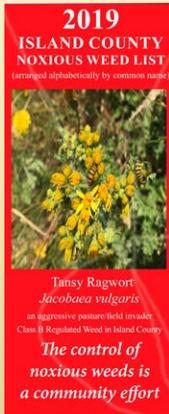*This seasonally-offered educational Weed Bulletin is a partnership between Whidbey Island Conservation District and Island County's Department of Natural Resources.*

WEEDS OF FALL
2019

2019 ISLAND COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST
(arranged alphabetically by common name)

Tansy Ragwort
Jacobaea vulgaris
an aggressive pasture/field invader
Class B Regulated Weed in Island County

The control of noxious weeds is a community effort

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. The newly adopted 2019 Island County Noxious Weed List is out and available. Check it out at *https://bit.ly/2CgbedB*.

You can also pick up a copy at the WSU Extension Island County office or the Whidbey Island Conservation District office.

For past Weed Bulletins, visit:
www.whidbeycd.org/weed-bulletin.html

QUESTIONS?
Seth Luginbill
Island County
Noxious Weed Coordinator

(360) 678-7992 or *s.luginbill@co.island.wa.us*
www.facebook.com/islandcountynoxiousweedprogram/

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

The Thistle Issue! All look alike? Call Seth @ 360-678-7992

Musk Thistle
Carduus nutans
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/musk-thistle

Not currently not found in Island County, but historic reports indicate a presence at one time.
- **Habitat:** Open spaces, pastures, meadows, roadsides.
- **Profile:** Biennial or winter annual, up to 7 ft tall, purple flowers solitary and larger than other thistles. Has a distinct nodding character. Leaves alternate, deeply lobed, and spiny. Spines wing along the stem.
- **Why?:** Decreases crop yields, bad for livestock.
- **Control:** Best method is a dense, well-maintained pasture. Dig out smaller infestations. Intensive cultivation will kill young plants. Introducing a seed eating weevil (Rhinocyllus conicus) can greatly reduce seed output.

Class B

Plumeless Thistle
Carduus acanthoides
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/plumeless-thistle

Reproduces mainly by seed.
- **Habitat:** Open spaces, pastures, meadows/fields.
- **Profile:** Biennial, spiny and upright, up to 8 ft tall. Reddish purple solitary flowers or in clusters of 2-3. Dark green leaves, deeply lobed, occasionally compound, with hair along the underside. Spines along leaf margins. Stems tough with spiny wings.
- **Why?:** Outcompetes desirable forage and natives.
- **Control:** Can be pulled up or dug out. Planting dense forage in pastures is an effective prevention measure. Herbicide can be effective with an early season application during the rosette stage of growth. Clopyralids have shown good success in eradicating infestations.

Class B

Common Thistles in Island County

The two most common regulated thistle species in Island County are Bull thistle (Cirsium vulgare) and Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense). Like most other thistles found they thrive in open spaces and disturbed habitats and account for significant economic losses for Island County agricultural endeavors. For more information on Identification of these thistle species visit our website at www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Terrible-10-Thistles.aspx

Bull Thistle   **CanadaThistle**

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**

Perennial Sowthistle
Sonchus arvensis
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/perennial-sowthistle

Reproduces via seeds or creeping roots.

- **Habitat:** Open areas, gardens, fields, pastures.
- **Profile:** Common perennial, 1-6 ft tall, with deep taproot. Hollow stem with milky juices if broken. Leaves are alternate with prickly edges and pointed lobes, varying greatly in size as it moves up the stem. Leaves wrap around the base of the stem. Yellow flowers bloom June to September, opening during periods of sun, and closing in rain or extended heat.
- **Why?:** Infestations decrease yield for several crops.
- **Control:** Pulling and tillage can greatly reduce or eradicate. Mowing can minimize infestations. Sheep and cattle can be an effective biological control.

Class C