



JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

380 Jefferson Street Port Townsend WA 98368

360 379-5610 Ext. 205

noxiousweeds@co.jefferson.wa.us



2014 Noxious Weed List Supplement: Defining Areas of Control for Selected Plants

Per RCW 17.10.090 the county weed board selects state-listed noxious weeds not already designated for control in our region that it finds important to be controlled in the county. The purpose of this supplement to the county noxious weed list is to define the areas of control proposed for selected noxious weed species and to clarify the rationale for selection. “Selected” species include butterfly bush, common fennel, common hawkweed, common teasel, knotweeds, perennial sowthistle, poison hemlock, reed canarygrass, Scotch broom, tansy ragwort and yellow archangel.

Plant:	Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) (Class B-Selected)
Area for Control:	Entire county
Rationale:	Butterfly bush is extremely invasive, especially on river gravel bars and along streambanks where it replaces native shrubs used by native pollinators, insects, and wildlife. With up to 1.5 million wind-borne seeds per mature plant, the species is spreading along roadsides, railroad corridors, and shorelines, and is difficult to eradicate once established. Butterfly bush is quick to mature, often producing seeds during its first year of growth, and can develop roots on branches that have been buried or broken off. Because it remains a popular garden plant, the program’s emphasis will be education about its impacts and preventing further spread. We will also encourage nurseries to stop selling it, and people to plant non-invasive shrubs as alternatives.
Plant:	Common Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>) (Class C selected)
Area for Control:	Everywhere except incorporated Port Townsend
Rationale:	Common fennel escapes cultivation and quickly establishes dense infestations that crowd out native plants that are critical to wildlife habitats. Infestations are becoming more common in Western Washington and appear to pose a threat to native grasslands. Although incorporated Port Townsend is heavily infested with common fennel, very few plants have been seen in the rest of the county. Keeping the infestation contained is a high priority. Prior to 2013, State Weed Law required control of common fennel in Jefferson County, except Port Townsend. This requirement has been changed, but because fennel is extremely invasive and poses a threat to native grasslands, control is desired and achievable.
Plant:	Common Teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>) (Class C selected)
Area for Control:	Entire county
Rationale:	Teasel is a new addition to the State Noxious Weed List. It invades pastures and is very competitive because of its plentiful seed production, (2,000 seeds per plant), deep roots (over two feet long) and its tall thorny growth. Common teasel is not considered palatable and is generally ignored by livestock. It displaces native vegetation and decreases forage quality. A patch with a few plants quickly turns into a dense population because old teasel plants create a large bare area when their basal leaves die back, and seeds can germinate there. Teasel populations have escalated in both western Washington and Jefferson County in recent years. Preventing this noxious weed from expanding its limited distribution is an achievable goal.



JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

380 Jefferson Street Port Townsend WA 98368

360 379-5610 Ext. 205

noxiousweeds@co.jefferson.wa.us



**2014 Noxious Weed List Supplement:
Defining Areas of Control for Selected Plants**

Plant	Knotweeds (<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>, <i>P. sachalinense</i>, <i>P. bohemicum</i>) (Class B-Selected)
Area for Control	In and within 50 feet of gravel pits or stockpiles of rock or soil products that may be transported offsite. Also on roadsides.
Rationale	Knotweed species displace native vegetation due to aggressive growth and shade, but do not offer food or habitat for wildlife, or important woody debris to rivers and streams, which is provided by native plant communities. Despite knotweed’s large rhizome mass, it provides poor erosion control. Thickets can completely clog small waterways, but die back in the winter leaving bare ground which is susceptible to soil erosion. It is difficult to control because of extremely vigorous rhizomes that form a dense, deep mat. Plants resprout from stem or root fragments; plant parts floating in water often create new infestations downstream. Mowing or cutting knotweed results in more aggressive growth, and movement of plant fragments that form new populations. Knotweeds have already impacted most of the waterways in Jefferson County, requiring significant public funding and effort on their successful control. Very small infestations occur on roadsides in Jefferson County—controlling them will prevent future spread and reinfestation of restored sites.
Plant	Perennial Sowthistle (<i>Sonchus arvensis ssp. arvensis</i>) (Class B selected)
Area for Control	Entire county
Rationale	Perennial sowthistle can be invasive in croplands, can act as a host for several viruses damaging to row crops, and cause crop losses. Perennial sowthistle has been found in only one site in Jefferson County, adjacent to woodlands. Preventing this noxious weed from expanding its very limited distribution is an achievable goal.
Plant:	Poison Hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>) (Class B-Selected)
Area for Control:	Entire county
Rationale:	Poison hemlock is an extremely toxic plant, common in Port Townsend and certain other areas of the county. Highly aggressive, it invades pastures and riparian areas displacing valuable forage species or native plants. The toxins are present in dried plants and decompose slowly. Poison hemlock harms livestock; pregnant animals may abort or produce offspring with birth defects. Poisoning in humans occurs when the plant is confused with other, edible members of the carrot family such as parsley, anise or dill, and fatalities have occurred in our state when poison hemlock has been ingested by people believing it to be an edible plant. Educating the public about its impacts and requiring control have been a primary focus of the Weed Board for many years and we are seeing some success. It is important that we continue our efforts.



