growing 1-4.25 ft (30-130 cm) tall. Forms large clumps and spreads by rhizomes. Leaf blades 4-18 in (10-46 cm) long, 0.25-0.6 in (6-15 mm) wide. Flower stalk 5-16 in (12-40 cm) long, with 2-12, more or less equally spaced branches; floral branches 6-10 in (16-25 cm) long.

Where found: Lower to upper salt marsh.

Smooth cordgrass



Common cordgrass





Denseflower cordgrass^R

Spartina densiflora

Description: Perennial grass growing 1-5 ft (27-150 cm) tall. Grows in large clumps with very short or no rhizomes. Narrow leaf blades 4.5-17 in (12-43 cm) long, 0.1–0.3 in (3-8 mm) wide. Flower stalk a dense cluster, 4-12 in (10-30 cm) long, 0.2-0.3 in (4-8 mm) wide.

Where found: Lower salt marsh.

Saltmeadow cordgrass^R

Spartina patens

Description: Perennial grass growing 0.5-5 ft (15-150 cm) tall. Grows solitary with long rhizomes. Narrow leaf blades 4-20 in (10-50 cm) long, 0.02-0.2 in (0.5-4 mm) wide. Flower stalk a dense to open cluster, 1.2-6 in (3-15 cm) long, with 2-15 branches alternating on the floral stem. Floral branches 0.4-2.75 in (1-7 cm) long.

Where found: Upper salt marsh.

Denseflower cordgrass



Joseph M. DiTomaso, UC Davis, Eucweb.org

Saltmeadow cordgrass



Tom Forney, ODA



Nelson DeBarros@USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

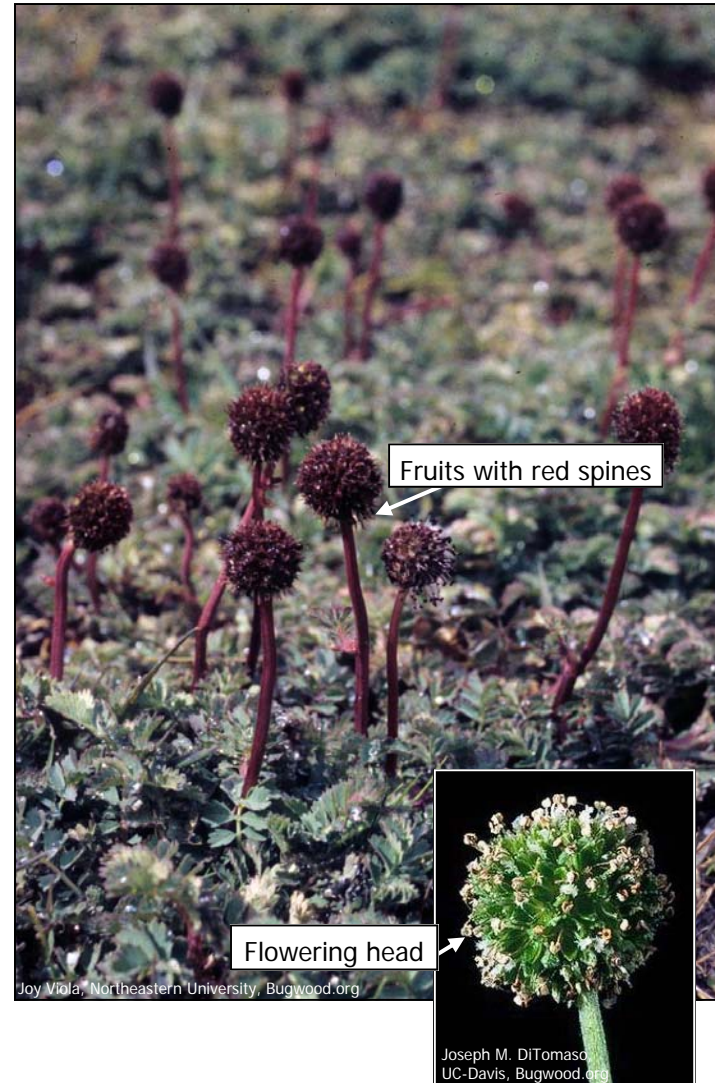


Biddy-biddy

Acaena novae-zelandica
(Also called New Zealand bur)

Description: Herbaceous mat-forming perennial with woody rhizomes and stolons up to 16 ft (5 m) long. Leaves 0.7-2.4 in (2-6 cm) long with 7-11 leaflets. Upper leaf surface shiny with margins that roll downward. Spherical floral heads of 80-100 flowers. Heads 0.4 in (1 cm) diameter. Fruits have red spines when immature and the whole flowering head matures into cluster of burs that disperse as a unit.

