

Columbia County Field Guide for Noxious Weeds



Columbia
Soil & Water
Conservation District



Institute
for
Applied
Ecology

Cover photo by: Alison Fox, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

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What is a Noxious Weed?

"A ... plant designated by the Oregon State Weed Board under ORS 569.615 as among those representing the greatest public menace and as a top priority for action by **weed control programs.**" - OR Department of Agriculture
To be classified as noxious, a plant must exhibit, or have the potential to exhibit, one or more of the following detrimental effects:

1. Causes severe negative impacts to Oregon's agricultural economy and natural resources.
2. Endangers native flora and fauna by its encroachment into forest, range, aquatic, and conservation areas.
3. Hampers the full utilization and enjoyment of recreational areas.
4. Is poisonous, injurious, or otherwise harmful to humans and/or animals.

- R** Report plants with this symbol to Columbia SWCD at **1-800-741-6105** or **weeds@columbiaswcd.com**.
- A** "A" list plants are a top priority to report to the SWCD and/or the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline at **1-866-INVADER** or **www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org**.

- !** Plants with this symbol are known to be toxic to humans. Some plants without this symbol may still be somewhat toxic to people and very toxic to livestock. Never consume wild plants unless you are certain it is safe.

How to Use This Guide

The purpose of this guide is to help landowners and land managers identify invasive plants that could or do already negatively impact Columbia County in an effort to prevent their spread and reduce infestations. Most of the plants in this guide are State listed noxious weeds. A few are non-listed species of regional importance. This guide includes **weeds that are imminent "new invaders" as well as those** that are already well established. Species are organized by their preferred habitat type. *This guide does not include information on how to remove, treat, or control weeds.* For further information or help with noxious weeds see below:

Resources for Noxious Weeds

Columbia SWCD
32825 Millard Road,
St. Helens, OR 97051
503-433-3205
weeds@columbiaswcd.com

OSU Extension Office
505 N. Columbia River Hwy.,
St. Helens, OR 97051
503-397-3462



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AQUATIC & WETLAND SPECIES

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, riverbanks, and brackish estuaries. It can also spread along railroad tracks and other areas where water sits for part of the year.

Common reed negatively impacts important habitat for waterfowl and fish.



Common reed
flowering on a
river bank

Joseph M. DiTomaso, UC Davis, Bugwood.org



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 the water.

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.

Where found: Both species are found in high nutrient, slow-moving, freshwater bodies such as lakes, ponds, sloughs, ditches, streams, and drainage canals. They clog waterways, block sunlight and oxygen exchange, and negatively impact water quality, fish habitat, and recreation. They grow rapidly in highly polluted areas.

Eurasian watermilfoil



Parrot's feather



RA Flowering rush

(Butomus umbellatus)

Description: Rush-like aquatic perennial growing in shallow freshwater 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, 20-25 flowers per inflorescence, and blooms in late summer to early fall. It can grow along shorelines or as an emergent in shallow water.

Where found: Flowering rush is found in slow moving freshwater areas like marshes, lake margins, sloughs, and ditches. It can displace native wetland vegetation, clog irrigation and drainage canals, and impede recreation along lakes and shorelines.





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



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

R 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 red-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. Policemen's helmet resembles some native Impatiens. Ensure correct identification before removing.

Where found: Policemen's helmet is found in riparian areas, wetlands, moist forests, roadsides.



Barbara Tokarska-Guzik, University of Silesia, Bugwood.org



Purple loosestrife

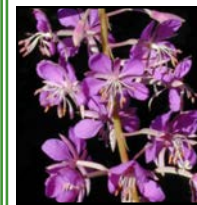
(Lythrum salicaria)

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.

(B) 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) Cusick's checkermallow (*Sidalcea cusickii*)

is native and has pale to medium pink flowers in congested spikes. Leaves orbicular and palmately veined.





Leslie Mehrhoff, Univ. of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

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 (root stems).

Harding grass

(Phalaris aquatic)

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: Both Reed canarygrass and Harding grass can be found in wetlands, riparian areas, pastures, roadsides, ditches. They displace native vegetation and quality forage, contribute to erosion along streambanks, and reduce wildlife habitat.

