

# INVADERS!!

## ☀️ What are Noxious Weeds?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that have been introduced accidentally or as ornamentals in peoples' gardens. Some are poisonous to humans and livestock and most grow rapidly and are extremely difficult to control. They can reduce crop yields, displace desirable plant species, destroy beneficial native habitat, damage recreational opportunities, clog waterways, and diminish land values.

## ☀️ Where are they?

Noxious weeds are found everywhere in Kitsap County - in urban, suburban and rural areas; undeveloped and undeveloped land, farmland, forests and other natural open spaces as well as in lakes, rivers, streams, shorelines and in Puget Sound.

## ☀️ What are some specific noxious weeds?

**Giant hogweed** - predominantly an urban weed and an escaped garden ornamental, its sap can cause skin blistering and scarring.

**Tansy ragwort** - likely to infest pastures and roadsides, it has toxins that can be fatal to cows and horses and can be found in milk and honey.

**Spotted and diffuse knapweeds** - threaten wildlife habitat, pastures, and grasslands by displacing beneficial species.

**Purple Loosestrife** - grows in wetlands and along lakes, rivers and streams; it chokes out wildlife habitat and clogs drainage ditches and irrigation canals. Loosestrife now invades wetlands in 48 states at an estimated cost of \$45 million a year for control and loss of forage crops, crowding out 44 native plants and endangering the wildlife that depend on the native plants.

**Hydrilla** - the most problematic aquatic plant in the US, it forms extensive surface mats that destroy freshwater fish habitat and recreation areas.

**Parrotfeather** - chokes out prime salmon habitat and reduces availability of refuge, exposing salmon to predators.

**Japanese Knotweed** - 7-10 feet tall, invades riparian areas, shading out native vegetation. It is very prolific, being able to sprout new plants from a single 1" segment.

For More Information, Contact Dana Coggon, Noxious Weed Coordinator:  
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