

A WEED’S BLOG



Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board

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Top U.S. Invasive Species: The Plants and Animals We Can’t Afford to Ignore

An invasive species is an introduced, nonnative organism (disease, parasite, plant, or animal) that begins to spread or expand its range from the site of its original introduction and that has the potential to cause harm to the environment, the economy, or to human health (USGS). Invasive species can dominate because they did not co-evolve with native species, which causes an unbalance; they lack controls on their population, such as predators. In honor of National Invasive Species Awareness Week, let’s take a look at some of the most detrimental plant and animal species in the United States.

1. Burmese Python

Native Region: Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia and others)

Region: Florida Everglades and Southeastern U.S.

Threat: Burmese pythons are large snakes that prey on native wildlife, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. Their rapid reproduction rate (females can lay clutches of up to 100 eggs), excellent camouflage, and adaptability have made them a top predator in the Everglades.

Impact: The pythons are decimating local wildlife populations, causing declines in species like raccoons, opossums, and even deer.



2. American Bullfrog

Native Region: Eastern U.S.

Region: Nationwide

Threat: The American bullfrog has quickly spread across the country, where it competes with and preys on native amphibians, fish, and invertebrates.

Impact: Bullfrogs are voracious eaters that consume a wide variety of prey, leading to the decline of native amphibians and disrupting aquatic ecosystems. Bullfrogs can carry and spread chytridiomycosis, a deadly fungal disease; their role as carriers heightens the decline of already vulnerable native amphibians.



3. Northern Pike

Native Region: North America (primarily Northern U.S. and Canada)

Region: Midwestern U.S. and parts of the Pacific Northwest

Threat: As an apex predator, the northern pike consumes a variety of prey including fish, amphibians, and waterfowl, often eating native species. Females can produce up to 200,000 eggs in a single spawning season, causing rapid population growth.

Impact: The northern pike outcompetes native fish species for food and space, leading to a decline in biodiversity and negatively affecting local fishing industries.



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4. Lionfish

Native Region: Indo-Pacific (eastern Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and northern Australia)

Region: Southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean

Threat: Their diet consists of over 70 species of fish and invertebrates. A single lionfish can produce as many as 30,000 eggs every four days, enabling its population to rapidly grow and outcompete native species for resources.

Impact: Lionfish threaten the biodiversity of coral reefs and damage the delicate balance of marine ecosystems by eating herbivorous fish that are essential for coral health.



5. Asian Carp

Native Region: East Asia

Region: Southeastern Mississippi River Basin

Threat: Large portions of America's interior river systems are now occupied by one or more Asian carp species, with populations established in 45 states. Asian carp have aggressive feeding habits, allowing them to outcompete native fish.

Impact: They cause many problems including risk to human safety; reductions of native plants, reduced spawning habitat, reduced food for native fish and waterfowl, and negative economic impacts on local communities.



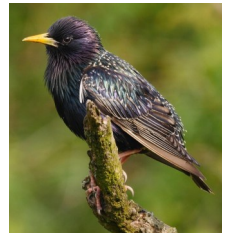
6. European Starling

Native Region: Europe, Asia, and North Africa

Region: Nationwide

Threat: European starlings, introduced to the U.S. in 1890, have spread across the country. They are aggressive and outcompete native bird species for food and nesting sites.

Impact: Starlings damage crops, spread diseases, and create large flocks that can disrupt local wildlife and agriculture, in both urban and rural environments. They cause an estimated \$800 million in agricultural damage annually (USDA).



7. Wild Boar (Feral Hog)

Native Region: Eurasia

Region: Southern U.S. and parts of the Midwest

Threat: Introduced in the 1500s as a food source, wild boars are highly adaptable animals that cause widespread damage to crops, forests, and wetlands. They are also known to spread diseases and consume large amounts of food. They have been reported in at least 35 states and their population is estimated at over 6 million.

Impact: The rooting behavior of wild boars leads to soil erosion, the destruction of native vegetation, and disruption of local ecosystems.



8. Spotted Lanternfly

Native Region: East Asia (China, India, Vietnam)

Region: Northeast U.S.

Threat: First detected in 2014, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that primarily feeds on grapevines, fruit trees, and hardwoods. Its preferred food source is Tree of Heaven, an invasive plant.

Impact: The lanternfly damages crops and trees, particularly in the wine and fruit industries, causing millions of dollars in losses. It also threatens the health of forests by feeding on a wide variety of plant species.



9. Knotweed (Japanese and Giant Knotweed)

Native Region: East Asia (Japan, Korea, China)

Region: Northeast U.S., Pacific Northwest, and parts of the Midwest

Threat: Knotweed species are fast-growing plants that form dense thickets, choking out native vegetation and destabilizing soils.

Impact: The aggressive nature of knotweed makes it extremely difficult to control once established, and its spread has been linked to soil erosion and the destruction of habitats for native wildlife. It can also create a fire hazard in the dormant season.



