



# Steward Plant Guide

**GREEN CITY**  
PARTNERSHIPS



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# Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Pacific Northwest plants, and for your work with Green City Partnerships! This guide has been created to provide you with basic information about both native and invasive plants prevalent in our lowland Puget Sound forests, and it is meant to serve as a starting point. This guide is by no means an exhaustive collection of all plants found in our region, but we hope it will help you begin to recognize native and invasive species you encounter on your site. We have included further resources at the end of the guide, which you may consult if you encounter a plant not listed here or if you simply wish to explore more deeply into the world of Pacific Northwest plants!

# Native Ground Covers

Ground covers are plants that grow low to the ground and spread horizontally rather than vertically. Ground covers can add habitat for small creatures, soil stabilization, and visual interest to a site. Vegetation on the ground can also help to slow, absorb, and infiltrate rain water.

## fringe cup

*(Tellima grandiflora)*

Fringe Cup is a perennial forest ground cover with very short rhizomes. It displays a long stem that rises from the center of the plant and shows off the small fragrant flowers. This plant can establish large stands.



## bleeding heart

*(Dicentra formosa)*

Loves the moist forest, and can form dense mats throughout the forest floor. Bleeding heart has fern-like, divided leaves. The flowers are pink and heart shaped at the base. Bleeding heart is sometimes confused with herb robert.





## vanilla leaf

(*Achlys triphylla*)

Spreads widely and easily with slender rhizomes. The plant was used as an insect repellent by the Saanich tribe, specifically to keep mosquitos and flies away. Forms dense stands due to the large leaves it produces.



## kinnikinnick

(*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

Kinnikinnick is a very popular trailing native species in our region. This plant is a quick growing evergreen ground cover that forms mats with rooting branches. It loves sandy and well drained exposed sites which makes it a good candidate for forest clearings. The plant itself is very woody which makes it a strong ground cover and very useful for controlling erosion.



## piggy back plant

(*Tolmiea menziesii*)

Also known as youth on age., this plant is a perennial with highly developed rhizomes. Flowers are brownish purple and ribbon-like. The leaves grow on top of one another, giving the illusion that one leaf is giving the other a piggy back ride.



# Native Edibles

The northwest is home to many types of edible plant. The native tribes in the area have used most of the native vegetation in their traditional foods and medicines. While most of the plants are not considered to be palatable, many of the berry producing species in this area are edible and range from sour to sweet.

Do not eat any part of a plant, including its berries, unless you are certain they are edible. The Northwest is home to some toxic plants and berries.

## red huckleberry

*(Vaccinium parvifolium)*

Red Huckleberry is often identified as the plant that grows from a stump. The plants thrive on the nurse logs and stumps of Northwest forests. Red Huckleberry has an erect growth habit with bright green branches that are strongly angled. Leaves are alternate, oval and smooth (not toothed). The berries are bright red and up to 1cm across in length. They are edible, and range from tart to slightly sweet.



## salmonberry

*(Rubus spectabilis)*

Salmonberry forms dense thickets with an erect growth habit. Leaves are sharply toothed with three leaflets per leaf. The Salmonberry resembles an orange, salmon-pink, or red blackberry. They are the earliest berry to ripen (May-June) in our region.





## thimbleberry

(*Rubus parviflorus*)

The leaves are maple-leaf shaped and very soft. Stems are “fuzzy” and lack thorns. Plants form dense thickets through extensive rhizomes. Shallowly domed fruit with raspberry like clusters of red hairy drupelets. Most of them are juicy and tend to fall apart when they are picked just as they ripen. These berries were often dried by the native tribes.



## blackcap

(*Rubus leucodermis*)

Blackcap has sharp-toothed leaflets whose undersides are shiny and white. Stems appear whitish and have flattened prickles.



## evergreen huckleberry

(*Vaccinium ovatum*)

An evergreen shrub often seen in the forest, it has small black round berries which taste sweet and are enjoyed by humans and animals alike. Leaves are egg-shaped, leathery and toothed. Flowers are pink and bell-shaped.



