

## BONNIE BRAE NOXIOUS WEEDS 2010

Thanks for inviting us to survey your community property and for taking an interest in controlling invasive weeds. We have listed the weeds we noted in order of their legal status, since the control of certain noxious weeds is a legal issue, mandated by RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750 and other state and county regulations. Control means, at the minimum, preventing plants from setting seed and preventing spread of the weed from your property on to any neighboring property. Residents should also consider prioritizing their weed removal efforts on the basis of maintaining both the environmental health of their land and the usability of that land. As examples, both English ivy and old man's beard will over-burden trees, creating potential wind hazards, while blackberry and thistle can produce such thorny masses as to make entry into parts of the land unpleasant or infeasible. The highest priority is to keep invasive weeds out of the areas that are currently clean by frequently monitoring those areas and removing any invasive seedlings as they appear. The most effective control of noxious weeds is prevention. Develop a plan for revegetation before removing or disturbing your soil and re-seed any bare soil and purchase only non-invasive ornamentals or natives, even though some potentially invasive species may be of aesthetic value or effective ground covers.

Removing plants that are in flower or seed before removing immature plants will make the job easier. Also, it is more efficient to remove isolated plants first before moving towards the center of the infestation.

If you have questions, please call us at 376-3499.

high priority **H** medim priority **M** low priority **L**

**Class A (must be eradicated by law) - none noted during site visit.**

**State listed Class B and C weeds selected for control in San Juan County (must be controlled by law):**

- H** Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*): An escaped shade loving ornamental, yellow archangel forms dense and rapidly spreading monocultures, excluding all other native or desirable species especially in woodlands and riparian areas. Once established it is extremely difficult to eradicate or even contain.

Control methods: It is important to not let this plant spread beyond established beds. Carefully check all bed edges regularly for new plants outside the bed area. Dig out entire escapees, since each fragment left behind will re-root. Ants will spread the seed to new areas. Covering the infestation with heavy tarp should kill the plants.



- H** English ivy (*Hedera helix*): Considered a major threat to trees by overburdening them and creating a wind-catching sail, and causing damage to buildings, ivy is a high priority for control on Bonnie Brae property due to forest health and safety considerations.

Control methods: From trees: cut ascending stems at knee height and shoulder height. Immediately paint the lower cut surface with a triclopyr herbicide. Do not attempt to pull the cut material from the tree when it is entangled in branches. From the ground: gently lift and pull each ivy strand in the opposite direction from that in which it is growing.



- H** Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) (all cultivars and varieties): Broom rapidly takes over open space and open canopy forest lands, forming a flammable monoculture and degrades wildlife habitat. Because of the long-lived seed bank, once established, it is very difficult to eradicate.

Control methods: Pull small plants by hand or with a weed wrench during the winter and spring when the soil is wet. Larger plants may be cut at the base during the dry season. To be sure that plants do not resprout, immediately and carefully paint the cut surface with a glyphosate or triclopyr herbicide



- H** Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*): Tansy ragwort has been implicated in many livestock deaths across Washington and in San Juan County. It is also potentially toxic to humans. Seed is carried by wind, clothing, vehicles and animals. Tansy ragwort is one of the most important weeds in San Juan County.

Control methods: In the winter and spring dig out the rosettes. In summer and fall, pull the bolting plants, removing and bagging all flowers and seed heads for later disposal. Gloves should be worn.



- M** Common fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*): A highly invasive culinary herb that rapidly invades open space, common fennel should be replaced by the non-invasive variety known as Florence or bulbing fennel, a far better kitchen herb and vegetable.

Control methods: Dig out plants, taking at least the top six inches of the root. At the minimum, remove all flowers to prevent seed dispersal.



- M** Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*): Once established, common tansy can out-compete such vigorous weeds as tansy ragwort. In many areas of the northwest this has become a dominant weed and is just starting to establish itself in San Juan County.

Control methods: Dig out all plants beyond the garden confines. Remove all flower heads before seed formation.



**State listed Class B and C noxious weeds not currently selected for control in San Juan County (Control advised but not required):**

- M** Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*): Producing millions of tiny seeds that are carried by wind, water, clothing, vehicles and animal fur, butterfly bush is highly invasive and prone to forming monocultures, especially near wetlands and riparian areas.

