

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

2020

2020 ISLAND COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED LIST
(arranged alphabetically by common name)

Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria
an aquatic perennial
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 2020 Island County Noxious Weed List is available at: <https://bit.ly/2UH1u4q>.

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?

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Noxious Weed Coordinator



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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

Weed Grasses! Questions? Call Seth @ 360-678-7992

Common Reed
Phragmites australis
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/common-reed

Reproduces both vegetatively and by seed dispersal.

- Habitat:** Wetlands, disturbed areas.
- Profile:** Perennial grass. Smooth leaves are lance-shaped, 8-16 inches long. Dense, silky flower spikes in a purplish hue. Stems are rough, woody and can be 12 ft tall. Not to be confused with the native genotype which grows less densely and has a shiny, thin stem.
- Why?:** Forms dense monotypic stands. Displaces wildlife and alters hydrology and function of wetland.
- Control:** Cutting late July over several years can be effective. Dig out small clumps, taking care to remove all rhizomes. Use only aquatic approved herbicides applied by licensed chemical applicator.

Class B

Reed Canarygrass
Phalaris arundinacea
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/reed-canarygrass

Typically occurs in soils that are saturated or nearly saturated.

- Habitat:** ditches, dikes, shallow marshes and wetlands, wet meadows.
- Profile:** Leaves flat and hairless. Stems can be 6 ft tall with hollow stem and reddish coloring near top. Green to purplish flowers bloom May to mid-June, densely clustered with three florets per spikelet, fading to beige over time. Reproduces by seed or creeping rhizome. Can also produce new plants from cut nodes.
- Why?:** Creates monoculture in wetlands and siltation in irrigation ditches. So thick in growth there is little habitat value for animals.
- Control:** Frequent mowing can be effective.

Class C

Pollinator Seed Packets For Weed Control

Promoting strong native species presence can be a key preventative and restorative component of noxious weed removal. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has released special pollinator seed packets full of native plant species that will look great and provide some great food sources to support native pollinators. Click on link to get your free seed packet: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2Y8DW3>

Nonnative Cattails
Typha spp
www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/nonnative-cattails

Currently has limited distribution in Washington State.

- Habitat:** Ponds, lakes, canals, wetlands, estuaries.
- Profile:** Perennial, grows in fresh to slightly brackish waters. Stems erect up to 13 ft tall, unbranched and either vegetative or flowering. Leaves alternate, twisting into loose helical shape. Small flowers come directly off main axis in cylindrical spikes - male flowers occurring above females. Fruits are football shaped.
- Why?:** Can alter and damage aquatic environment functions and displace native species.
- Control:** Combination of mowing, burning, tilling, and flooding or cutting the stems below the water line have been effectively used.

Class C

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.

