

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### *This Booklet Produced by:*

Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association, [www.wsnla.org](http://www.wsnla.org)

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)

King County Noxious Weed Control Program  
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[www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/weeds/index.jsp](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/weeds/index.jsp)

Washington Invasive Species Coalition, [www.invasivespeciescoalition.org](http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org)

The Nature Conservancy of Washington  
Conservation Northwest  
University of Washington - Botanical Gardens  
Washington Native Plant Society

### *Funding Provided by:*

Temper of the Times Foundation  
Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

### *Compiled and Edited by:*

Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson, Alison Halpern, and Seth Cool

### *Design & Production by:*

White Ink, [www.white-ink.net](http://www.white-ink.net)

### *Special Thanks to:*

Karen Peterson, Sasha Shaw, Amy Yahnke, Laurel Baldwin, Sarah Reichard, and Seattle Urban Nature Project; Original concept by Lynn Coakley

### *Photos Provided by:*

John M. Randall, Mandy Tu, Barry A. Rice/The Nature Conservancy; Beryl Saunders, [www.saundersallotment.co.uk](http://www.saundersallotment.co.uk); James Manhart/Texas A&M, Mark Turner/Turner Photographics; Monrovia Nursery; Pat Breen/Oregon State University; Erv Evans, Alice B. Russell/NC State University; Pat Woodward/Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery; Terra Nova Nurseries; Tim Hagan; Brian Thompson; Allison C. Mayer; Jennifer Ellen Leach; M.R. & R.W. Smith; California Invasive Plant Council; Matt Goff, [www.nawwal.org/mrgoff](http://www.nawwal.org/mrgoff); Br. Alfred Brousseau/Saint Mary's College; Alan Dodson, Courtesy of Great Plant Picks

### *For More Information Please Visit Our Website:*

[www.invasivespeciescoalition.org](http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org)

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# GARDEN WISE

## *Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden*



Revised November 2006

WESTERN WASHINGTON GUIDE

VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT  
FOR THE GARDENING PUBLIC (ANNOTATED):

In an effort to reduce the spread of invasive plants used for horticultural purposes, experts have created the “Voluntary Codes of Conduct,” a series of steps that nursery professionals, landscape architects, gardeners, and others can take to help curb the spread of invasive horticultural plants.

- ✦ Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Plant only environmentally safe species in your gardens. Work towards and promote new landscape design that is friendly to regional ecosystems.
- ✦ Seek information on which species are invasive in your area. Sources could include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies. Remove invasive species from your land and replace them with non-invasive species suited to your site and needs.
- ✦ Do not trade plants with other gardeners if you know they are species with invasive characteristics.
- ✦ Request that botanical gardens and nurseries promote, display, and sell only non-invasive species.
- ✦ Help educate your community and other gardeners in your area through personal contact and in such settings as garden clubs and other civic groups.

For the full Gardening Codes of Conduct, or to learn about the Codes of Conduct for Government, Nursery Professionals, Landscape Architects, and Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, please go to the Center for Plant Conservation’s website at [www.centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/codesn.html](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/codesn.html)

INDEX. . . . . 32  
INVASIVES & NOXIOUS WEED LIST . . . . . Inside Back Cover



# GARDEN WISE

## *Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden*

**W**HILE MOST EXOTIC PLANTS are not problematic, a few have become invasive in Washington State. When these plants spread to wild areas, they cause serious problems. For example invasive knotweed, butterfly bush, and yellow flag iris are changing our stream-sides and river banks; English holly and Atlantic ivy are altering our forests.

This booklet represents the collaboration of nonprofit conservation groups, state and county government, and the nursery industry. We believe that preventing introductions is the most efficient way to reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. Whether you are looking for new and exciting plants to add to your garden, or you are looking to replace invasive plants in your yard, we hope this book will be a valuable resource. Working together, we can ensure that future generations enjoy pristine wild areas in Washington State.

Please note that this booklet is a product of an ongoing project. Visit [www.invasivespeciescoalition.org](http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org) for updates and to learn about other problematic plants and their alternatives.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  full sun   |  regular water     |  well-drained soil |
|  part shade |  medium water      |  heavy soil        |
|  full shade |  low water         |  evergreen         |
| WA Washington native   |  wildlife friendly |  deciduous         |

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

*Common Fennel*  
*Foeniculum vulgare*

NON-BULBING VARIETIES of this herb are prized for their tall, feathery, aromatic, and often colorful foliage. However, this perennial colonizes grasslands and disturbed areas, including roadsides and abandoned lots, where dense stands can crowd out native flora. Fennel escapees are a serious problem in California, particularly in native open lands and along the coast. Fennel invasions are becoming a common sight in western Washington and may pose an additional threat to our state's vanishing grasslands.



© John M. Randall/The Nature Conservancy



Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Florence Fennel, Finocchio, Bulbing Fennel*  
*Foeniculum vulgare var. azoricum*

THIS PLANT IS MOST like common fennel: ideal for culinary uses and with the same feathery foliage.

- The flavor of foliage and seeds are very similar to common fennel, the bulbs are a valued vegetable in many cuisines
- Foliage is green and has a feathery texture like common fennel, but the plant is smaller in stature (2-3 feet, not 4-6 feet)
- Like common fennel, Florence fennel likes full sun and well-drained soils
- Yellow flowers attract butterflies and foliage feeds butterfly larvae



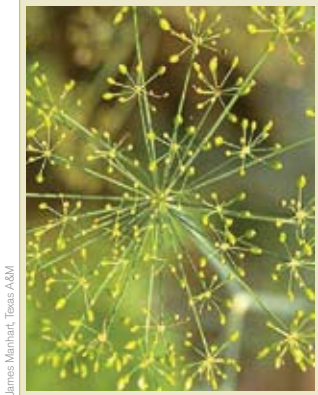
Beryl Saunders

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Dill*  
*Anethum graveolens*

THE FOLIAGE OF THIS PLANT is also feathery and reaches 3-4 feet.

