

Most Unwanted List

Invasive species are the second largest direct threat to the world's biodiversity and to endangered species; only habitat destruction ranks higher. (Wilcove et al 1998)

The non-native, invasive plants listed below have been identified in Thurston County and are listed for control by the Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board.

Spanish Broom

Gorse
Butterfly Bush*
Wild Chervil
Giant Hogweed
Poison Hemlock
Perennial Pepperweed
Garlic Mustard
Orange Hawkweed
Yellowdevil Hawkweed
Mouseear Hawkweed*
Tansy Ragwort

Common Reed
Garden Loosestrife
Purple Loosestrife
Yellow Nutsedge
Yellow Starthistle
Diffuse Knapweed
Meadow Knapweed*
Spotted Knapweed
Annual Bugloss
Common Bugloss
Blueweed

Slenderflower Thistle
Scotch Thistle
Milk Thistle
Perennial Sowthistle*
Dalmatian Toadflax
Rush Skeletonweed
Japanese Knotweed*
Himalayan Knotweed*
Bohemian Knotweed*
Giant Knotweed*
Brazilian Elodea
Parrotfeather



*Control required in designated areas only



Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) is a perennial evergreen shrub with erect, bright green stems that are rounded and mainly leafless. The stems branch off at the top ending with flowering clusters on leafless racemes. The leaves are simple and one parted. The flowers are fragrant, bright yellow and pea shaped. In addition to its invasive nature, Spanish broom is a potential fire hazard and all parts of the plant are poisonous. Seeds can remain viable for over 80 years.



Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is a spiny evergreen shrub that can form impenetrable thickets. Flowers are yellow and shaped like pea blossoms, clustered near the ends of the branches. Seed pods (legumes) resemble pea pods that burst expelling seeds. Gorse resembles Scotch broom. Seeds are viable in the soil for 40 years or more. It forms a center of dry dead vegetation. This, in combination with the oil content of the plant, presents a major fire hazard.



Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a member of the parsnip or carrot family. It can grow to a height of 15 to 20 feet. Plants have hollow stems, 2 to 4 inches in diameter, and it's huge leaves may reach five feet in width. Plants exude a clear watery sap which sensitizes the skin to ultraviolet radiation. This can result in severe burns to the affected areas when exposed to sunlight, causing blistering and painful dermatitis. Included on the Federal Noxious Weed List.



Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) Perennial species with numerous, reddish-brown freely branched hollow stems. The plant can reach 4 to 8 feet in height and is often shrubby. The leaves are four to six inches long and generally triangular with an abrupt point and a blunt leaf base. The whitish flower clusters are longer than the leaves and are borne in open, drooping panicles. Dead stalks are fairly persistent through the winter.



Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) is a large semi-deciduous shrub that grows up to 10 ft. tall. Leaves grow up to 8 inches long, 2½ inches wide; tops are dark green; undersides are fuzzy and light. Small, fragrant, funnel-shaped flowers are borne in showy spikes at the ends of the stems, and are usually purple. One mature plant can produce up to 3,000,000 seeds a year. The seeds are light, tiny and travel easily on the wind or water, and have up to a 90% germination rate.



Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) is a biennial or short-lived perennial, is a member of the parsley family. It grows 1-4 ft. tall from a taproot that can grow to 5 ft. long. Stems are hollow; ridged and hairy in the lower portions and smooth in upper portions of the plant, ending in white, umbrella shaped flower clusters. The leaves are finely divided, fernlike lacking the strong odors of other plants in the parsley family. Dense infestations crowd out native plants and wildlife habitat.