# Woody-Root Slope Stabilization

Slope Stabilization – Our steep slopes and regular rains are a recipe for erosion and mud slides. Erosion is initiated when soil particles become dislodged and the water carries them to foreign places. This can become a problem with grave affects if it's not taken care of. Erosion is more prominent in areas where there are no plants and bare soil is exposed to the harsh weather. Planting native plants that have adapted their root systems for our climate and ground type is a better alternative to bare slopes or non-native plantings. Woody-root soil stabilization happens when deep woody roots lock the soil layers together. Native conifers are often known for these types of root systems.

## Douglas fir

(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Douglas fir is a large conifer growing up to 70 m tall with thick rough ridged bark. The buds are pointy and sharp. Needles are flat and yellowish/green in color. Douglas fir is a candidate for slope stabilization and erosion control because of its ability to retain water. Large stands of doug-fir and sword fern can help quickly stabilize a slope. Eventually mature douglas firs can join the horizons of soils with their root systems.



## red alder

(*Alnus rubra*)

A deciduous tree with smooth grey bark, often with patches of lichens. Leaves grow alternately on the stem with wavy margins and coarse blunt teeth. Male and female flowers are catkins that appear before the leaves. Red alder is used as a pioneer species in slope stability. It is an aggressive fast growing deciduous tree which has fibrous and moderately deep root systems.





## big leaf maple

(*Acer macrophyllum*)

Big leaf maple is a large multi-stemmed deciduous tree with 5-lobed maple leaves. Its bark is smooth and green in younger trees but with age, the bark turns grey-brown. It is often covered with ferns and lichens. Big leaf maple is used as an erosion control species on eastern facing slopes. For areas with more saturated soils vine maple would be a more suitable candidate.



# Shallow-Root Slope Stabilization

After a heavy rain on bare soil the ground can become saturated, and soil saturation can cause major landslide or erosion events to occur. Rain falling on bare soil also causes the soil to become compact, allowing more surface runoff. Shallow root systems can prevent surface soil erosion. Each plant has a root system coupled with the foliage that is visible above ground. The foliage helps erosion control because the biomass it produces, whether it be fallen leaves or living matter, acts as a barrier for rain. The foliage retains the water and slowly releases it within the ground. Native species have well adapted roots and rhizomes which can establish deep networks. The root systems also help slow down groundwater which permeates the soil. The plants that are selected for a slope help effect the erosion rates. A select handful of native plants are particularly good at slowing water and stabilizing slopes.

## sword fern

(*Polystichum munitum*)

Sword fern is a large evergreen fern with erect leaves. Grows from a woody, scaly rhizome. Leaflets are lance-shaped, pointed and sharply toothed. Leaves are once-pinnate. Sword fern is one of the leading candidates for stabilizing a slope. The network that the roots create holds the soil in place and helps to slow ground water.



## common snowberry

(*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Snowberry is a deciduous shrub growing to about 2 m tall. Its leaves are elliptic to oval in shape with smooth to wavy-toothed margins. Flowers are white to pink and bell-shaped. This native is known for its white berry-like fruits which persist throughout winter. Snowberry is a great plant to use for erosion control in riparian areas.



## red elderberry

(*Sambucus racemosa*)

Red elderberry is a small tree or shrub with soft twigs and reddish brown bark. Leaves are divided into 5-7 leaflets which are lance-shaped, pointy and sharply toothed. White flowers grow in a round or pyramid-like cluster ripening to bright red berries. Elderberry has the ability to send out a large amount of shallow roots which will help bind the soil together to prevent future erosion.





# Native Burly Barriers

The goal of keeping human traffic along designed pathways can be achieved with the use of burly barriers. A burly barrier is a large and intimidating plant that will keep human traffic out of undesired areas. The benefit of these types of plants is that it takes a lot of work to get around without getting scrapes and scratches. Where signs are often ignored, the use of these natural barriers tends to be highly effective. In restoration areas, where newly installed saplings are susceptible to trauma, the use of botanical barriers can increase planting success.