- With a wonderful feathery foliage, dill offers a fennel-like hazy texture, although the plant is slightly smaller in stature
- Dill is easy to grow in sunny, well-drained sites
- Like fennel, it will self-sow in your garden, so remove spent flower-heads before seeds scatter
- Flat yellow flowers appear about the same time as those of fennel, attracting butterflies, and foliage feeds butterfly larvae



James Marhart, Texas A&M

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Cosmos*  
*Cosmos bipinnatus*

COSMOS FOLIAGE IS FERNY like common fennel, but its daisy-like flowers differ.

- This annual has a long bloom time lasting from summer into autumn
- It adds pink to white color to the garden
- Because of the profuse, 3-inch daisy-like flowers, the effect of cosmos in the garden is different from fennel
- Easy to grow and care for, cosmos can be deadheaded to prolong flowering
- Prefers well-drained soils and needs sunny sites, like common fennel



Mark Turner

ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

(none)

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

*Policeman's Helmet*  
*Impatiens glandulifera*

POLICEMAN'S HELMET HAS PRETTY pink-to-purple flowers and is unusually tall for an annual plant, reaching a maximum height of 10 feet. A garden escapee, this prolific, self-seeding plant has heavily colonized lowland riparian areas, including forests, stream banks, and roadside thickets, where it dominates native plant communities. Already considered a serious problem in Great Britain, it is still often illegally exchanged amongst garden groups in Washington.



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board



King County Noxious Weed Control Program

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Joddon Anna Bellflower*  
*Campanula lactiflora*

AN UPRIGHT LONG BLOOMING perennial for a well-drained, sunny to partly shady site.

- This easy-to-grow perennial will last in your garden to add color and texture over many years
- The upright habit to 30 inches adds similar texture and height to the garden
- Beautiful pink-white star shaped flowers on panicles are similar in color, but not form, to policeman's helmet
- With a long, early summer bloom-time, it does not add color in late summer



Mark Turner

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Delphinium, Larkspur*  
*Delphinium parishii* 'Sky Blue,' *D. x elatum*  
'Pacific Giants,' 'Magic Fountains'



AN UPRIGHT, TALLER HERBACEOUS perennial for a sunny site.

- Flower color ranges from white to deep lavenders and blues
- Some cultivars reach heights similar to policeman's helmet
- Spurred flowers on long spikes attract butterflies
- Deciduous perennial grows back stronger each year; check with your local nursery for disease resistant varieties



Mennova Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Cardinal Flower*  
*Lobelia cardinalis* & cultivars



AN UPRIGHT HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL for a moist, sunny to partly shady site

- Grows in similar conditions as policeman's helmet: moist soils and part shade
- Can reach heights of 3 feet, similar to policeman's helmet
- Blooms are generally bright red, though color can vary in some cultivars
- Attracts hummingbirds



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

*Cleome species*, *Gilia species*, *Ipomopsis species*, *Linum perenne*, *Mimulus guttatus*, *M. lewisii*, *Nicotiana mutabilis*, *Primula japonica*, *Dicentra formosa*, *Vancouveria hexandra*



HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

*Tall or Purple Verbena*  
*Verbena bonariensis*

TALL VERBENA HAS BEEN A POPULAR addition to garden borders for its lavender, tubular flower clusters borne atop elevated flower stalks. Although attractive in the garden, this vigorously self-seeding perennial is rapidly spreading into fields and open areas around the world, including the state of Oregon, and is on its way to being a problem in western Washington. The prickly hairs on the stem make this weed difficult to hand pull. Identify it early and nip it in the bud!



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© John M. Randall/The Nature Conservancy

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Russian Sage*  
*Perovskia atriplicifolia*

A LONG BLOOMING PERENNIAL for a sunny dry site.

- Twelve inch spires of small tubular purple flowers add a tall splash of color in late summer
- Like purple verbena, Russian sage is a drought tolerant plant that does well in poor soils
- Similar in height to tall verbena, Russian sage adds a strong vertical element to the garden with its silvery stems and foliage



Alice B. Russell, NC State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Homestead Purple Verbena*  
*Verbena 'Homestead Purple'*

THIS TENDER, PERENNIAL VERBENA is a shorter option for color in a sunny site.

- The long flowering period (May-October) of 'Homestead Purple' offers bright color throughout the season
- This drought-tolerant plant does well in low maintenance gardens
- Low-growing 'Homestead Purple' does not reach the heights achieved by tall verbena



Alice B. Russell, NC State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Ultra Violet Pincushion Flower*  
*Scabiosa caucasica 'Ultra Violet'*

AN EVER-BLOOMING PERENNIAL for a well-drained, sunny site.

- Bright violet pincushion-shaped flowers are perched on thin stems to 2 feet tall
- A great cut flower that attracts butterflies
- 'Ultra Violet' is a new cultivar with greater disease resistance than past offerings



Alice B. Russell, NC State University

ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

*Penstemon species*

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

*Knotweeds*

*Polygonum species*

Giant, Bohemian, Himalayan, & Japanese

FEATHERY WHITE FLOWER HEADS, large foliage, and tall, bamboo-like stems once made this group of knotweeds popular as garden ornamentals. Native to Asia, knotweeds have become a serious problem worldwide and are increasingly prevalent in Washington. They rapidly invade riparian zones: blocking sunlight, disturbing nutrient cycling, and facilitating stream bank erosion. These knotweeds are a serious problem along Washington State waterways where they degrade habitat for wildlife and fish, including salmon.



