Beginning January 2018, this seasonally-offered educational Weed Bulletin is now a partnership between Whidbey Island Conservation District and Island County's Department of Natural Resources.

WEEDS OF FALL
2018

2018 ISLAND COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST
(arranged alphabetically by common name)

Japanese Knotweed
Polygonum cuspidatum

A very aggressive escaped ornamental that is capable of forming dense stands, crowding out all other vegetation and degrading wildlife habitat.   (Class B weed)

Washington's noxious weed law *(RCW 17.10)* requires landowners, as well as city, county, and state land agencies to control or eradicate certain weeds that occur on property in an effort to maintain the ecology and economy of Washington's landscapes.

View Island County's Noxious Weed List at http://bit.ly/2Il8Vl9

For past Weed Bulletins, visit: *www.whidbeycd.org/publications/*

QUESTIONS?

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www.facebook.com/islandcountynoxiousweedprogram/

Visit Island County Noxious Weed Control Board for more information
www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Home.aspx

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Common Cordgrass
Spartina anglica
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/common-cordgrass

One of most aggressive rhizomatous grass species globally found along intertidal zone.

- **Habitat:** Tidal flats, saltmarshes, lagoons.
- **Profile:** Rhizomatous grass, stout, up to 3 ft., spreads by seed, rhizomes, and clonal growth. Leaves at 45-degree angle from hollow stem. Flowers occur in upright, contracted clusters in two rows of overlapping spikelets on one side of stem.
- **Why?:** An aggressive grass that outcompetes native vegetation. Destroys shellfish, fish, and shorebird habitat. Once established, hard to eradicate.
- **Control:** Small infestations: dig out all root systems. Larger infestations: mow frequently. Aquatic-safe herbicides only proven means of eradication of large areas. Consult Noxious Weed Coordinator.

Class A

Common Fennel
Foeniculum vulgare
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/common-fennel

Garden escapee outcompeting native plants, particularly grasslands.

- **Habitat:** Found in ditches and disturbed areas.
- **Profile:** Perennial, slender, hairless, up to 6 ft. Large taproot. Spreads by seed or root crown fragments. Distinct licorice odor. Small yellow flowers in umbels.
- **Why?:** Establishes dense infestations that out-compete native plants.
- **Control:** Mechanical control - Dig out young plants entirely. Repeatedly cut mature plants prior to flowering to deplete nutrients. Chemical control - burning followed by herbicide application to young plants is successful. Consult Noxious Weed Coordinator.

Class B

Support Our Pollinators with Native Plants

Did you know that native plants, which are adapted to local soils and climates, are usually the best sources of nectar and pollen for native pollinators? Incorporating native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees into your landscape helps to promote biodiversity and in return, receive a low-maintenance, beautiful landscape. Check out Pollinators Plants: Maritime Northwest Region at https://bit.ly/2p0ASMu — a resource of the Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation (www.xerces.org).

Noxious weeds thrive in a variety of habitats. Refer to the icons below to become familiar with the habitats of local noxious weeds, which can help you recognize and monitor weeds on your property.

Forest Understory   **Open Spaces**   **Marine & Shoreline**   **Freshwater Areas**   **Garden Escapee**

Butterfly Bush
Buddleja davidii
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/butterfly-bush

A garden escapee woody perennial with purple flowers forming dense thickets.

- **Habitat:** Alongside roads and in open disturbed areas.
- **Profile:** Up to 15 ft., spreads by seed and root fragments. A commonly grown ornamental. Purple clustered flowers have 4 petals. Leaves lance or egg-shaped with a blue-gray hue, slightly hairy. Mature stems become shaggy and peel over time.
- **Why?:** Aggressive spreading and prolific seed producer. Dense thickets alter soil nutrient concentration.
- **Control:** Sterile varieties available without invasive tendencies. Mechanical – dig up and burn small plants. Chemical – cut large plants at stem base and "paint" with herbicide (Glyphosate or Triclopyr) on stump of plants. Consult Noxious Weed Coordinator.

Class B