JEFFERSON COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

380 Jefferson Street Port Townsend WA 98368

360 379-5610 Ext. 205

noxiousweeds@co.jefferson.wa.us



2014 Noxious Weed List Supplement: Defining Areas of Control for Selected Plants

Plant	Reed Canarygrass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>) (Class C selected)
Area for Control	Roadsides only; new infestations smaller than 20 feet². Prioritize sites near wetlands, streams, and marine shorelines. Time mowing to eliminate seed set on road populations.
Rationale	Reed canarygrass is highly invasive and out-competes other vegetation in wetlands or on streambanks. It forms dense colonies that trap sediment, slow water flow and cause elevated water temperatures. Dense stands can also create a physical barrier for migrating salmon. Many roads in the county cross watercourses, and seeds from roadside plants can easily travel downslope and invade streams and wetlands. Although the eradication of reed canarygrass county-wide may not be feasible, focusing on areas that are just becoming infested or that directly lead to areas where invasions will later be subject to restoration activities is justified. Coordinating management goals at jurisdictional boundaries between both private and public land is at the heart of noxious weed laws. Curtailing sources of seeds is a preventative measure to reduce the creation of new infestations county-wide.
Plant:	Scotch Broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) (Class B-Selected)
Area for Control:	In and within 50 feet of gravel pits or stockpiles of rock or soil products that may be transported offsite.
Rationale:	Scotch broom displaces native and beneficial plants, causing loss of grassland and forest habitats. By changing chemical composition of soil and sequestering nutrients, it interferes with re-establishment of desirable species. Scotch broom is highly flammable, and can increase the intensity of grassland and forest fires. Seeds and other plant parts are mildly toxic to humans, horses and livestock. It is difficult to eradicate due to its substantial and long-lived seed bank (6,000 seeds, up to 80 years). Although eradication of Scotch broom county-wide may not be feasible, eliminating sources of contaminated soil and gravel can greatly reduce the seed spread. A clean perimeter around gravel and soil product storage areas is required because Scotch broom explosively ejects its seeds when mature.
Plant:	Tansy Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) (Class B-Selected)
Area for Control:	Entire county
Rationale:	Tansy ragwort is toxic to horses, cattle and other ungulates, including elk and deer and represents a serious threat in the county's livestock and wildlife. The plant contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that are converted to toxic pyrroles in the liver after ingestion. The damage to the liver is irreversible and cumulative. Dried leaves maintain their toxicity but not the bitter taste, and when mixed with hay or other silage it is not possible for the animal to detect or avoid tansy ragwort. Tansy ragwort reduces overall pasture productivity. Each plant can produce 125,000 windborne seeds. Contaminated soil, mulch or gravel can be a major vector for spreading tansy ragwort. Preventing further spread of this plant is very important to the health of local commercial and subsistence agriculture, and wildlife.
Plant:	Yellow Archangel (<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>) (Class B-Selected)
Area for Control:	Entire county-- excluding managed garden settings.
Rationale:	Yellow archangel is extremely invasive, especially in wooded areas where it forms dense mats, out-competing most other plants, reducing species diversity, food, and habitat for native wildlife, birds, and insects. The plant may produce chemicals that change soil chemistry, and discourage other plants. It has a vine-like growth habit and grows up and over other plants, or trails on the ground. Plants that trail on the ground can form roots at the stem nodes, increasing the area covered by the plant. Stem and root fragments can also give rise to new plants, and it can reproduce by seed. Currently there are very few known sites where yellow archangel has escaped garden settings in Jefferson County; therefore control is considered feasible. Control trials conducted by WSU show that yellow archangel is difficult to kill; therefore early intervention while the number of sites is relatively small aligns with our program's preventative strategy. As a widely sold garden ornamental, there is considerable potential for spread. The program will emphasize education to nurseries and the public not to sell, buy, or plant it.