Where found: Open, disturbed sites, stabilized dunes, grassy areas, edge of seasonal creeks.





Italian thistle

Carduus pycnocephalus

Description: Herbaceous annual to sometimes biennial that grows 8 in-6.5 ft (2-20 dm) tall. Stems are spiny-winged with oblong or lance-shaped leaves up to 6 in (15 cm) long and 3 in (8 cm) wide that are divided into 4-10 spiny-toothed segments. Cobwebby hairs cover the stem and underside of leaves. Plants bloom in late spring producing 1-5 pink cylindrical flower heads with hairy bracts, born in clusters at branch tips.

Slenderflower thistle

Carduus tenuiflorus

Description: Similar to Italian thistle except 5-20 pink cylindrical flower heads born in clusters at branch tips. Flower heads with smooth to sparsely hairy bracts. Leaves divided into 12-20 spiny-toothed segments. Plants up to 6 ft (1.8 m) tall.



Where found: Open areas, pastures, roadsides and waste areas.

Italian thistle



Cobwebby hairs on bracts

Bruce Newhouse

Slenderflower thistle



Smooth bracts

Charles Webber © California Academy of Sciences



Meadow knapweed

Centaurea xmoncktonii

(Also identified as *Centaurea pratensis* or *C. debeauxii*)

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows up to 3.5 ft (11 dm) tall. Plants consist of one to several upright branched stems extending from a woody root. Leaves are usually larger at the base of the plant compared to higher up the stem. Plants bloom June to September, producing heads of bright pink to purple flowers with fringed bracts.

Spotted knapweed

Centaurea stoebe ssp. *micranthos*

(Also identified as *Centaurea maculosa*)

Description: Herbaceous biennial or perennial that grows to 3 ft (1 m) tall. Plants are multi-stemmed with several stems arising from the crown. Tips of flower head bracts are black, giving the heads a spotted appearance. White to purple flowers bloom from mid-summer to fall. Upper leaves divided.

Meadow knapweed



L. Flowering head, M. fringed bracts of flower head, R. basal rosette.

Spotted knapweed



L. plant, Top R. flower head with black tipped bracts, Below R. basal rosette.



Canada thistle

Cirsium arvense

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows 1.5-7 ft (0.5-2 m) tall. Leaves are wavy-margined to lobed with yellowish prickles along leaf edges. Leaves may be somewhat woolly underneath. Plants bloom in midsummer with clusters of small purple flower heads. Canada thistle is the only invasive thistle that is rhizomatous, forming dense stands that are difficult to eradicate.

Where found: Cultivated fields, rangeland, forests, roadsides, wetlands and waste areas.

Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Description: Herbaceous biennial that grows 1-7 ft (0.3-2 m) tall. Branching, somewhat woolly stems are covered in green to brown spines and hairs. Leaves are lobed, with prickles on the upper side and cottony hairs underneath. Plants bloom July-September. Dark pink to purple flowers are borne in large heads, 1.5-2 in (4-5 cm) wide, subtended by tightly-spaced spine-tipped bracts.

Where found: Disturbed sites, pastures, rangeland, and recently logged sites.

Canada thistle



Bull thistle





Shining geranium

Geranium lucidum

Description: Herbaceous low-growing annual with red stems and shiny, green, obtusely lobed leaves with scattered hairs. The leaves become red and waxy at the end of summer. Small pink to purple flowers with five petals (<0.5 in/8-10 mm long) produce fruits with a long, straight, pointed beak.