Whatcom Co. Noxious Weed Control Board



Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Goat's Beard*

*Aruncus dioicus*

THIS ROBUST PERENNIAL NATIVE provides height to your garden.

- Like knotweed, Goat's beard thrives in moist soil
- Produces a panicle of cream colored flowers similar to knotweeds, though foliage texture is finer
- Flowers in June and July, a little earlier than knotweeds
- Grows up to 6 feet tall



Er. Evans, NC State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Fothergilla*

*Fothergilla major*

DECIDUOUS SHRUB with gorgeous fall foliage.

- Small, fragrant white flowers bloom in spring, unlike the later blooming knotweeds
- Green foliage in summer turns to spectacular fall color as opposed to the less colorful knotweeds
- Like the knotweeds, fothergilla sports large leaves up to 5 inches long
- Shrub grows up to 9 feet tall
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils



Mencova Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Robusta Clumping Bamboo*

*Fargesia robusta*

A TRUE CLUMPING BAMBOO with an upright form.

- Grows to be 15-20 feet tall, taller than knotweeds
- Unlike knotweeds, clumping bamboo does not spread
- The stems provide the bamboo effect that gardeners prize in knotweeds
- Unlike the knotweeds, *Fargesia* keeps its narrow, shiny leaves in the winter for year-round interest
- Takes morning sun and afternoon shade



Mark Turner

ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

*Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Cornus stolonifera*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, *Physocarpus capitatus*, *Woodwardia fimbriata* (all WA natives except *Hydrangea*)



GROUND COVER & VINES

INVASIVE

*Yellow Archangel*  
*Lamium strumarium*

STRIKING VARIEGATED LEAVES and the ability to thrive in shady areas makes yellow archangel a popular ornamental plant for ground cover and hanging baskets. Unfortunately, this trailing plant easily establishes wild populations, in many cases as the result of improper disposal of garden cuttings. Yellow archangel forms dense, homogenous mats in parks and forests, and is a serious problem in British Columbia and western Washington.



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

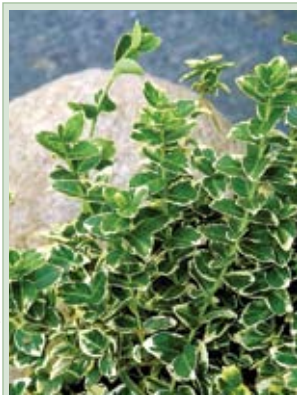
CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Euonymus*  
*Euonymus fortunei*  
'Silver Queen' & 'Emerald Gaiety'

LOW-GROWING EVERGREEN plant with attractive foliage.

- The variegated leaves of euonymus provide contrast in the low light preferred by yellow archangel
- Euonymus will tolerate full sun as well as the shade that yellow archangel prefers



Monrovia Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Heucheras & Heucherellas*  
*Heuchera species & Heucherella species*

LOW GROWING PERENNIALS, some native to the Northwest.



- These plants produce small, airy flowers above ornamental leaves in a variety of colors and patterns, rivaling the foliage of yellow archangel
- Heucheras and heucherellas tolerate sun to light shade
- Their flowers are also attractive to hummingbirds

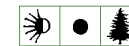


left: © Pat Woodward, Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery; right: Terra Nova Nurseries

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Japanese Spurge*  
*Pachysandra terminalis*

THIS EVERGREEN GROUND COVER with dark green foliage thrives in the shade.



- Fragrant white flowers add interest in summer, unlike the insignificant flowers of yellow archangel
- Japanese spurge tolerates partial sun to full shade, like yellow archangel
- Has beautiful, deep green leaves



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

ADDITIONAL GROUND COVER & VINES RECOMMENDATIONS

*Dicentra formosa*, *Epimedium species*, *Maianthemum dilatatum*, *Oxalis oregana*, *Sarcococca humilis*, *Tiarella trifoliata*

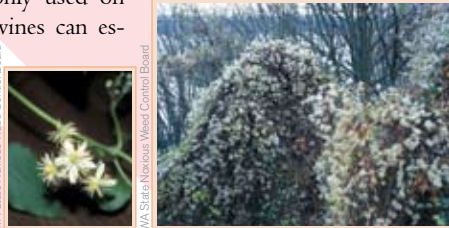
GROUND COVER & VINES

GROUND COVER & VINES

INVASIVE

*Old Man's Beard & Silverlace Vine*  
*Clematis vitalba & Polygonum albertii*

CLIMBING VINES SUCH AS old man's beard and silverlace vine are commonly used on arbors and trellises. Yet these vines can establish in forests and along riverbanks where they can smother shrubs and trees and form dense mats in the understory, displacing native flora. Both vines produce thousands of tiny seeds, which are spread by wind or carried on the bodies of birds. Silverlace vine can also regenerate from garden cuttings tossed aside, making escape from cultivation easy.



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board



King Co. Noxious Weed Control Program

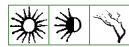
CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Sweet Autumn Clematis*  
*Clematis paniculata or dioscoreifolia*

THIS CLEMATIS IS A VIGOROUS and fragrant climber.

- Fragrant creamy white flowers
- Like the invasive vines, this is a robust climber
- Takes full sun to partial shade
- Flowers from summer to fall, like silver lace vine and old man's beard
- Grows up to 20 feet tall



Monrovia Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Italian Clematis*  
*Clematis viticella & cultivars*

THIS SPECIES INCLUDES a variety of colorful cultivars.

- Various flower colors to choose from, other than just the white flowering, invasive vines
- Growing only 15 feet tall, it does not overburden trees like the invasive vines
- Prefers full sun
- Like silverlace vine and old man's beard, this plant is not particular about soil type



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Orange Honeysuckle*  
*Lonicera ciliosa*

COLORFUL NORTHWEST NATIVE that butterflies and birds love too.