Reed canarygrass



Harding grass



R Water primrose

(Ludwigia peploides & Ludwigia hexapetala)

Description: Aquatic, emergent, perennial with floating strands extending up to 20 feet (7m) long. Leaf shape can vary with environmental conditions, but they are often lance-shaped, alternate, waxy and slightly hairy (resembling willow leaves). Stems have a red tinge and flowers are small with 5 or 6 petals and bright yellow. Water primrose forms tangled **mats on the water's surface, choking out native vegetation, clogging canals, and impeding recreational activities.** It is most often spread by fragmentation of roots, stems or leaves. It is also allelopathic and, where infestations are significant, can lead to hypoxic conditions for aquatic wildlife.

Where found: Lakes, ponds, sloughs, irrigation canals, and slow moving waterways.



Water primrose



Yellowflag 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, ponds and lakes shorelines, 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, it may be difficult to distinguish between yellowflag iris and cattail (*Typha latifolia*). In summer, look for yellowflag fruits. At other times of the year look for the fan-shaped base of the yellowflag plant which distinguishes it from cattail.





RA Yellow floatingheart
(Nymphoides peltata)

Description: Aquatic perennial. Yellow floatingheart is a waterlily-like plant that carpets the water surface with long-stalked heart-shaped leaves that have 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, sloughs, 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: Yellow pond lily (*Nuphar lutea*) is a perennial aquatic plant that is native to the northwest. The yellow flowers are globe-like and the leaves are large and elephant-ear-shaped.



Yellow pond lily

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



Heart-shaped leaves

FOREST & RIPARIAN SPECIES

Armenian blackberry

(Rubus armeniacus)

(a.k.a. Himalayan blackberry; *R. procerus*, *R. bifrons* 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. Mature stems are a brown/purple color. Clusters of small white to pink flowers produce green fruits that ripen to red then black in late summer.

Where found: Pastures, riparian areas, open forests, clearcuts, 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.





Butterfly bush

(Buddleja davidii)

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

False indigo bush

(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: Both are found in disturbed areas, natural forests, riparian areas, urban places, and wetlands.

Look-alikes:

The native Douglas or Rose spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*) has similar cone-shaped clusters of flowers (usually pink, not purple) and blooms at the same time.



L. Wilson, Univ. of Idaho, Bugwood.org

Butterfly bush



False indigo bush



English holly

(Ilex aquifolium)

Not Currently a State Listed Weed

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: English holly is an ornamental plant that has escaped to invade a variety of habitat types, especially forests and riparian areas.

Look-alikes:

Tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) is a native perennial shrub growing up to 5 ft (1.5 m) tall. It's waxy dark green leaves have thorns along the edges but are flat, as opposed to Holly's wavy leaves.

Tall Oregon grape produces yellow flowers in late spring leading to small blue-purple berries in summer.





R 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:

Non-native Money plant (*Lunaria annua*) and Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) also look similar vegetatively, but have pink and yellow flowers respectively.

Native saxifrages (*Tellima grandiflora* and *menziesii*) can be distinguished from garlic mustard by long hairs on the leaf stems and by their green-ish to pink flowers.



Wikipedia.com



RA! **Giant hogweed**

(Heracleum mantegazzianum)

"A" Listed State Noxious Weed

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. Mature stems can appear completely purple. 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. Giant hogweed sap can cause blistering of skin, permanent scarring, and sensitivity to light.

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

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

Giant hogweed



Cow parsnip



R. Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



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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 or in strong sunlight. 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, musty, odor when crushed.

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.

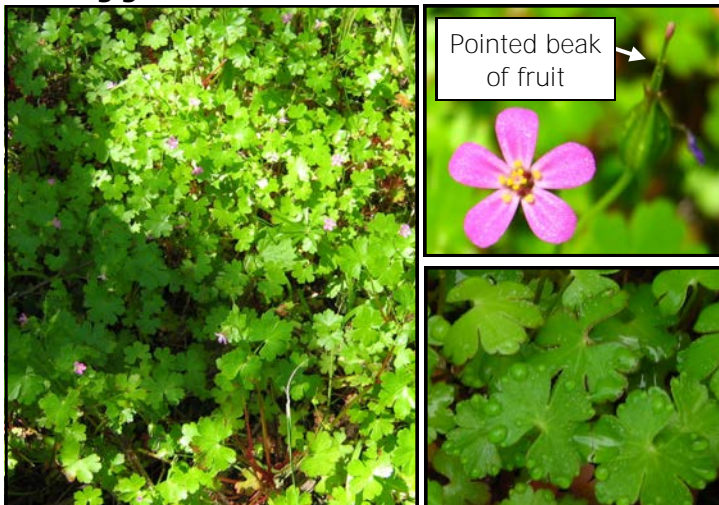
Where found: Both species can tolerate a wide variety of conditions. They seem to favor partially shaded areas including forest understories and edges, oak woodlands, riparian areas, and roadsides. Seeds are easily spread on shoes, equipment or vehicles, and can take root in poor soils and gravel.