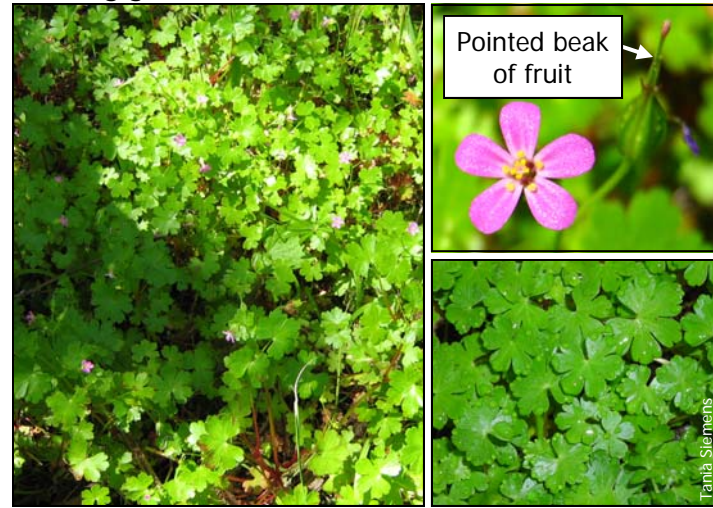
Herb Robert

Geranium robertianum

Description: Herbaceous low-growing winter or spring annual, biennial or perennial. The stems are often dark red and covered in white glandular hairs giving the plant a sticky or oily feel. Leaves are fern-like and light green, turning red in fall. Small pink to purple flowers with five petals (0.25-0.5 in/7-14 mm long) produce fruits with a long, straight, pointed beak. Plants give off a strong odor when crushed.

Where found: Both species are found in shady areas including forest understory, woodlands, riparian areas and roadsides.

Shining geranium



Herb Robert





Policeman's helmet

Impatiens glandulifera

Description: Herbaceous annual that grows 3-10 ft (1-3 m) tall. Stems and leaves are smooth and hairless. Stems grow upright, are easily broken, and have a purplish tinge. The leaves are oblong to egg-shaped and have serrated edges. The leaves are oppositely arranged or whorled. Flowers are solitary and white to pink or purple with five petals, two sepals, five fused stamens, and a flower shape that resembles a British policeman's helmet.

Where found: Riparian areas, moist forests, and roadsides.



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Purple loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Description: Herbaceous perennial with stiff, four-sided stems, growing 6-10 ft (1.8-3 m) tall. Leaves are opposite or whorled, lance-shaped and stalkless with rounded to heart-shaped bases and smooth edges. Small magenta flowers with 5-7 petals are produced on tall, showy, flower spikes from July to September.

Where found: Moist or marshy areas and shorelines.

Look-alikes: (R) Rose spiraea (*Spiraea douglasii*) is a native shrub with round stems and toothed leaf tips. Flowers are tiny and lighter pink, appearing in dense clusters at top of plant.



(L) Fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*) has round stems and longer leaves with a distinctive mid-vein. Flowers on stalks with four petals. Long capsules split open to release fluffy white seeds.



(R) Henderson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea hendersonii*) is native and has pink to purple flowers in spikes. Leaves orbicular and palmately veined.



Glenn Miller, ODA

Toby Query



Milk thistle

Silybum marianum

Description: Herbaceous annual or biennial that grows 1.5-8 ft (0.5 to 2.5 m) tall. Stems are branching with large, broad, clasping leaves. Leaf edges and stems have spines. White marbling is noticeable along the veins of leaves. Plants bloom April-October producing one large, pink-purple, spiny flower per stem.

Where found: Roadsides, ditches, fencerows, waste and disturbed areas, and grazed lands.



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Garlic mustard

Alliaria petiolata

Description: Herbaceous biennial. First year plants are clusters of 3-4 dark green, kidney-shaped, scallop-edged leaves rising 2-4 in (5-10 cm) high. In early spring, second-year plants produce 1-2 flowering stems 2-3.5 ft (6-10 dm) tall. Stem leaves are alternate, stalked, triangular to heart-shaped and coarsely toothed. Crushed leaves and stems smell like garlic. Small white flowers composed of four petals forming a cross are produced in button-like clusters.

Where found: Forest understory, forest edges, shaded roadsides, urban areas, riparian areas, flood plains, hiking trails and agricultural land.

Look-alikes:

Native saxifrage species (*Tellima grandiflora* and *Tolmiea menziesii*) can be distinguished from garlic mustard by long hairs on the leaf stems and by their green-ish to pink flowers. The non-native money plant (*Lunaria annua*) also looks similar vegetatively, but has pink petals.