- Brilliant orange instead of white flowers
- Up to 30 feet tall, like old man's beard
- Takes full sun to partial shade
- Blooms from May to July, earlier than either of the invasive vines
- Attracts birds and butterflies with edible berries and nectar flowers



Tim Hagan

ADDITIONAL GROUND COVER & VINES RECOMMENDATIONS

*Actinidea kolomikta, Akebia quinata, Schizophragma hydrangeoides*

GROUND COVER & VINES



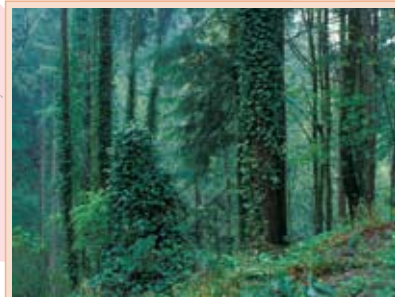
GROUND COVER & VINES

INVASIVE

*Atlantic or Irish Ivy & English Ivy Cultivars*

*Hedera hibernica* & *Hedera helix* 'Baltica', 'California', 'Pittsburgh', & 'Star'

WHILE OVER 400 CULTIVARS of ivy are used for landscaping, only a few are considered invasive. When allowed to climb and mature, invasive ivies produce seed-filled berries which are spread by birds. A serious problem in western Washington, these cultivars spread into forests where the vines block sunlight, smother trees, and encourage rot. Dense mats of ivy blanket the forest under-story, displace native flora, preclude forest seedlings, and harbor pests such as rats.



© John M. Randall/The Nature Conservancy

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Crinkle Leaf Creeper*

*Rubus pentalobus*

FORMS A GREAT, DURABLE CARPET of rough leaves, dark green in summer and tinged red-dish in winter.

- Good groundcover for slopes, will grow to cover larger spaces
- Drought tolerant like ivy, once established
- Crinkle leaf creeper is an attractive evergreen finer in texture than ivy—with leaves the size of strawberry leaves—but the solid green mat-like look is similar
- Grows well in sun and partial shade, and remains healthy with little care



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Kinnikinnick*

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*



GREAT NATIVE PLANT FOR CARPETING the ground and helping sustain wildlife.

- Evergreen foliage and mat-like spreading habit gives an emerald look year-round
- Like ivy, kinnikinnick is adapted to well-drained sandy soils and sun
- Though drought tolerant once established, unlike ivy, it does not tolerate shade
- Unlike ivy, kinnikinnick flowers are ornamental. White tinged pink bells appear in summer, with red berries following in late summer

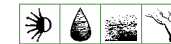


Pat Breen, Oregon State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

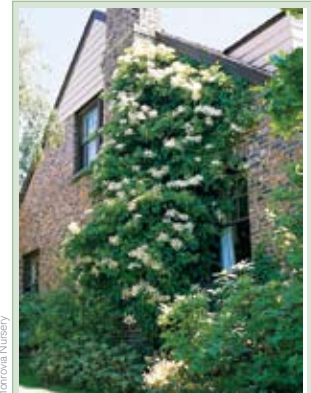
*Climbing Hydrangea*

*Hydrangea anomala subspecies petiolaris*



A GOOD VINE FOR CLIMBING trees or walls or fences: holds on like ivy.

- Medium green, heart-shaped leaves are beautiful, but different in texture and scale
- Large-leaved deciduous foliage will cover like ivy in summer, and cinnamon-red shaggy bark offers winter ornament
- Unlike ivy, it has beautiful lacy hydrangea-like blooms of cream-white in June which are good for dried arrangements
- Plant is relatively disease free and easy to care for



Morrison Nursery

ADDITIONAL GROUND COVER & VINES RECOMMENDATIONS

ALL PURPOSE: *Hedera helix* 'Hahn's'; GROUND COVER OPTIONS: *Cotoneaster dammeri*, *Eunonymus fortunei* (see p.10), *Fragaria chiloensis*, *Gaultheria shallon* (see p.25), *Lonicera pileata*, *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*, *Viola sempervirens*; CLIMBING: *Parthenocissus tricuspidata*; ADDITIONAL CLIMBING PLANTS: see pp.12-13

AQUATIC & WETLANDS PLANTS

INVASIVE

*Yellow Flag Iris*  
*Iris pseudacorus*

WITH ITS SHOWY YELLOW FLOWERS and dense, lance-shaped leaves, yellow flag iris has been a popular addition to ornamental ponds and water gardens. However, this emergent wetland plant quickly spreads through underground rhizomes and rhizome fragments. It naturalizes along streams, canals, and shorelines in Washington, particularly near developed areas. Yellow flag iris can completely outcompete native wetland plants along the shoreline, and its dense, root-like mat collects sediment and severely reduces water flow, affecting fish, plants, and animals.



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Japanese Iris*  
*Iris ensata*, 'Variegata' & cultivars

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL IRIS for pond edges and bogs.

- Ideal for wet boggy areas and edge-of-pond plantings, easy to grow
- Elegant large flowers of white, purple, and violet blue form in late spring and early summer (a little after yellow flag iris)
- Foliage can reach 16 inches, the scale of the plant is smaller than *Iris pseudacorus*
- The foliage of the cultivar 'Variegata' offers a creamy white and green foliar accent to pond plantings



Brian Thompson

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Jaevigata Iris*  
*Iris laevigata* & cultivars

A TRUE WATER LOVING IRIS, beautiful in and out of flower.