## nootka rose

(*Rosa nutkana*)

Nootka rose can form large and very dense thickets to control foot traffic while also providing an aesthetic element. This plant has a colorful bright pink flower with a pleasant scent. A pair of large prickles is found at the base of each leaf. No other prickles are found along the stem. These native roses do well in riparian type habitats.



## devil's club

(*Oplopanax horridus*)

Devil's club has large toothed maple-leaf shaped leaves. White flowers grow in a pyramidal shaped clusters giving way to bright red shiny berries. This shrub exhibits small spines on almost every area, including stems and the underside of the leaves. The plants can form dense thickets called clonal colonies where the plants are genetically identical.



## black gooseberry

(*Ribes lacustre*)

A deciduous shrub with glossy leaves that have 5 deeply indented lobes and toothed margins. Maroon flowers grow in drooping clusters giving way to dark purple berries. Gooseberry is an ideal small shrubby burly barrier. The plant has numerous small thorns that will deter people from trying to walk through an undesired area. Some people can have an allergic reaction from exposure to the thorns.



## black hawthorn

(*Crataegus douglasii*)

Oval leaves are dark-green, thick and leathery. The top of the leaves have 5-9 lobes with saw-toothed margins. Black hawthorn has white stinky flowers growing in clusters. Fruits are blackish purple “apples” One of the best native burly barriers, this small tree has large sharp thorns that look very menacing - especially during the winter when the plant has no leaves.



# Native Flowering Plants

Native flowering plants enhance the beauty of a site for human visitors. Flowering plants also provide a food source for native birds and insects. Planting native flowering plants can help to increase the biodiversity of an area by attracting these animals, and the plants can thrive with their help through pollination.



## wild ginger

(*Asarum caudatum*)

Wild ginger isn't known to have a flashy colorful flower, but instead has a very unique dark purple to brown flower. The flower has three petals that taper to long points. One of Western Washington's more interesting flowers this is a consideration for the people who really like to observe while walking and who enjoy delicate beauty.



## western skunk cabbage

(*Lysichiton americanus*)

Skunk cabbage is an attractive addition to a wet area. It has numerous flowers on a thick fleshy spike that is shielded by one large yellow bract. Lance-shaped leaves grow in a large basal rosette. The odor the plant emits attracts pollinators to the area, but is found to be unpleasant by some people.



## red columbine

(*Aquilegia formosa*)

Red columbine is a perennial herb. It is a great hummingbird attractor, and it has a drooping flower that is red and yellow. The stamens are tufted and protruding giving the plant a spur like appearance. Leaves are mainly basal where each leaf has three leaflets that are divided again into threes. They are common in the lowlands, and add a cheerful presence in the planting bed.





## farewell-to-spring

(*Clarkia amoena*)

As the name suggests this plant flowers during middle of summer and is a clear indication that spring is over. The flower is a pink to sometimes purple color. Each petal has a dark spot in the center. Linear, lance shaped leaves have smooth edges and grow alternately along the stem. This plant is also sometimes known as summer darling.



## Pacific rhododendron

(*Rhododendron macrophyllum*)

The most exuberant flowers the Pacific Northwest has to offer, this is Washington State's official state flower. This plant exhibits a large pink flower at the top of its shrub like form. The bright pink flowers attract birds and butterflies. Its leaves are evergreen, thick and leathery.



## red flowering currant

(*Ribes sanguineum*)

Red flowering currant has flowers of rose color to a deep red color that are arranged in erect to drooping clusters of 10-20 flowers and has 5 lobed deciduous leaves. The name sanguineum means blood red - which reflects on how vivid the flower of this plant is. It loves well drained soils in sunny locations and it will attract an array of humming birds.





## mock orange

(*Philadelphus lewisii*)

This deciduous shrub displays flashy white flowers that occur in clusters at the ends of the stems. At the peak of the flowering season the shrub is engulfed in a mass of blossoms. The flowers look like orange flowers and have a strong smell similar to orange blossoms with a hint of pineapple. The plant has 5 lobed deciduous leaves. This species is also a great slope stabilizer.



## hardhack

(*Spiraea douglasii*)

Spirea thrives in riparian ecosystems and it shoots up very quickly, displaying its bright pink cone shaped flower. Spirea's deciduous, oval shaped leaves are toothed above the middle of the leaf, dark green above with a paler and grey-woolly underside.