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Herb Robert



Shining geranium



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Italian arum

(Arum italicum)

Not Currently a State Listed Weed

Description: Herbaceous perennial growing up to 1.5 ft (0.4 m). Leaves have large arrowhead shape; can be all green or have light colored veins. In the spring the plant grows a yellow flower with a hood called a spadix, which gives off an unpleasant odor. The flower gives way to bright orange berries in the late summer which are eaten and dispersed by birds, but are highly toxic to humans. It prefers moist, organic rich soils, and partial to full shade. It spreads by seed as well as buds which grow attached to its roots and detach to form new plants. New infestations can start when buds are moved during flooding or human activities. Trying to dig up this plant will often result in new infestations.

Where found: Riparian areas, forest understories, floodplains, rural and urban yards.



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Italian arum



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. Mature leaves are spade shaped and are an indication that flowering will occur. 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. Unchecked infestations can devastate ecosystems, weaken trees and even cause early tree death. Ivy seeds are spread by birds but the foliage may be mildly toxic to pets.





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Japanese knotweed

(Fallopia japonica a.k.a. Polygonum cuspidatum)

Description: Shrub-like herbaceous perennial growing in clumps 8 ft (2.4 m) tall. Stems have a bamboo appearance, are hollow, have reddish nodes, and bear 4-6 in (10-15 cm) long oval leaves with flat bases. Leaves are large, flat and arranged alternately. Small white to green flowers are borne in clusters that droop from the leaf axils. Plants bloom in mid-late summer.

Giant knotweed

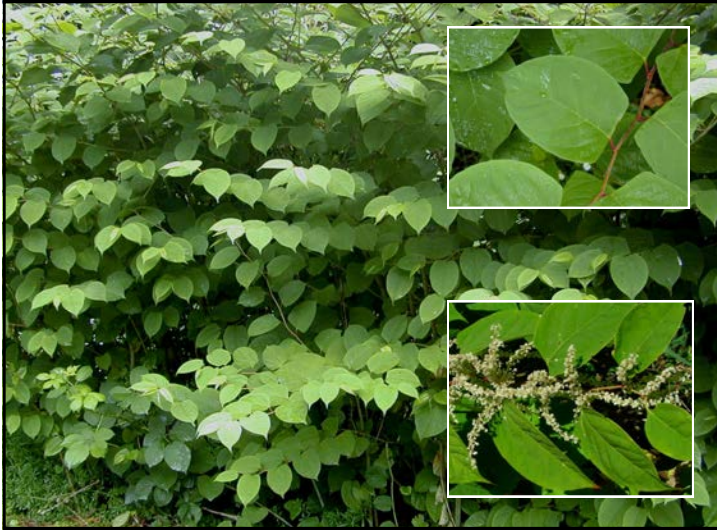
(Fallopia sachalinensis a.k.a. Polygonum sachalinense)

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.

Where found: Knotweeds are found along trails, roadsides, and riparian areas, spreading by root and stem fragments. They form dense stands that shade out other vegetation and inhibit tree establishment along streams. Stem or root fragments transported by water or in contaminated soil easily take root and start new infestations.

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Japanese knotweed



Giant knotweed



Himalayan knotweed

(Persicaria wallichii a.k.a. 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.

Bohemian knotweed

(Fallopia xbohemica)

Description: Bohemian knotweed is a hybrid between Giant and Japanese knotweed and has leaves that are intermediate between Japanese and Giant knotweeds.

Look-alikes: The native Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*) has sprays of flowers that resemble knotweeds, but the leaves are smaller and shallowly lobed. Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), an important shrub/small tree for streamside restoration, has leaves and reddish branches that resemble some knotweeds, but the stems are perennial and woody. **It's flowers are also small and white, but are in tighter, more erect clusters.**



Himalayan knotweed



Bohemian knotweed



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R 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.



Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

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Old man's beard

(Clematis vitalba)

Description: Perennial, woody, deciduous 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.**

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Periwinkle

(*Vinca major* and *V. minor*)
Not Currently a State Listed Weed

Description: Herbaceous perennial, evergreen, vine. Stems continue to grow each year reaching many meters in length. It can be seen trailing along the ground, climbing over small structures and other plants, and creating mounds. Leaves are opposite, narrow and lance shaped; dark green and glossy with a faint white midvein. In very sunny areas leaves may turn a yellow color. Flowers appear in early spring and throughout the growing season, are blue-purple with 5 petals, and are shaped like a pinwheel. It prefers moist, well drained soil and partial sun, but can grow in a variety of conditions. Periwinkle spreads mostly by stolons, above ground runners that root when they make contact with soil.

