

# MANAGING WEEDS & PESTS



When it comes to managing weeds and pests in City properties and rights of way, Kirkland staff use a **broad-based approach** called **Integrated Pest Management**.

Integrated Pest Management uses a **combination of strategies** to deal with weeds and pests while minimizing risks to people, animals and the environment.

## MANUAL/PHYSICAL STRATEGIES

Use **human power** to manage the landscape.



Remove invasive plants with hand tools.



Weed by hand.

## CULTURAL STRATEGIES

Work **with the habitat** to manage the landscape.

Plant trees or tall shrubs to shade out weeds.

Select low maintenance plants to reduce chemical and water uses.



Use wood chip mulch to keep weed seeds from germinating.

Water at the right time and in the right amounts to keep plants healthy.

## MECHANICAL STRATEGIES

Use **machines** when human power isn't enough.

Mowers for large areas, roadsides and ball fields.



Weed whackers for edges.

## EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES

**Educate residents** about beneficial plants and insects and methods to control invasive species.

Hands-on learning at City-sponsored classes and workshops.

Volunteers and staff spend thousands of hours every year removing invasive species.

Show the benefits of native species sometimes considered "weeds".



## CHEMICAL STRATEGIES

Apply the **least harmful chemical** to target pests that don't respond to the above strategies.

**Direct injection** of herbicide into trunks of invasive trees and shrubs.

- Low risk of exposure to staff.
- Low risk of runoff.



**Spot application** on targeted weeds.

- Use along fencelines, sidewalk cracks, trails and other hard-to-maintain areas.
- Apply during dry season to prevent runoff whenever possible.
- Apply by hand or low-pressure backpacks.
- Use short-lived, low mobility chemicals whenever possible.



**Place signs** during application and leave for 24 hours.



**All City staff who apply herbicides are licensed** through the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

- License requires ongoing education for recertification.
- Must follow all WSDA guidelines for application.
- All herbicide usage recorded.

Only herbicides approved by Washington Department of Ecology for shoreline application are used to control a variety of invasive weeds in and along the shoreline of Lake Washington.