All photos this page Emily Brown



Flowering rush R

Butomus umbellatus

Description: Rush-like aquatic perennial growing in shallow fresh water and mudflats. Grows to 5 ft (1.5 m) tall. Linear leaves up to 9 ft (2.7 m) long arise from base of plant while 3 leafy bracts grow just under the cluster of light pink flowers. Flowers 0.8-1 in (2-2.5 cm) wide, and 20-25 flowers per inflorescence.

Where found: Marshes, lake margins, sloughs, ditches. Not yet reported from Oregon.





Brazilian waterweed

Egeria densa

Description: Submerged freshwater aquatic perennial. Bright green leaves in whorls of 4-6, finely serrated margins, 1 in (2.5 cm) long. White flowers with 3 petals, each 0.4 in (10 mm) long. Vegetative reproduction from nodes on stem.

Where found: Brazilian waterweed was imported for aquariums and is now found in streams, rivers, ponds, ditches, and lakes. It forms dense stands that impact habitat for fish and other aquatic life. It clogs pumps and boat propellers.

Look alikes:

Canadian waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*) is a native submerged aquatic perennial with leaves in whorls of 3, 0.25-0.7 in (6-17 mm) long and leaf tips tapered to a blunt point. Flowers with 3 white petals, 0.1 in (2.5 mm) long. Nuttall's waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) is also native to Oregon but uncommon. It has leaves in whorls of 3 that are 0.5 in (13 mm) long and tapered to a slender point. Flower are greenish to white, 0.1 in (1.4 mm) long.





Giant hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows 10-15 ft (3-5 m) tall. Stalk and flower head develop after two to four years, then the plant dies back. Stems are 2-4 in (5-10 cm) wide and hollow, with purple blotches and coarse hairs. Leaves are 3-5 ft (1-1.5 m) wide, compound and deeply incised. White flowers are produced on 2.5 ft (8 dm) wide umbrella-like flower heads.

Where found: Moist disturbed soils, roadsides, ditches, unmanaged yards and vacant lots.

Giant hogweed sap can cause blistering of skin, permanent scarring, and sensitivity to light.

Look-alike: The native cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) may grow in the same areas as giant hogweed, but cow parsnip is usually much shorter (<6 ft/1.8 m tall), has smaller flower heads (8-12 in/2-3 dm wide), and the hairs on the undersides of leaves are soft, wavy, and shiny, not coarse.



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Parrot's feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Description: Perennial freshwater aquatic with two types of stems: underwater and above-water. Underwater stem leaves with 20-30 segments per 0.6-1.4 in (1.5-3.5 cm) leaf. Above-water stems with inconspicuous green flowers and less divided leaves, 0.8-2 in (2-5 cm) long, that are greener than the submersed leaves.

Eurasian watermilfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum

Description: Perennial freshwater aquatic with only underwater stems, usually 3-10 ft (0.9-3 m) long but up to 30 ft (9.1 m). The purplish-red branching stems have feathery bright green leaves with 13-23 segments. Flowering stems with purple male flowers and lower white female flowers extend just out of water.

Where found: Milfoils are found in ditches, drainage canals, lakes, and ponds. They clog waterways and impact habitat for fish. They grow rapidly in polluted water systems.

Parrot's feather



Eurasian watermilfoil





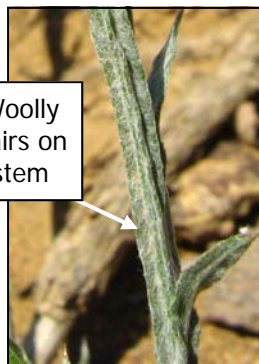
Yellow starthistle

Centaurea solstitialis

Description: Herbaceous winter annual growing 1.5-3 ft (4.5-9 dm) tall. Stems are rigid, winged, and many-branched. Both the stems and leaves are dull green and covered in woolly hairs. The basal leaves are deeply lobed and the stem leaves are narrowly oblong. Flower heads consist of yellow flowers and long, sharp spines.

Where found: Disturbed areas, roadsides and rangelands.

Yellow starthistle may deplete soil moisture in grasslands, reduce land value and recreational opportunities, displace native plants and decrease wildlife forage and native plant and animal diversity. This plant is poisonous to livestock.



