

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



# WEEDS OF SUMMER

## 2019



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](http://www.whidbeycd.org/weed-bulletin.html)



### QUESTIONS?

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[www.facebook.com/islandcountynoxiousweedprogram/](http://www.facebook.com/islandcountynoxiousweedprogram/)

Visit Island County Noxious Weed Control Board for more information  
[www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Home.aspx)



### Lesser Celandine

*Ficaria verna*

[www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/lesser-celandine-1](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/lesser-celandine-1)

Not currently not found in Island County, but neighboring counties are affected.

- **Habitat:** Moist, shaded woodlands, wetlands, & riparian areas.
- **Profile:** Hairless perennial growing up to 12" tall with solitary yellow flower at stem tip. Leaves are oblong, heart, or triangular in shaped, with smooth or rounded teeth. Reproduces through seed.
- **Why?:** Outcompetes native plants, and once established, extremely hard to eradicate.
- **Control:** Dig out small infestations. Do not compost. Smother with a layer of six+ inches of mulch. Late winter/early spring, use systemic herbicide for large populations, Glyphosate for smaller patches.

Class B



### Policeman's Helmet

*Impatiens glandulifera*

[www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/policemans-helmet](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/policemans-helmet)

Extremely invasive in moist areas.

- **Habitat:** Moist areas and roadside thickets.
- **Profile:** Herbaceous annual, between 3-10 feet tall. Partially shade tolerant. White to pink to purple flowers - shape resembles a British policeman's helmet. Leaves, oblong to elliptical with sharply toothed margins, usually three to a node. Stems hollow with purplish tinge.
- **Why?:** Outcompetes native plants.
- **Control:** Dig up or pull. Mow large populations over the span of a few years. Sheep and cattle can graze on all parts of plant. Herbicide effective with an early and late season application. Seeds still viable after herbicide, so remove seedpods.

Class B

### Dispose of Noxious Weeds for free in Island County!

All Island County officially recognized noxious weeds can be taken to any one of the solid waste facilities on Whidbey Island, free of charge. Be aware that unless it is on the 2019 Noxious Weeds of Island County List, all other material –including plant species on the “monitor list” – will be charged a fee as yard debris. Visit the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board website to learn more about facility locations and proper disposal methods at [www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Other-Resources.aspx](http://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/DNR/Noxious-Weed/Pages/Other-Resources.aspx)

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



Species of Concern –  
Not on Noxious Weed List

### Giant Reed

*Arundo donax*

[www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/giant-reed](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/giant-reed)

Forms dense stands that crowd out native plants & wildlife habitat.

- **Habitat:** Open areas.
- **Profile:** Large perennial grass resembling bamboo, 6-30 feet tall. Forms a dense network of creeping rhizomes. Flowers are large, plume-like panicles. Spikelets comprised of two to four florets. Pale green to blue-green flat leaves taper to a fine point. Spreads only through rhizomes. Can grow in droughty conditions and freezing temperatures.
- **Why?:** Can increase fuel loads and fire hazard, & alters wetlands by trapping sediments.
- **Control:** Small populations can be hand dug. Apply herbicide to cut stump during active growth.