*This plant can form large and dense stands in a small amount of time, leading some people to call it an invasive native plant.*



## orange honey suckle

(*Lonicera ciliosa*)

This is a favorite with native humming birds. The orange honeysuckle has trumpet shaped orange flowers that are bunched together and have a disk like leaf at the base. Leaves are deciduous, oval with hairs along the leaf margin. They grow on their own branching vine throughout the forest. Caution should be used with this plant as the berries it produces can be poisonous.





## yellow pond lily

(*Nuphar polysepala*)

Yellow pond lily adds color to aquatic areas. Its petals are waxy and form to make a cup shape ranging to 10 cm across. The flower has the ability to float on water giving the illusion that a flower from another plant has dropped into the water.



## oceanspray

(*Holodiscus discolor*)

Oceanspray displays a very soft white flower that occurs in clusters. The flowers resemble a lilac flower, and they turn brown and persist through winter. This deciduous shrub has coarse toothed, dull green leaves that are egg-shaped to triangular and grow alternately on the stems.



## camas

(*Camassia quamash*)

Camas is a meadow plant that emerges in the early spring with multiple stems and grass-like leaves. Flowers on this plant are deep blue sometimes a rich purple. The plant can cover full meadows and was known to be a major food source for the native tribes of the Pacific Northwest. The taste of a pit-cooked camas bulb is said to be very similar to sweet potato.





## red-osier dogwood

(*Cornus stolonifera*)

Our native dogwood doesn't necessarily have a big and bright flower, but during the winter the stems of this plant are bright red and quite stunning. During the summer the plant is a colorful display of red stems, oval, sharp pointed leaves and dense clusters of white flat topped flowers



## Pacific willow

(*Salix lucida*)

Pacific Willow is the largest native willow in the area. Its leaves are arranged alternately and are deciduous. The leaves are also lance shaped and taper at the end with finely toothed margins. The willow is found in moist to wet conditions, and is easily identifiable during the winter and fall months by its brightly colored yellow stems. Young willows are vibrantly yellow.



## baldhip rose

(*Rosa gymnocarpa*)

The Baldhip Rose has pretty pink flowers and pink to reddish hips that can provide color through the winter. Young stems are unarmed, and it has small prickles along its mature stems, rather than large thorns. The entire plant has a very delicate look, and it tends to grow less densely than the Nootka Rose. It has alternate, deciduous, compound leaves of 5-9 toothed leaflets.



# Native Understory Plants

Native understory plants grow well in the shade amongst the trees of northwest forests. They provide hiding places and food for animals, as well as slowing and infiltrating rain water.

## snowberry

(*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Snowberry is a deciduous shrub growing to about 2 m tall. Its leaves are elliptic to oval in shape with smooth to wavy-toothed margins. Flowers are white to pink and bell-shaped. This native is known for its white berry-like fruits which persist throughout winter. Snowberry is a great plant to use for erosion control in riparian areas.



## Pacific ninebark

(*Physocarpus capitatus*)

Found in wet and open places, Ninebark is known as a wetland plant but is also very tolerant of drought. Its flower is dome shaped and its leaves are alternately arranged with 3 to 5 lobes. The lobes are toothed and deeply veined.





## black twinberry

(*Lonicera involucrata*)

A perennial shrub found in the understory of wetlands, moist forest and clearings. Its leaves are opposite, pointy and elliptical to lance-shaped. Tubular yellow flowers grow in pairs cupped by large purple and green bracts. Flowers ripen into black berries with the bracts during a deep purplish-maroon color.



## salal

(*Gaultheria shallon*)

One of the most common forest understory shrubs in our region, Salal is a very adaptive plant that can grow in many Western Washington conditions. Leaves are evergreen and leathery and alternately arranged. The plant has a white to slightly pinkish flower which then produces dark blue berries.



## sword fern

(*Polystichum munitum*)

Sword fern is a large evergreen fern with erect leaves. Grows from a woody, scaly rhizome. Leaflets are lance-shaped, pointed and sharply toothed. Leaves are once-pinnate.