Where found: Forest edges, disturbed or open woodlands, roadsides, riparian areas, yards, and urban areas. It is a popular groundcover in yards and landscaped areas and is sold widely at nurseries. However, recent observations show that it is spreading into natural areas and forming dense infestations under the right conditions, displacing native groundcover species.

Periwinkle



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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 oak woodlands, forests, and other shady places. It can survive and even thrive in deep shade.

This more recent invader blocks sunlight, out-competes native plants, and alters soil chemistry. Seeds are spread by birds. It also spreads via shoots, allowing it to create dense infestations over time.

Leaves, bark and fruit are toxic to humans and pets. Contact with the sap can cause skin irritation.



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R Yellow archangel

(Lamiastrum galeobdolon)

Description: Fast growing perennial vine with variegated silver-grey coloring on leaf top. Leaves and stems can also have a reddish tinge. 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 on erect stems and have an unpleasant smell. Plants spread by seeds, stolons, and stem cuttings.

Where found: Forests, riparian areas, trails, roadsides, and yards. Yellow archangel is a popular non-native groundcover plant that can easily invade neighboring forest and grassland areas. It forms dense mats that exclude native forbs and tree seedlings.



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Flowers in pairs



Leaves opposite on square stem

FIELD & GRASSLAND SPECIES

R ⚠ Common pokeweed

(Phytolacca americana)

Not Currently a State Listed Weed

Description: Herbaceous perennial usually growing 2 to 8 feet tall (0.6-2.6 m). The stem is smooth, hollow and dark pink. Leaves are large, alternate, and ovate with smooth edges. Flowers develop in early summer, are white or green, and form in long conical clusters. The resulting berries are deep purple to black in color and hang in grape-like clusters. Berries are eaten and seeds dispersed by birds. However most parts of this plant are highly toxic to people and livestock. Plants die back each winter and reemerge in the spring.

Where found: Pastures, fields, fencerows, open woods, forest edges, disturbed areas, roadsides, and

Look-alike: Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) is a small native tree or large shrub with leaves that look similar to Pokeweed's, but are less elongated. Branches are also a bright red color, but (unlike Pokeweed) are woody. Small white flowers give way to dome-shaped clusters of white berries.



www.nwplants.com



Common teasel and Cutleaf teasel

(*Dipsacus fullonum* and *D. laciniatus*)

Description: Tap-rooted biennials growing to 6 ft (1.8 m) tall. Stem leaves are oppositely arranged, large, oblong and prickly. Cutleaf teasel leaves are irregularly lobed while common teasel leaves have smooth or wavy margins. Basal leaves are similar to stem leaves and form rosettes that stay green most of year. Plants bloom from July to August with flowers on large oval heads, many to a plant. Flowers of cutleaf teasel are white while common teasel flowers are lavender.

Where found: Both kinds of teasel are found in grasslands, roadsides, and waste areas. Common teasel is frequently found in the Willamette Valley while cutleaf teasel is newer to Oregon.

Teasels form monocultures that can replace native plant communities and desirable forage and crop species.

Common teasel



Cutleaf teasel



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Field bindweed

(Convolvulus arvensis)

Description: Perennial vine with extensive roots. Trails 1-4 ft (3-12 dm) along the ground and over other plants. Leaves alternate and arrow-shaped but variable, depending on environmental conditions. Flowers white to pink and funnel-shaped from 0.5-1.2 in (1.5-3 cm) long. Flowers April-October or until frost. Reproduces by seed and vegetatively from rhizomes (roots).

Where found: Cultivated fields, pastures, roadsides, gardens, and disturbed areas. Vines will climb fences, shrubs, and other structures and form dense tangled mats. Field bindweed can smother native vegetation and reduce crop yields.

Look alike: A native morning glory (*Calystegia atriplicifolia*) occurs in western Oregon also. This plant tends to have larger flowers (1-2.5 in/3-6.5 cm) and occurs in prairies and pastures.



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Funnel-shaped flowers



RA Gorse
(*Ulex europaeus*)

Description: Perennial, 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 in (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.

French broom
(*Genista monspessulana*)

Description: Perennial, 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.