Woolly hairs on stem

69



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Yellow flag iris

Iris pseudacorus

Description: Aquatic perennial that grows 3-4 ft (1-1.5 m) tall. Large plant clumps are formed from lateral growth of rhizomes. Leaves are long, flattened and sword-like. Multiple yellow flowers are produced per stalk. The fruit capsules are large, 3-angled and up to 4 in (10 cm) long with disk-like seeds.

Where found: Riparian areas, open water features, and irrigation ditches.

Flow in waterways, including irrigation canals and flood control ditches, can be severely restricted by this plant. All parts of the plant, especially the rhizomes, may be moderately to severely poisonous to livestock.

Look-alike: When not flowering, yellow flag may be difficult to distinguish from cattail (*Typha latifolia*). In summer, look for yellow flag fruits. At other times of the year look for the fan-shaped base of the yellow-flag plant which distinguishes it from cattail.



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Emily Brown



Tania Stephens

Toby Query

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Yellow archangel

Lamiastrum galeobdolon

Description: Fast growing perennial vine with variegated silver-grey coloring on leaf top. Oval leaves with toothed margins grow opposite on square stems. Flowering stems 1-2 ft (3-6 dm) tall. Yellow tubular flowers grow in pairs. Unpleasant smell. Plants spread by seeds and stem cuttings.

Where found: Landscape plant that can invade neighboring forest and grassland areas. Forms dense mat that excludes native forbs and tree seedlings.

All photos King Co. Noxious Weed Website 2011



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Dalmatian toadflax

Linaria dalmatica

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows 2-3 ft (6-9 dm) tall. The stem and leaves have a waxy coating. The leaves are heart-shaped and clasp the stem at their bases. Plants bloom from summer to fall, producing bright yellow flowers that are 1 in (2.5 cm) long with orange markings and long spurs.

Butter and eggs

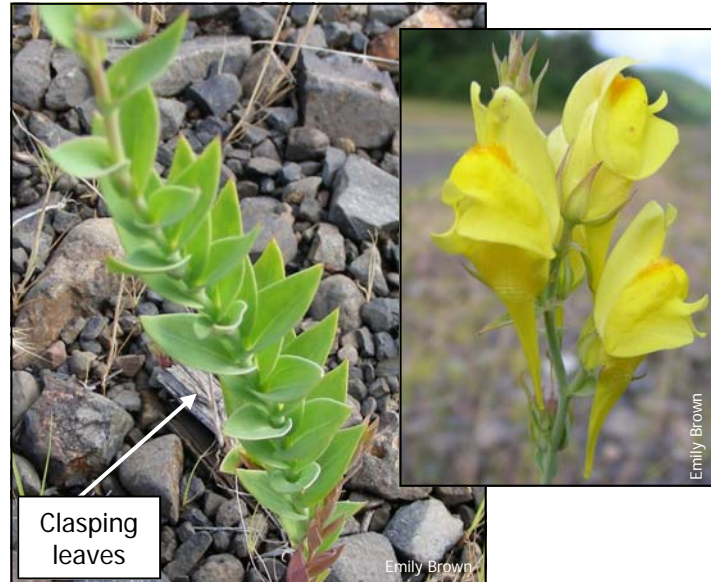
Linaria vulgaris

Description: Herbaceous perennial. Grows 1-2 ft (3-6 dm) tall. Plants consist of multiple stems arising in clumps with simple, alternate, stalkless leaves attached directly to the stem. The leaves are 1-2.5 in (2.5-6.5 cm) long, smooth, and pointed at both ends. The flowers are pale to bright yellow and "snapdragon-like" with a dull orange spot on the lower lip. Fifteen to 20 flowers are produced per stem.

Moderately poisonous to livestock.

Where found: Waste areas, pastures, roadsides, cultivated fields, meadows.

