

Invasive Shoreline Plants Information

Lake Roesiger Community and Boat Club
10 am, June 4, 2022 at Lake Roesiger Park

Definitions

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/750/Noxious-Weeds-List>

- Class A noxious weeds are those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in the state and that pose a serious threat to the state. These weeds are a threat to all counties of the state and eradication is required.
- Class B noxious weeds are those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in a region of the state and that pose a serious threat to that region. There is a long list of weeds requiring control in Snohomish County.
- Class B designated weeds are common in the county and are not designated by the State Weed Board to be controlled in that county, however the County has chosen to control these weeds and have included them on the County Weed List. Control in Snohomish County is required.
- Class C noxious weeds are designated by the State Weed Board as noxious so any county within the state may control these weeds within the county if they desire. Snohomish County has chosen to only require control of English Hawthorne.

Timing

- WDFW recommended timing for in-water work is July 15 thru September 15 to minimize fish impacts, although their pamphlet states that control and removal of invasives has no timing restrictions.
- No restrictions for land-based work
- See individual weed pamphlets for “best practice” recommendations based on control method used
- Its often easier to remove plants when the lake level is lower so you don't need to go wading. If you prefer to wait, clip and dispose of flowers or seed pods to prevent them reseeding while you wait.

Tools you might find handy:

Pick Mattock

Root Slayer shovel

Travis tool

Chemical sprayer with drift guard

Locating the weeds

- There is an interactive map on the Roesiger Invasive Plant Control Project website. Check the right side bar under Aquatic Plant Survey Maps. This lists the plants found during the 2021 survey.
- Under “Details” tab, the middle icon (show contents of map) allows you to select for specific plants. You can also move or zoom in to a specific area
- Click inside the individual tax parcels to find yours
- Click on the colored area or symbol to get information on the plant(s) found. Please note that the symbols for knotweed and purple loosestrife don’t change size with the zoom, so you may need to look closely to find them.

<https://snoco-gis.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9e0f62acbf2b41b9b9561e5cd7642780&extent=-121.9391,47.9755,-121.8837,47.9984>

Yellow Flag Iris (Class C)

- Characterized by showy yellow flowers and dense, lance-shaped leaves, this emergent wetland plant quickly spreads through seed and underground rhizomes and rhizome fragments. Its dense, root-like mat collects sediment and severely reduces water flow, affecting plants, fish, and other animals.



Yellow Flag Iris Control Options

- Cutting – highest priority is to remove seed pods to help limit spread, be sure to properly **bag and dispose of the seed pods**.
- Pulling or digging – wear gloves; resins on leaves and rhisomes can cause skin irritation.
- Covering – landscape fabric or tarps has been moderately effective, but must be maintained over several years.
- Herbicides - Imazapyr (marketed as Polaris and other brands) or glyphosate (marketed as RoundUp and other brands) can be applied to actively growing plants in the summer or fall (on land only).

Sources:

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

King County pamphlet

Kitsap County pamphlet

Whatcom County pamphlet

Purple Loosestrife (Class B, Designated)

- Both garden and purple loosestrife are a major threat to wetlands because of their ability to tolerate saturated soils and spread rapidly into nondisturbed areas. Purple loosestrife is notorious for forming uniform stands. Garden loosestrife has recently been observed out-competing noxious purple loosestrife in Washington State wetlands.



Note similarity to Native Spirea (not invasive) and Butterfly Bush (also a Class B noxious weed)

Purple Loosestrife Control Options

- Cutting – first priority is to remove flowers / seeds to help limit spread, be sure to properly **bag and dispose of the seed heads**. Do not compost or put in yard waste.
- Pulling or digging – recommended for loose or mucky soil. Remove as much of the root system as possible. **Do not compost or put in yard waste**. Burning plants (**except flowers / seed heads**) is ok.
- Covering - landscape fabric or tarps under 6 inches of mulch can be an interim option
- Herbicides - Imazapyr (marketed as Polaris and other brands) or glyphosate (marketed as RoundUp and other brands) can be applied to actively growing plants (on land only).

Sources:

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

King County pamphlet

Whatcom County pamphlet

Knotweeds (Class B, Designated)

- Characterized by feathery white flower heads, large foliage, and tall, bamboo-like stems. They rapidly invade waterside zones: blocking sunlight, disturbing nutrient cycling, and facilitating stream bank erosion.



Looks like bamboo, but with large leaves.

Knotweed Control Options - County

- Snohomish County has offered to help homeowners eradicate knotweed on their lakefront properties
- Geraldine Saw is the coordinator for noxious weeds for Public Works, Road Maintenance – Geraldine.Saw@snoco.org
- See also Snohomish County's Noxious Weeds webpage and note that you can borrow a stem injector from the county (look under the Knotweed Control Project).
- <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/722/Noxious-Weeds>

Knotweed Control Options - Homeowner

- Practice four T's - Timely / Tenacious / Tough / Thorough
- Cut – twice a month or more to keep plants from growing taller than 6 inches. **Dry stems before composting or yard waste** – they can re-root.
- Dig – as much of the root as possible in August over at least 3 years. **Dispose of the roots in your garbage.**
- Covering – Plan on leaving in place for at least 5 growing seasons. Covering should extend at least 7 feet beyond outside stems.
- Herbicides - Imazapyr or glyphosate can be applied after seed set until first frost (on land only). Applicator wand with a sponge on the end is an alternative to lower risk of overspray. Stem injection also recommended.

Sources:

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

King County pamphlet

Lincoln County pamphlet

Whatcom County pamphlet

Other Invasives

- English Ivy /



- Reed Canarygrass /



- Himalayan Blackberry
Evergreen Blackberry



Blackberries – dig out the roots, making sure to remove the main root ball as well as as much of the spreading roots as possible

Reed canarygrass – mowing may be an option, removing seed heads before they mature and exposing the ground to light which allows more native plants to grow, in mixed areas pull or dig out at the roots,

English Ivy – hand pull or dig out, where vines are climbing, cut at least waist high and pull the lower part of the stem away from the tree. Ivy can re-root, so dispose of vines in yard waste or set out on a tarp or similar surface to dry out.

More Information / References

- Noxious Weed Control Board – Pamphlets from various sources
<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>
- Snohomish County Noxious Weeds - See also 'Garden Wise' under Noxious Weed List for planting alternatives
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/722/Noxious-Weeds>
- Aquatic Plant Identification Manual – Dept of Ecology
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gisresources/lakes/AquaticPlantGuide/index.html>
- Snohomish County's Lake Roesiger Project Website
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5822/Roesiger-Invasive-Plant-Control-Project>
- Aquatic Plants and Fish pamphlet - Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01728>