Where found: French broom and gorse invade disturbed area such as coastal bluffs, roadsides, clearcuts or logged forests, and fields. Gorse thorns are highly flammable, increasing the risk of forest fires where it is found. It can form dense, impenetrable thickets which render land unusable.

Gorse



French broom



R Diffuse knapweed

(Centaurea diffusa)

Description: Herbaceous biennial or perennial that grows 0.7-3.3 ft (0.2-1.0 m) tall. The green-gray leaves are divided into lobes. The flowers are white, rose or purple and have bracts covered with "comb-like" spines. Flowers mid-summer to fall. Reproduces by seed dispersed by wind or animals.

R Russian knapweed

(Acroptilon repens)

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows 4 ft (1.2 m) tall. Plants form dense colonies and have erect branching stems. Lower leaves are deeply lobed, 2-4 in (5-10 cm) long; upper leaves are entire or toothed. Plants bloom from summer to fall producing one small, cone-shaped, flowering head with pink to lavender flowers at each branchlet tip. Bracts below the flower are rounded with papery margins.

Where found: Both species grow well in pastures, croplands, roadsides, gravel beds, and disturbed areas.

Diffuse knapweed



Russian knapweed



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R Meadow knapweed

(Centaurea x moncktonii)

(a.k.a. *Centaurea pratensis* or *C. debeauxii*)

Description: Herbaceous perennial that grows up to 3.5 ft (approx. 1 m) 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. Unlike other knapweeds the bracts are not spine-tipped and meadow knapweed flowers are generally larger.

R Spotted knapweed

(Centaurea stoebe ssp. Micranthos)

(a.k.a. *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. Blooms from midsummer to fall with purple flowers. Tips of flower head bracts are black, giving the heads a spotted appearance.

Where Found: Rangeland, pastures, grasslands, moist meadows, gravel bars, riverbanks, roadsides, clearcuts, industrial sites, and forest openings.

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Meadow knapweed



Spotted knapweed



RA Orange hawkweed

(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. Several yellow-flowered hawkweeds are also State listed weeds and look very similar to Orange hawkweed. Differentiating them from native hawkweeds and dandelions can be challenging. Contact the Columbia SWCD for help with identification.





Poison hemlock

(Conium maculatum)

Description: Biennial, evergreen forb reaching heights of up to 8 feet. Leaves are alternate and appear lacy or fern-like. In the first year the plant grows a large mounded rosette which can resemble a fern. In the second year it bolts, grows a long stem, flowers, and goes to seed. Stems are hollow, erect, ridged, hairless, and covered in purplish pustules. Small white flowers appear in numerous umbrella-shaped clusters at the top of the stem. Seeds form in green capsules that turn brown. Seeds dispersed by wind, rain, erosion, animals, and human activity.

Where found: Fields and pastures, riparian areas, irrigation ditches, open woodlands, disturbed areas, roadsides.

All parts of the plant are acutely toxic to humans and livestock. Contact with sap can cause blisters and/or burns.

Native look-alike: The native cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) also grows in riparian areas, ditches and pastures, but cow parsnip has broad leaves and flowers in a broad disk (8-12 in/2-3 dm wide), and usually lacks purplish spots on the stem.





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 may be 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.

Invasive brooms in the region may be distinguished by their flowering times. French broom blooms before Scotch broom and Spanish broom flowers late in summer when Scotch broom is nearly done flowering.

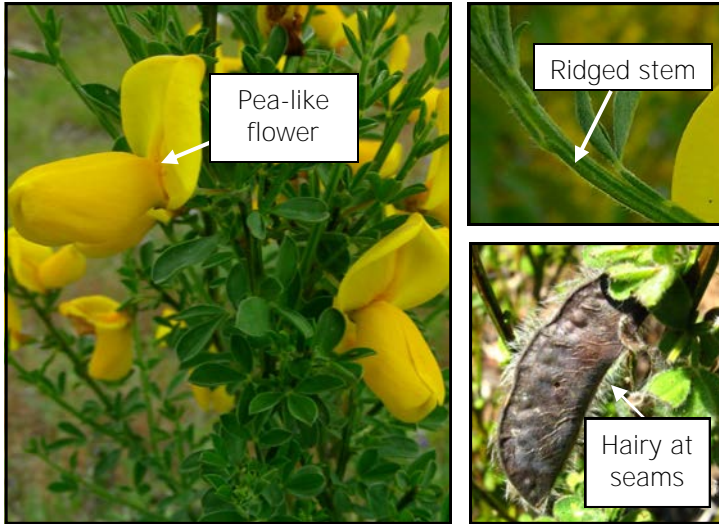
Portuguese broom

(Cytisus striatus)