Dalmatian toadflax



Butter and eggs





Yellow floatingheart R

Nymphoides peltata

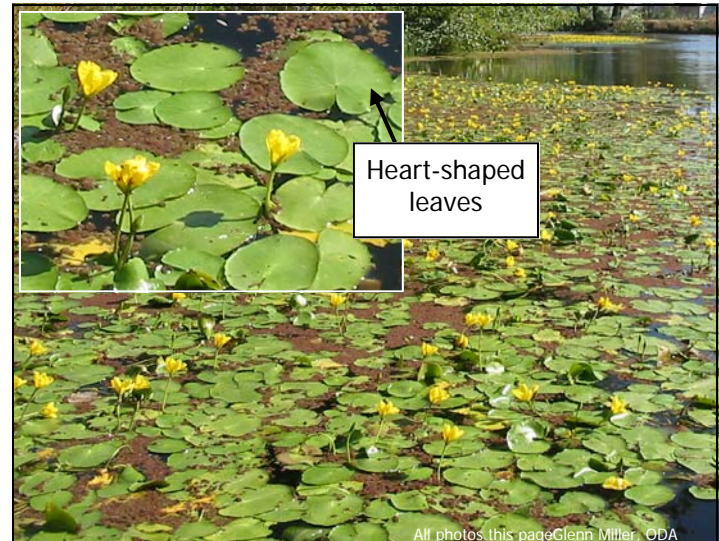
Description: Aquatic freshwater perennial. Yellow floatingheart is a waterlily-like plant that carpets the water surface with long-stalked heart-shaped leaves with purple undersides. The flowers are yellow, 1 in (2.5 cm) in diameter with five fringed petals. Two to five flowers are produced on a stalk.

Where found: Slow moving rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.

Dense patches of yellow floatingheart exclude native species and create areas of low oxygen levels impacting fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and water quality.

Look alike: Spatterdock (*Nuphar polysepala*) is a perennial water-lily like plant that is native to the northwest. The yellow flowers of spatterdock are globe-like and the leaves are large and elephant-ear-shaped.

Fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) is non-native and has similar leaves but its showy flowers are white or pink.





Lesser celandine

Ranunculus ficaria

Description: Herbaceous perennial. Grows 4-12 in (1-3 dm) tall. Plants form a basal rosette of dark green, shiny, heart-shaped leaves then bloom from March to April. The flowers are yellow, generally have eight petals, and are borne singly on stalks rising above the leaves. Pale colored bulblets on stem bases appear at the end of the flowering period.

Where found: Moist disturbed areas, forested floodplains, shaded streambanks and some drier upland areas.

Look-alike: The native marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) looks similar but has glossy, rounded or kidney-shaped leaves and flowers on stalks that are 8 in (20.3 cm) high or taller. Marsh marigold does not have tubers or bulblets at the stem bases and it does not form a continuous carpet of growth like lesser celandine.



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Tansy ragwort

Senecio jacobaea

Description: Herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial reaching 1.5–6 ft (4.5-18 dm) tall. Stems are erect and branched near the top. Leaves are dark green and deeply lobed. Plants bloom from midsummer to fall. Multiple yellow flower heads form at branch tips.

Where found: Pastures, clearcuts, roadsides, and other disturbed areas.

Leaves and stems are poisonous to livestock.

Common tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows 1-3 ft (3-9 dm) tall. Plants have stout, erect stems with dark green, fern-like (deeply divided) leaves. Plants bloom from July to August, producing button-like yellow flowers arranged in flat-topped clusters at the top of the plant. Common tansy flower heads do not have ray flowers.

Where found: Roadsides, fence rows, pastures, stream banks and waste areas.

Tansy ragwort



Ray flowers present

LaWatha Wisehart

Common tansy



Ray flowers absent

LaWatha Wisehart



Orange hawkweed ^R

Hieracium aurantiacum

Description: Herbaceous perennial. Grows to heights ranging from 8 in-2.3 ft (2-7 dm). The stems are usually leafless, stiff, and hairy. The basal leaves are hairy, lance shaped and up to 5 in (13 cm) long. Above-ground runners root at the tips creating dense mats of plants. Orange-red flowers are clustered at the top of a leafless stem. Black, glandular hairs cover the flower stalks and all parts of the plant exude a milky juice when cut.

Where found: Meadows, gravel pits, forest openings, pastures, roadsides, and hayfields.

Orange hawkweed displaces native vegetation and can dominate pastures, lawns and roadsides. It is unpalatable to livestock.

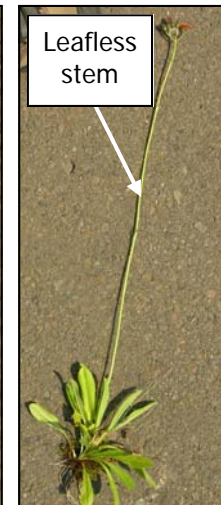
All photos Bruce Newhouse



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