## red-osier dogwood

(*Cornus stolonifera*)

Found in wet to moist areas, red-osier dogwood is known for the vibrant red stem that is apparent during the fall and winter months. Its flowers are white and form in clusters. Its leaves are oppositely arranged and oval shaped. It is often used as winter foliage, and is a very easy plant to propagate.



## Indian plum

(*Oemleria cerasiformus*)

Found in dry to moist locations. This plant is often confused with twin berry. Easy identification is that Indian plum leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and its fruit do not occur in pairs. Leaves have a strong cucumber smell when crushed. It is the first plant to flower in the springtime.



## red-flowering currant

(*Ribes sanguineum*)

Found in dry open woods and rocky slopes likes well drained soils. Leaves are arranged alternately and are deciduous. Leaves are irregularly 5-lobed. It is well loved by hummingbirds because of the flower it produces. It produces a blue to black round berry.





# Non-Native, Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are one of the biggest threats facing urban forests in the Puget Sound region. After decades of invasion by English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, English holly, clematis, and other non-native species, more than half of Seattle's forests are completely overrun by aggressive non-native weeds. Vines climb up into the canopy, covering leaves and blocking photosynthesis. Their weight alone is enough to break branches and bring whole trees down in strong storms. Understory invasives choke out native plants on the ground and prevent new seedlings from regenerating the canopy. Invasive plants grow quickly and aggressively, leaving behind what biologists call an ecological "dead zone," unable to provide habitat for native wildlife or perform many of the green functions our cities rely on.

## INVASIVE - English Laurel

### English laurel

(*Prunus laurocerasus*)

English Laurel is a tall and dense evergreen plant that can form dense thickets or small trees. It can be either single trunk tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Its leaves are dark green and oblong-shaped with a pointed tip and finely toothed edges. The flower is a small white upright cluster, which produces small purple berry-like fruit easily spread by birds. The plant is very likely to regrow after cutting so it is advised to leave and tag it so that crews can take proper action.

- \*Small, young plants may be hand-pulled or weed-wrenched
- \*Cut seed heads, place in plastic bag and dispose of in a landfill immediately.
- \*Large plants require herbicide (Only to be preformed by Parks staff or contractors).



## INVASIVE - Himalayan Blackberry

### Himalayan blackberry

(*Rubus armeniacus*)

Himalayan blackberry is a highly invasive non-native plant in the Pacific Northwest. Control of this species is recommended due to its quick growth and ability to block native plants from sun and other resources. It forms large dense thickets- sometimes impenetrable. The plant exhibits large thorns. Its leaves are arranged in an alternate pattern. They are large and oblong, with 3-5 leaflets and toothed margins. It has tall stems with an arching shape, new stems are green, older stems can be reddish brown. Its berries are large, 1-1.5cm long, and the seeds are often spread by animals eating them.

\*Blackberry has thorns. Be sure to wear gloves!

\*Cut and grub root wads (may be necessary to repeat for 2-3 growing seasons before planting as this species is very vigorous and difficult to eradicate).

\*For sites  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, remove half of the infestation one year, half the next.

\*For sites greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, remove no more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the infestation each year.





## NATIVE Plants Which Look Like Himalayan Blackberry

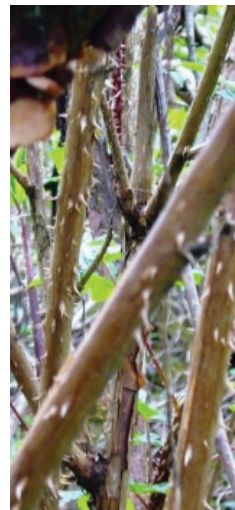
### salmonberry

(*Rubus spectabilis*)

Leaves are alternately arranged with three leaflets that are sharply toothed. The terminal leaflet is larger than two side leaflets

Grows up to 4 meters tall and forms dense thickets with scattered thorns. When bark turns golden brown thorns can be knocked off by touch.

Berries are yellow to reddish in color. They are edible and flavor can range from sweet to insipid.