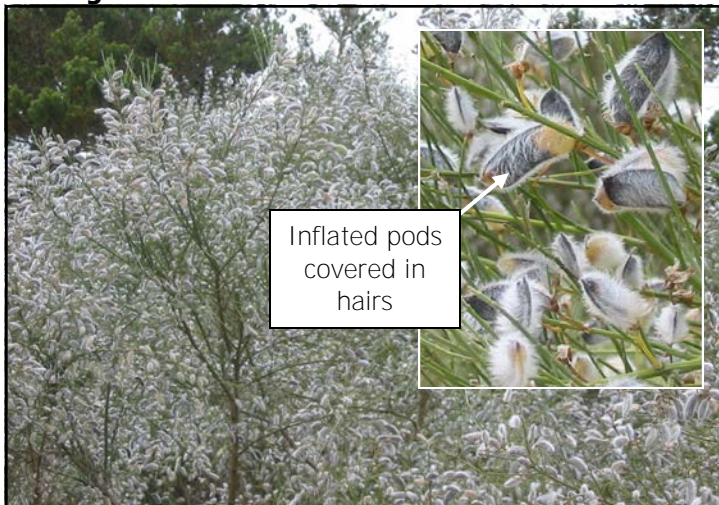
Description: Evergreen shrub growing 7-10 ft (2-3 m) tall. Stems are 8 to 10-ridged and sparsely covered in 1 to 3-parted leaves. Flowers are pale yellow, not fragrant, and occur singly or paired in leaf axils. Seed pods are inflated and covered in hairs.

Where found: Fields and pastures, roadsides, clearcuts or open woodlands, and disturbed areas.

Scotch broom



Portuguese broom



Common tansy

(Tanacetum vulgare)

Not Currently a State Listed Weed

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

(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, fields, clearcuts, roadsides, and other disturbed areas.

Leaves and stems are poisonous to livestock.

Common tansy



Tansy ragwort



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



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.





Tree of Heaven

(*Ailanthus altissima*)

Description: Tree with smooth grey bark growing up to 50 ft (17 m) tall and 3 ft (1 m) in diameter. Leaves are glossy, compound, ranging from 1-4 ft (0.3-1.3 m) long with up to 30 leaflets. Leaflet edges are smooth. Clusters of twisted papery seeds can be found on trees through winter. All parts of the tree have a strong, unpleasant odor. New shoots are usually visible sprouting from the roots of adult trees.

Where found: Fields, roadsides, fencerows, woodland edges, urban areas and forest openings.

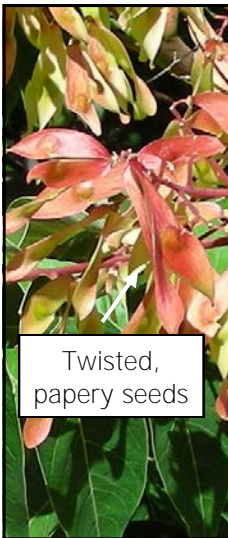
Tree of Heaven creates dense thickets, obstructing road visibility and outcompeting native species. This tree is allelopathic; producing substances toxic to neighboring plants. It is a known host to the invasive Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) - a threat to food crops and fruit trees.

Look-alikes:

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) looks similar, but can be distinguished by its strong tannic aroma emitted from crushed leaves and fruit. Sumac (*Rhus* sp.) also looks similar, but has serrated leaves and a small, red, fuzzy drupe (fruit) persisting through winter.



Black walnut



Twisted, papery seeds



Compound, lance-shaped leaves



Smooth, grey bark

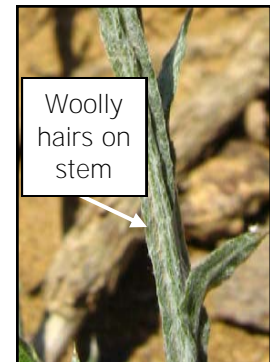
R Yellow starthistle

(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, rangelands, hayfields, roadsides, and waste areas.

Yellow starthistle may deplete soil moisture in grasslands, making it hard for other species to grow. It reduces land value and recreational opportunities, displaces native plants, and decreases wildlife forage as well as native plant and animal diversity. This plant is poisonous to livestock. Where it is established in agricultural areas, it causes significant economic losses.



Woolly hairs on stem



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How to get copies

Hardcopies available at the Columbia SWCD office and local partner agencies. Digital version available on the Columbia SWCD's website: www.columbiaswcd.com.



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