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10. Himalayan Blackberry

Native Region: Eurasia

Region: Western U.S., and parts of the South

Threat: Himalayan blackberry is a hardy, fast-growing plant that forms thick, spiny thickets. It outcompetes native vegetation by shading out other plants and altering soil nutrients. It is a notorious invasive in many countries around the world and costs millions for control and damages. It is mainly in Western Washington counties.

Impact: The blackberry's rapid growth and dense coverage can displace native species, particularly in riparian areas, and damage local ecosystems.



11. Purple Loosestrife

Native Region: Europe, Asia, Australia, and Northern Africa

Region: Most U.S. states

Threat: Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant that forms dense stands, crowding out native species and reducing biodiversity in aquatic habitats. It is present in all but three Washington counties.

Impact: This plant disrupts wetland ecosystems by preventing the growth of native plants and reducing habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.



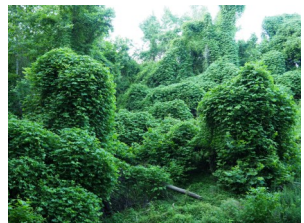
12. Kudzu

Native Region: East Asia (China, Japan, Korea)

Region: Southeastern U.S. and Oregon

Threat: Known for its rapid growth, kudzu is a vine that can cover and suffocate trees, shrubs, and entire buildings. It was introduced in 1876 as a forage crop and ornamental, then planted to control soil erosion.

Impact: Kudzu chokes out native vegetation and can weaken the structure of trees, making them more susceptible to wind damage. It has become one of the most iconic invasive plants in the U.S.



13. Cheatgrass

Native Region: Eurasia

Region: Western U.S.

Threat: Cheatgrass was introduced in the late 1800s as a seed contaminant, and is an invasive grass species that thrives in disturbed areas. Its rapid growth can fuel wildfires, as it dries out quickly and creates an environment for fire spread.

Impact: Cheatgrass alters fire regimes and disrupts native ecosystems by outcompeting native grasses and forbs. Its presence increases the frequency and intensity of wildfires in the Western U.S.



Invasive species are everyone's problem. There are several things you can do to help such as: volunteering in removal/restoration efforts, educating yourself and others, making sure the plants you purchase are not invasive, cleaning your boat, clothes, boots, and gear, and avoiding releasing unwanted pets into the wild. For more information check out these websites:

[North American Invasive Species Management Association - NAISMA](#)

[WISC - Washington Invasive Species Council](#)

[National Invasive Species Information Center \(NISIC\)](#)

NCS Workshop Reminder!

Just a reminder our Neighborhood Cost Share Workshop is on Saturday, March 8th, 9 am-3 pm at the Camas Center. **Please arrive at 8:45 to get signed in and situated.** Here's a quick look at our speakers, you won't want to miss out!

Patrick Hornstrand, WSDA Pesticide Management Division
Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources
Kevin Hupp, Wilbur Ellis
Loretta Nichols and Heather Pound, POC Noxious Weed Board
Mary Malone and Stephen Allen, Pend Oreille Conservation District

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Chronic Wasting Disease

Speakers:

Hunter Westacott
WDFW Chronic Wasting Disease
Surveillance Coordinator

and

TC Peterson
Kalispel Tribe Wildlife Biologist

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a serious threat for deer, elk, moose, and reindeer. The disease is spreading westward from the central USA and Canada, and has now been reported in northeast Washington. It is always fatal in infected animals and there is no vaccine or treatment. Find out essential information about CWD causes, spread, symptoms, occurrence, and human risk from contact with an infected animal.

March 13, 2025, 5:00 PM
Kalispel Tribe of Indians Camas Center
1821 LeClerc Road N., Cusick, WA

This event is **FREE** to the public and all are welcome to attend.



PEND OREILLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT NATIVE PLANTING WORKSHOP



RIPARIAN, FOREST AND HOME PROJECT PLANNING!

**AT THE CAMAS CENTER
IN USK!**

Join us for a workshop to learn about native species planting and project planning!

APRIL 5, 2025 9AM-3PM

1821 LECLERC RD N #1, CUSICK, WA 99119

For registration visit: bit.ly/41zUZEa



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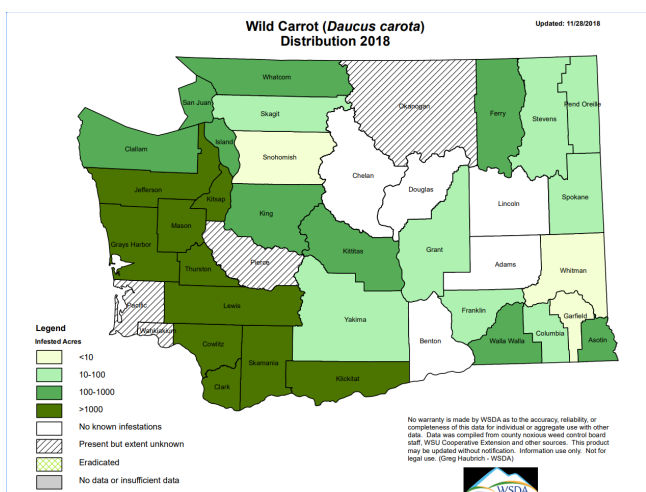
Queen Anne's Lace: An Inside Scoop

Queen Anne's Lace (also known as Wild Carrot), *Daucus carota*, is a class C noxious weed in Washington state and a mandatory control weed in Pend Oreille County.