- Ideal replacement for yellow flag iris in pond plantings, laevigata iris will grow well in 6 inches of water. It is also good for wet boggy areas and easy to grow.
- Flowers are large white, purple, lavender, and pink. Yellow blooming varieties are rare.
- Blooms later than yellow flag iris
- Foliage can reach 18 inches, so the scale of the plant is smaller than *Iris pseudacorus*



© Pat Woodward, Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Siberian Iris*  
*Iris sibirica* & hybrids such as 'Butter & Sugar', 'Sunfisher' (both yellow blooming)



A VERY VERSATILE, easy-to-grow iris: the one to pick, other than a bearded iris, if you want yellow flowers.

- Good for mixed borders with normal water needs; also suitable for damp sites, but not for standing water
- Flower colors range from white to purple to blue-purple to yellow
- Foliage usually 2 feet or less, flowers taller, the plant is smaller than *Iris pseudacorus*
- An easy plant to grow and beautiful in and out of bloom, blooms May-June



Mark Turner

ADDITIONAL AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS

*Iris setosa*, *Iris missouriensis*, *Iris versicolor*, *Iris virginicum*, *Lysichiton americanum*, *Sisyrinchium californicum*, *Iris x germanica* (a bearded iris)



AQUATIC & WETLANDS PLANTS

INVASIVE

*Fragrant Water Lily*  
*Nymphaea odorata*

ALTHOUGH NATIVE TO THE EASTERN HALF of North America, fragrant water lily has been deliberately introduced into ponds and water gardens in the Pacific Northwest because of its large and beautiful, sweet-smelling white flowers. However, this floating-leaved plant can quickly dominate the water, denying submerged aquatic vegetation light and oxygen, stagnating water flow, and restricting wildlife and human access to water bodies.



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board



WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Fragrant Waterlily Cultivars*  
*Nymphaea* 'Luciana,' *N.* 'Pink Beauty,'  
*N.* 'Hermine'



FRAGRANT WATERLILIES for contained water gardens.

- Less aggressive cultivars of *Nymphaea*, such as the Marliac varieties, come in a wide range of both bold and subtle colors
- These water garden plants should not be placed in natural ponds, lakes, streams, or rivers where spread may be a danger or a problem



Er. Evans, NC State University

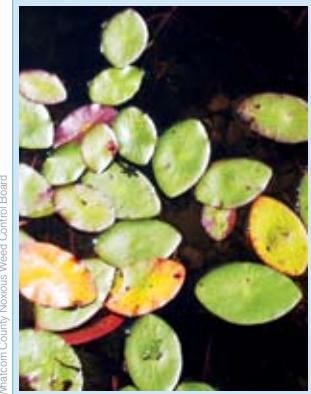
RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Water Shield*  
*Brasenia schreberi*



A NATIVE AQUATIC plant with floating leaves.

- Floating oval leaves are dark green on top and purple underneath
- Grows in water 2-6 feet deep
- Found in lakes around western Washington, water shield is safe to use in any natural water body to replace fragrant waterlilies
- Small, dark purple flowers that rise an inch or so above the water surface in late summer are attractive but unlike fragrant water lilies' showy blooms
- Fish and other wildlife use this plant for valuable food and shelter



Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Spatterdock*  
*Nuphar polysepalum*



A LARGE NATIVE AQUATIC plant found in a range of water depths.

- Floating leaves on stiff stems sometimes lift above the water during low water levels
- The showy yellow flower is dissimilar to fragrant waterlily's lotus-like bloom, but no less eye-catching
- This native plant is found in ponds and lakes around Washington and is an important source of food and shelter for local fish and wildlife



Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board

ADDITIONAL AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS

(none)



AQUATIC & WETLANDS PLANTS

INVASIVE

*Purple Loosestrife & Garden Loosestrife*  
*Lythrum salicaria & Lysimachia vulgaris*

BOTH GARDEN AND PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE are common additions to flower gardens. These invasive plants are a major threat to wetlands because of their ability to tolerate saturated soils and spread rapidly into non-disturbed areas. Purple loosestrife is notorious for forming uniform stands; it crowds out all native plants and reduces wetland habitat. Garden loosestrife is a new, serious concern as it has been observed outcompeting noxious purple loosestrife in Washington State wetlands.



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King County Noxious Weed Control Program

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEEDS

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Gayfeather*  
*Liatris spicata*

EYE-CATCHING, purple spiked perennial.

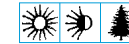
- Tall spikes of purple flowers are similar in appearance to purple loosestrife
- Takes full sun
- Blooms July through September, around the same time as purple loosestrife
- Unlike purple loosestrife, it likes well-drained soils



Monrovia Nursery

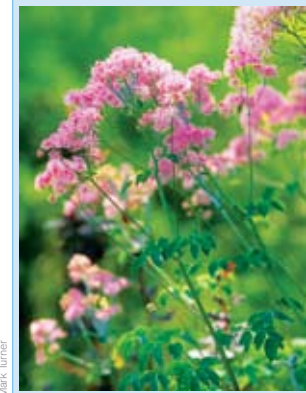
RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Meadow Rue*  
*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*



FEATURES LIGHT AND AIRY mauve to purple flowers above feathery foliage.

- Mauve to purple flowers are similar to purple loosestrife
- Thrives in moist, rich soils, like purple loosestrife
- Full sun to light shade
- Leaves resemble those of the columbine



Mark Turner

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Wilson's Ligularia*  
*Ligularia wilsoniana*



A TALL AND SHOWY wetland perennial.

