

Make a Difference in Your Neighborhood: Be a Yard Guard!



Scotch Broom
Cytisus scoparius



English Ivy
Hedera helix "Baltica", "Pittsburgh", and "Star"; *Hedera hibernica* "Hibernica"



Himalayan Blackberry
Rubus armeniacus



Canda Thistle
Cirsium arvense



Tansy Ragwort
Senecio jacobaea

Simple Steps That You Can Take to Keep Noxious Weeds From Spreading

- 1 Watch out for noxious weeds on your property.** Take note of all of the plant species on your property: keep an eye out for any listed noxious weeds as well as for ornamental plants that seem to be spreading too aggressively.
- 2 If you find any noxious weeds, do your best to control them!** While not all noxious weeds must be controlled by law, all noxious weeds impact agriculture, ecosystems, or the economy. Plus, even if they are not spreading on your property, the wind, wildlife, and other vectors may be taking seeds to your neighbor's property, your local farms, our natural areas, and beyond.
- 3 Choose new plants carefully.** While most landscaping and garden plants do not become noxious weeds, over half of the species included in the Washington State Noxious Weed List were originally planted ornamentally. Be sure to ask if the plant you're looking at is known to be invasive before you buy.
- 4 Make your property into a diverse, healthy plant community.** A diverse plant community is not only beautiful to look at- it also benefits wildlife! Many species of birds, insects, and other animals depend on our diverse native plants for food and shelter. For example, a flowerbed with a wide array plants that bloom at different times can be a beautiful show-stopper and is great for pollinators.
- 5 Educate your friends and neighbors about noxious weeds.** Not sure where to start? Check out the publications offered by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and your County Noxious Weed Control Board. These publications are meant to be shared and can help you to start the conversation with those around you.
- 6 Volunteer to help control noxious weeds in community spaces and natural areas.** Weed pulls and other volunteer events allow you to meet fellow yard guards, spend some quality time outside, and make a measurable and valuable difference in your community.



Learn more about the impacts of noxious weeds and what you can do to help at www.nwcb.wa.gov