- Queen Anne's Lace is native to parts of Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa, it was brought to North America by settlers in the 1700s and 1800s.
- Queen Anne's Lace is an upright, tap-rooted herb, reaching 1-4 feet tall.
- It may occur as an annual or short-lived perennial. It is often a biennial that bears a rosette of leaves in its first season.
- The entire plant is covered with coarse, stiff hairs.
- Flowers are small, white, and in compound flat-topped umbels. Umbels are 2-4 inches in diameter.
- Leaves are carrot-like with small toothed leaflets. Each segment is linear shaped.
- May be confused with poison hemlock, although Queen Anne's Lace is smaller and doesn't have purple blotches on the stems.
- Queen Anne's Lace is found in meadows, roadsides, pastures, and waste places.
- It reproduces by seed, anywhere from 1,000 to 40,000 seeds per plant!
- Queen Anne's Lace is frequently used as a filler flower in bouquets and likely has affected its spread.
- Control Methods



- ◇ Hand-pulling or mowing, during the first year when plants are 7-10 inches tall can be effective.
- ◇ Establishing and maintaining healthy stands of native, desirable vegetation can reduce infestations.
- ◇ Since Queen Anne's Lace (Wild Carrot) and commercial carrot are the same species, biological control is not an option.
- ◇ POCNWB uses HighNoon herbicide mixed with Bronc-Max water conditioner and Syl-Tac-EA surfactant.



Did You Know?

The name Queen Anne's Lace is thought to originate from its resemblance to the lace headdress of Anne of Denmark, queen consort of King James I.

If you witness anyone planting, distributing, selling, or transporting noxious weeds, please report it to us at the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board. Your help is crucial in protecting our local ecosystems!

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Spring into Action: How Communities Can Fight Noxious Weeds Together

Noxious weeds, pose a significant threat to local ecosystems, agriculture, and biodiversity. While it's easy to assume that weed control is a task for professionals or government agencies alone, the reality is that local communities play a crucial role in fighting these harmful invaders. In fact, community involvement is one of the most effective ways to manage and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

1. Early Detection and Reporting

Community members are often the first to notice changes in their environment. Homeowners, gardeners, farmers, and even hikers can help by reporting sightings of invasive weeds to us at the Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board. The sooner noxious weeds are spotted, the quicker action can be taken to prevent their spread. We can then provide guidance on how to deal with specific species and offer resources for control. By keeping an eye out for invasive plants, residents can contribute significantly to early detection efforts.

2. Local Education and Awareness

One of the biggest challenges in controlling noxious weeds is a lack of awareness. Many people are unaware of the damage these invasive species can cause or are unsure how to identify them. Community workshops, educational programs, and informational campaigns are essential for spreading knowledge. Local residents can help by attending these events and sharing the information with neighbors, friends, and family. Awareness empowers the community to act, whether that's in their own backyards or along local trails. The more people know about noxious weeds, the easier it is to prevent their spread.

Here are some of our events to keep an eye out for this year:

March 8th— Neighborhood Cost Share Workshop, Camas Center, 9am

March 28th— Biocontrol Presentation, Newport Library 3pm

April 5th— Presentation at Pend Oreille Conservation District Workshop

April 11th— Calibration Workshop

May 10th— Possibly see us at the Renaissance Faire

June— Start of Weed Wednesday Walks

June 14th & 15th— See us at the Bigfoot Festival in Metaline Falls

July 10th— Presentation at Master Gardeners Event, Creative Arts Center, 6:30 PM

July 11th— Aquatic Workshop

August 14th-17th— See us at the Pend Oreille County Fair

September 13th— See us at the Viking Fair

October/November— Fall Workshop

3. Volunteer Weed Pulls and Cleanups

Organizing or participating in volunteer weed pulls and clean-up events is an excellent way for the community to come together and directly address noxious weed issues. These events not only help to remove weeds from public spaces but also foster a sense of shared responsibility for the local environment. Volunteers can pull weeds from local parks, trails, and waterways, significantly reducing the seed spread and preventing further infestation.

4. Sharing Resources and Tools

For residents who are managing noxious weeds on their own property, sharing tools, techniques, and resources is a valuable way to improve outcomes. Neighbors can pool resources such as herbicide sprayers, tarps for smothering weeds, or composting materials. Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board offers equipment rentals for very reasonable prices.

Combating noxious weeds is not just a job for the experts, it's something that requires the involvement of the entire community. By working together, we can protect the ecosystems we love, preserve local biodiversity, and ensure a healthier environment for future generations.