- Spikes of bright yellow flowers open in mid-to-late summer, about the same time garden loosestrife blooms
- Grows in moist conditions, like garden loosestrife
- Takes full sun to partial shade



Allison C. Meyer

ADDITIONAL AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS

*Agastache foeniculum*, *Hebe 'Purple Picture'*, *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Mimulus guttatus*, *M. lewisii*, *Penstemon species*, *Prunus tenella*, *Coreopsis grandiflora*, *Caryopteris incana*

TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

*Butterfly Bush*  
*Buddleja davidii*

WITH ITS SHOWY PURPLE FLOWERS and ability to thrive under a variety of conditions, butterfly bush has become a popular garden ornamental in North America. However, it has escaped cultivation, invading roadsides, pastures, and other disturbed areas where it can form dense thickets and crowd out native plants. In the Pacific Northwest, it is problematic along rivers and streams where it traps sediment, and also in recently logged clearings. It spreads in the garden as well.



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Jennifer Ellen Leach

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*California Lilac*  
*Ceanothus* 'Victoria,' 'Dark Star,' 'Julia Phelps,' 'Blue Mist,' *C. x vetchianus*



A NEAT AND TIDY, profusely blooming and sun loving evergreen shrub.

- A wonderful fast growing and drought tolerant shrub for well-drained soils, this nitrogen-fixing plant tolerates poor soils
- Attracts butterflies and honey bees
- Great flowers, blue and fragrant, with long spring bloom-time
- Very self-reliant plant that is easy to care for, with no pest or disease problems
- Evergreen: looks neat & green year-round



Monrovia Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Chaste Tree*  
*Vitex agnus-castus*



A TALL AND UPRIGHT BUDDLEJA-LIKE shrub for a hot sunny site.

- Summer to early autumn blooms adds flower color at the same time of year as David's buddleja
- Blooms are lilac-like in form, fragrant, and lavender-purple or white, blooming late summer into fall in full hot sun
- Nectar attracts butterflies and foliage provides a food source for butterfly larvae
- Dark green palmately compound foliage is aromatic; the chaste tree is free of pests and diseases



Monrovia Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Pacific Ninebark*  
*Physocarpus capitatus* & cultivars



A PROFUSELY BLOOMING SHRUB with beautiful bark for full sun or shade.

- Attracts butterflies and their larvae
- A deciduous shrub with an upright habit reaching a similar height to David's buddleja (12-15 feet). It can be maintained at 8-10 feet, and adapted to a wide range of soils and exposure to sun
- Blooms are rounded pompoms of white to white-pink and the bloom time is earlier than buddleja – late spring to early summer
- The bark of this plant, like butterfly bush, is shaggy and ornamental



M. P. and R.W. Smith

ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS

*Caryopteris x clandonensis*, *Hibiscus syriacus*, *Holodiscus discolor*, *Philadelphus lewisii*, *Ribes sanguineum*, *Solanum crispum* 'Glasnevin,' *Buddleja fallowiana*, *Buddleja globosa*, *Buddleja x weyeriana*





## TREES &amp; SHRUBS

## INVASIVE

*Spurge Laurel*  
*Daphne laureola*

SPURGE LAUREL IS A SHADE-TOLERANT ornamental shrub with shiny, dark evergreen leaves and light green flowers. Birds spread its bluish black berries into the forest understory, where the shrub competes with native plants for water and nutrients. A native to the Mediterranean region, spurge laurel is considered one of the top ten plants threatening rare Garry oak ecosystems in British Columbia, and is spreading throughout Washington and Oregon.



CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED

## RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Winter Daphne*  
*Daphne odora*

THIS IS A WINTER blooming, deliciously fragrant shrub.

- Has larger, fragrant pinkish flowers than spurge laurel
- Prefers shady areas and is evergreen like spurge laurel
- Like spurge laurel, winter daphne is an early bloomer, from February to March



Monrovia Nursery

## RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Daphnoides Rhododendron*  
*Rhododendron 'Daphnoides'*

BEAUTIFUL, LARGE PURPLE FLOWERS decorate this evergreen shrub.

- Larger purple flowers unlike spurge laurel's insignificant white flowers
- This rhododendron does not have *Daphne* species' fragrant flowers
- Prefers sun to partial shade
- Blooms in late spring, after spurge laurel
- As its name suggests, the leaves are very "daphne-like"



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

## RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Salal*  
*Gaultheria shallon*

A HIGHLY TOLERANT native evergreen shrub with round leathery leaves.

- Small bell-shaped white flowers in March-June with berries in late summer
- Can inhabit a wide variety of soil types and light levels
- Attracts wildlife including butterfly larvae
- Foliage is often used in flower arrangements
- Thin lush shrub grows 3-6 feet tall, and up to 10 feet tall on favorable sites



Monrovia Nursery

## ADDITIONAL TREE &amp; SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS

*Choisia 'Aztec Pearl'*, *Sarcococca ruscifolia*, *Skimmia cultivars*, *Vaccinium ovatum*



TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

*English Holly*  
*Ilex aquifolium*

ENGLISH HOLLY'S EVERGREEN FOLIAGE and red berries make it a traditional hedgerow shrub in the Pacific Northwest. Two distinct leaf characteristics are evident, solid green and variegated. The solid green variety has been found escaping outside of gardens. Birds and small animals use the berries as a food source, and they spread seeds into surrounding areas where plants may propagate. Because the Northwest's climate is similar to the species' native Europe, English holly is appearing as scattered shrubs or low growing trees in lowland forests of western Washington.



Washington Invasive Species Coalition



Mark Turner

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Meserve Hybrid Hollies*

*Ilex x meserveae*  
'Blue Boy,' 'Blue Girl,' 'Blue Prince,'  
'Blue Princess,' 'China Boy,' 'China Girl,'  
'Berry Magic' & 'Ebony Magic'

IF YOU WANT LOTS OF BERRIES and beautiful holly foliage, these hybrids are the plants for you.