Control methods: At minimum, remove all flowers before seed formation. Plants may be dug out, removing at least the top six inches of root, or cut at ground level and immediately and carefully painted with a glyphosate or triclopyr herbicide.



- H** Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*): Like English ivy, wild clematis is a vining species that places huge burden on trees, weakening them and making them highly susceptible to windfall.

Control methods: Cut all ascending stems at knee height and shoulder height. Immediately and carefully paint the lower cut stems with a triclopyr herbicide. Do not attempt to pull the remaining material from the trees.



- M** Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) (not yellow German or bearded iris): Yellow iris is an ornamental that rapidly spreads by seed and vegetatively from a densely branching rootstock, quickly overtaking shallow ponds and wetlands and excluding other vegetation and degrading habitat.

Control methods: Do not allow the flowers to mature into seed. Dig out or pull as much of the root mass as possible. Iris will resprout from root fragments. Covering infestations with tarps should kill the plants.



- M** Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and evergreen blackberry (*R. laciniatus*): Both species are rampant shrubs which can dominate meadow and open canopy forest land

Control methods: Remove above ground mass, then either repeatedly cut vegetation, dig out roots with mattock or weed wrench, or carefully apply a triclopyr or glyphosate herbicide immediately to freshly cut stumps. If cutting the plant only once a year, do so when it is in flower, but before berries ripen.



- M** Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*): Spreading mainly from roots, Canada thistle forms dense expanding colonies excluding other vegetation and making land use difficult.

Control methods: Mow Canada thistle just before the buds open and then again every 20-25 days to starve the roots.



- M** Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*): Bull thistle spreads prolifically by wind blown seed. The large and heavily spined plants make land use difficult and limit wildlife habitat.

Control methods: In the spring dig out the rosettes before the plants start to bolt. Cut bolting plants at or below ground level when plant is in bud stage. If in flower, be sure to cut and bag the heads for later disposal.



- L** Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*): Herb Robert spreads rapidly in shaded areas, displacing native and other desirable flora and is unpalatable forage.

Control methods: In spring remove all plants by gently grasping below the crown and pulling. Bag the remains for later disposal. Once established this plant can become a full time job in trying to control it. Ripe seeds shoot up to 15 feet from the parent plant and, in addition, will stick to clothing, helping to spread these plants.



- L** Common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*): Closely related to tansy ragwort, groundsel is a common garden weed that has been linked to several livestock deaths in Washington. It spreads by wind blown seed and on clothing and fur.

Control methods: Pull plants before flowers set seed, starting in early spring.



- L** Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*): Forming dense sod in wetland areas and spreading into drier habitat, reed canary grass quickly excludes other wetland vegetation. Control is a low priority for Bonnie Brae.

Control methods: Hand pull isolated plants early in the season. For larger stands, mow repeatedly over several successive seasons, or mow and then cover with a heavy landscape fabric and leave it in place for one year, then replant with native or other desirable species.



- L** Hairy (common) catsear (*Hypochaeris radicata*): One of the most common weeds in the County, catsear is often referred to as false dandelion. It infests lawns and open spaces, including areas with poor or shallow soil. Control is a low priority for Bonnie Brae.

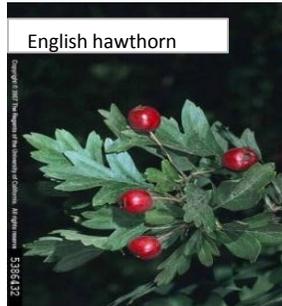


Control methods: Dig out the rosettes before flowering. Mowing increases flower density.

**Invasive Weeds not currently listed by Washington State but listed as weeds of concern in San Juan County: English hawthorn, English holly**

- M** English Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*): English hawthorn is spread mainly by birds, and, once established, forms impenetrable thorny thickets of tall shrubs or small trees.

Control methods: Seedlings and small plants may be removed by hand or with a weed wrench. Larger plants should be cut and the cut surfaces should be immediately and carefully painted with a triclopyr herbicide.



- M** English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*): Spread primarily by birds, holly has recently start to colonize shaded woodlands throughout San Juan County.

Control methods: Remove seedlings and small plants by hand or with a weed wrench. Cut larger plants and immediately and carefully paint cut surfaces with a triclopyr herbicide. Treatment may have to be repeated.