- Like English holly, the female cultivars will set fruit heavily only when pollinated
- All are evergreen with a dense habit, and take heavy pruning, making good hedges and screening plants
- All cultivars reach 15-18 feet or less; easier to maintain as a hedge than English holly



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Tall Oregon Grape*  
*Mahonia aquifolium*

PLANT WITH A DENSE, upright, almost pillar-like habit and dark green holly-like leaves.

- A great native plant, for screening and hedging in a sunny site where it remains densely cloaked with leaves
- Tall oregon grape will grow to reach 8-10 feet in time, it is smaller than holly
- Unlike holly, this plant's bright yellow blooms are ornamental. They appear in very early spring and are followed by blue-black, not red, berries in summer.
- Easy to grow in a variety of soils, it has no disfiguring pests



Mencova Nursery

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Holly-Leafed Osmanthus or False Holly*  
*Osmanthus heterophyllus*

GREAT PLANT FOR SCREENING, osmanthus looks like a English holly without berries.

- This plant is often mistaken for a holly and, like holly, is well suited for screening and hedges because of its densely branched upright habit
- The absence of red berries is compensated by small but very fragrant flowers in autumn
- Grows well in a variety of soil types and in sun or partial shade and will reach 15 feet or more
- Easy to care for, it is free of any disfiguring diseases or pests



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS

*Berberis x gladwynensis* 'William Penn,' *Eucryphia glutinosa*, *Pyracantha* 'Mohave,' *Pyracantha koidzumii* 'Victory,' or other disease resistant varieties of *Pyracantha*, *Ilex aquifolium* 'Ferox Argenta' and 'Gold Coast'

TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

*Black Locust*

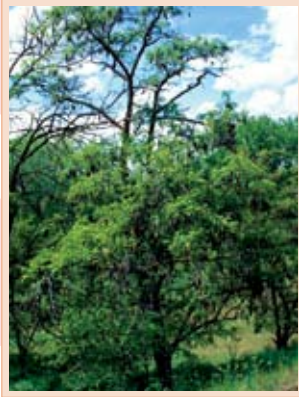
*Robinia pseudoacacia*

NATIVE TO THE SOUTHERN U.S., black locust has been planted extensively for its attractive and fragrant flowers, hard wood, and rapid growth. This tall, fast-growing, and thorny member of the legume family can quickly form dense stands in prairies and along forest edges, displacing native vegetation and reducing the herbaceous understory. It is good at outcompeting many other plants because of its nitrogen-fixing ability. Already problematic in the northeastern U.S. and in Texas, black locust is also invasive in the Pacific Northwest and California.

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© Mandy TL/The Nature Conservancy



RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Oregon Ash*

*Fraxinus latifolia*

NATIVE TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, this tree grows well in moist soils.

- Light green, compound leaves provide a texture similar to black locust
- Oregon ash leaflets are larger than those of black locust
- Similar in height to locust, Oregon ash can grow up to 80 feet
- The round, full crown shape of mature trees is similar to that of black locust



Pat Breen, Oregon State University



RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Kentucky Coffee Tree*

*Gymnocladus dioica*

A DROUGHT AND AIR pollution tolerant tree for moist, well-drained sites.

- Small leaflets on compound leaves provide a light and airy texture
- Seed pods similar to those of black locust can be avoided by planting male trees
- With heights of up to 75 feet, Kentucky coffee tree provides a similar shade canopy effect
- Though moderately fast growing, Kentucky coffee tree does not seed aggressively like black locust



Pat Breen, Oregon State University



RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Golden Rain Tree*

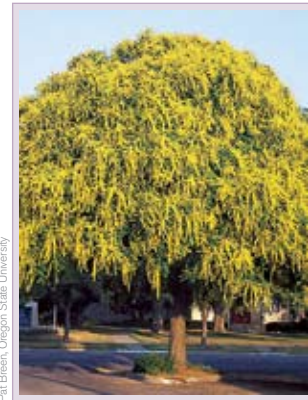
*Koelreuteria paniculata*

THIS MEDIUM-SIZED ornamental tree tolerates a wide range of soil conditions in sunny to partly shady sites.

- Showy yellow flowers grace what is one of the few mid-summer blooming trees
- Compound foliage offers a similar texture to black locust
- Ornamental fruit pods last through winter
- Like black locust, golden rain tree grows quickly



Pat Breen, Oregon State University



ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS

*Katsura japonica, Liriodendron tulipifera, Sophora japonica*





TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

*Common European Hawthorn & European Mountain Ash*  
*Crataegus monogyna & Sorbus aucuparia*

THESE SMALL, ORNAMENTAL TREES are popular for landscaping because of their attractive white flowers and showy red berries. But birds readily disperse the seeds from garden plantings into natural areas, where hawthorn displaces native vegetation and forms impenetrable thickets that can change the understory ecosystem of forests. European mountain ash can establish in both wetland and upland areas. Native versions of both these beautiful plants exist. More demand will create supply in nurseries.



Pat Breen, Oregon State University



California Invasive Plant Council



Jillene Wainhart, Texas A&M



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Douglas Hawthorn*  
*Crataegus douglasii*

NATIVE TO WESTERN NORTH AMERICA, this small tree can easily be confused with the invasive *Crataegus monogyna*.

- Similar in appearance to the single-seeded invasive hawthorn, Douglas hawthorn can be distinguished by the three to five nutlets found in the fruit and less-highly lobed leaves
- Showy white flowers open in late spring
- Provides erosion control in moist soil conditions and riparian areas



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Javalle Hawthorn*  
*Crataegus x lavalleei*

A SUPERB ORNAMENTAL TREE in all seasons for sunny to partly sunny, well-drained sites—one of the very best hawthorns for the garden.

- Showy white flower clusters appearing between May and June are more ornamental than the invasive Hawthorn and Ash
- Bright orange-red crabapple fruits contrast with autumn leaves and dark bark
- Glossy, dark green and boldly textured leaves develop a beautiful bronze tinge in the fall
- This tree is eminently suited to urban and suburban gardens, reaching 25-30 feet tall and 20-25 feet wide



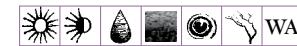
Alan Dodson, Courtesy of Great Plant Picks

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

*Western Crabapple*  
*Malus fusca*

A PACIFIC COAST NATIVE for moist soils in a sunny to partly shady site.

- Edible but tart red crabapple fruits are visible in late summer to fall
- Red or yellow-orange leaf color highlights your garden in fall
- Pretty white to pink flowers appear in mid-April
- A small shrub or accent tree that grows to 35 feet in height



© Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College

ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS

*Amelanchier alnifolia*, *Crataegus columbiana*, *Crataegus phaenopyrum*, *Malus* 'Everest', *Sophora japonica*, *Sorbus commixta*, *Sorbus hupehensis*





## INDEX

PAGE	PAGE
INVASIVE & ALTERNATIVE PLANTS, BY SCIENTIFIC NAME	
<i>Anethum graveolens</i> . . . . .	3
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> . . . . .	15
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> . . . . .	8
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> . . . . .	19
<i>Buddleja davidii</i> . . . . .	22
<i>Campanula lactiflora</i> . . . . .	4
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp. and cultivars . . . . .	22
<i>Clematis vitalba</i> , c. spp., and cultivars . . . . .	12-13
<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i> . . . . .	3
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> & <i>C. monogyna</i> . . . . .	30
<i>Crataegus x lavallei</i> . . . . .	31
<i>Daphne laureola</i> & <i>D. odora</i> . . . . .	24
<i>Delphinium parishii</i> and cultivars . . . . .	5
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> cultivars . . . . .	10, 15
<i>Fargesia robusta</i> . . . . .	9
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> . . . . .	2
<i>Fothergilla major</i> . . . . .	9
<i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> . . . . .	28
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i> . . . . .	25, 15
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> . . . . .	29
<i>Hedera helix</i> & <i>H. hibernica</i> . . . . .	14-15
<i>Heuchera</i> & <i>Heucherella</i> spp. and cultivars . . . . .	11
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> . . . . .	15
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> & <i>I. x meserveae</i> . . . . .	26
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> . . . . .	4
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> & <i>Iris</i> spp. and cultivars . . . . .	16-17
<i>Koeleruteria paniculata</i> . . . . .	29
<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i> . . . . .	10
<i>Liatris spicata</i> . . . . .	20
<i>Ligularia wilsoniana</i> . . . . .	21
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> and cultivars . . . . .	5
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i> . . . . .	13
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i> . . . . .	20
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i> . . . . .	20
<i>Mabonia aquifolium</i> . . . . .	27
<i>Malus fusca</i> . . . . .	31
<i>Nuphar polysepalum</i> . . . . .	19
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i> . . . . .	18
<i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i> . . . . .	27
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> . . . . .	11
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> . . . . .	6
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> and cultivars . . . . .	23
<i>Polygonum albertii</i> . . . . .	12
<i>Polygonum</i> spp. . . . .	8
<i>Rhododendron 'Daphnoides'</i> . . . . .	25
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> . . . . .	28
<i>Rubus pentilobus</i> . . . . .	14
<i>Scabiosa caucasica</i> . . . . .	7
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> . . . . .	21
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i> & <i>V. cultivar</i> . . . . .	6-7
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> . . . . .	23
INVASIVE PLANTS, BY COMMON NAME	
Ash, European mountain . . . . .	30
Butterfly bush . . . . .	22
Fennel, common . . . . .	2
Hawthorn, common European . . . . .	30
Holly, English . . . . .	26
Iris, yellow flag . . . . .	16
Ivy: Atlantic or Irish & English cultivars . . . . .	14
Knotweeds . . . . .	8
Laurel, spurge . . . . .	24
Locust, black . . . . .	28
Loosestrife: garden & purple . . . . .	20
Old man's beard . . . . .	12
Policeman's helmet . . . . .	4
Silverlace vine . . . . .	12
Verbena: tall or purple . . . . .	6
Water lily, fragrant . . . . .	18
Yellow archangel . . . . .	10

## NOXIOUS WEED LIST

TO HELP PROTECT OUR STATE'S RESOURCES AND ECONOMY, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board creates an annual Noxious Weed List of the most serious invasive plants (WAC 16-750). This list separates weeds into three major classes:

### CLASS A WEEDS

Species whose distribution in Washington is limited. State law requires eradication of these Noxious Weeds.

### CLASS B WEEDS

Species whose distribution is limited to portions of Washington. The goals are to contain the plants where they already occur and prevent spread into new areas.

### CLASS C WEEDS

Noxious Weeds that are already widespread in Washington State. Counties can opt to enforce control.

Because half of the plants on the weed list are garden escapees, making wise garden choices is an excellent step in controlling invasive plants.

For information on weed laws or weed removal, contact your county's noxious weed control board. The state weed board can direct you to your county weed board: [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov) [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov) 360-902-2082

## INVASIVES

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION, "invasive, non-native species are those that can or have spread into native wilderness or managed ecosystems, develop self-sustaining populations, and become dominant or disruptive to those systems."

Invasive plants are causing serious environmental and economical damage worldwide. These plants hurt Washington's economy and prized natural resources by reducing crop yields, displacing our native plants, destroying fish and wildlife habitat, decreasing land values, choking waterways, and by diminishing recreational opportunities such as fishing, hiking, and hunting.

Preventative weed control is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to combat invasive plants, and this practice can start right at home in your own garden.

for more information go to:  
[www.invasivespeciescoalition.org](http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org)