### trailing blackberry

(*Rubus ursinus*)

Leaves are alternately arranged with three leaflets. The terminal leaf is 3-lobed, and the leaves are dark green and toothed.

It is a low ground cover shrub typically found "trailing" along the ground with light green, sometimes bluish stems.

It produces curved, not flattened, thorns which are much finer than Himalayan Blackberry.

Its blackberries grow to 1cm long and form in clusters.



### thimbleberry

(*Rubus parviflorus*)

Exhibits palmate maple-shaped leaves that can be 20 cm across. Leaves are finely fuzzy on both sides and are 3-7 lobed. The bark can be described as shredding. It forms dense thickets due to extensive rhizome network. No thorns are present.

It produces a shallow domed berry, very similar to raspberry clusters. Fuzzy and juicy, locals claim it to be best tasting berry in region.





## INVASIVE - English Holly

### English holly

(*Ilex aquifolium*)

English Holly is an evergreen shrub that can grow to the size of a small tree. Holly is dispersed by birds that feed on the berries it produces. They are common along the outer edges of forests as well as wetland edges, and are a threat to our urban, rural and old growth forests. Both its stem and leaf are smooth and green. The leaves are dark glossy green above and paler underneath. They are very stiff with sharp spines on the tips, feel leathery, and look twisted. They decompose slowly while remaining sharp.

\* Small, young plants may be hand-pulled or weed-wrenched

\*Cut seed heads, place in plastic bag and dispose of in a landfill immediately.

\*Large plants require herbicide (Only to be preformed by Parks staff or contractors)



## NATIVE Plants Which Look Like English Holly

### Oregon grape

(*Mahonia nervosa*)

Oregon Grape Leaves are dark green with a leathery or glossy feel. Leaves are alternate and compound with 9-21 leaflets. Its leaflets are pointed and prickly at tips of lobes. Leaves are compound and alternate, leaflets are between 9-21.



### tall Oregon grape

(*Mahonia aquifolium*)

Tall Oregon Grape is very similar to Oregon grape. It has 5-9 leaflets per leaf. The top of the leaf is glossy whereas the bottom is not so much.





## INVASIVE - English Ivy

### English ivy

(*Hedera helix*)

English ivy is an evergreen vine found throughout the Pacific Northwest. It was introduced as ground cover and now has spread to local wetlands and forests. King County Noxious Weed Board strongly encourages control of English Ivy. Ivy growth can lead to the smothering of trees. When a tree gets out competed for sunlight it will eventually die, and the weight placed on the new dead tree will eventually topple it over.

- \* Create tree "life-savers" by cutting vines at shoulder height, then again at the base of the tree, then grub out a radius of at least five feet away from the tree. Do not attempt to pull vines out of the tree, they will decompose eventually.
- \* Remove ground patches of ivy by clipping edges of swaths and rolling into a mat.
- \* Take care to cut around or gently lift ivy mat over existing native plants.
- \* Clear ivy at least 10 feet beyond proposed planting area to create ivy-free buffer





## INVASIVE - English Ivy





## INVASIVE - Scotch Broom

### Scotch broom

(*Cytisus scoparius*)

Scotch Broom is an evergreen shrub that can grow to 6 -10 feet. The plant has a small yellow flower along the entire stem which blooms from March to June. Each plant can potentially produce over 10,000 seeds and seeds can remain viable for 5 to 60 years. Control is recommended by King County.

\*Seedlings can be pulled out by hand. Pulling of larger scotch broom plants is made easier using the Weed Wrench™ in spring while soil is moist.

\*Stem can be cut close to the ground during the months of July to August. This method is the most effective when the diameter of the stem is larger than 2".

\*In sites where scotch broom has been removed, create a monitoring plan. Scotch broom can establish a fairly large seed bank and can sprout even after removal of mature plants.





## INVASIVE - Japanese Knotweed

### Japanese knotweed

(*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Japanese knotweed is a perennial invasive plant to the Pacific Northwest. It uses large rhizome networks to spread and form large thickets. Knotweed can reach up to 4-8ft high, and its stalks are reddish brown. Its leaves are spade-like in shape or heart-shaped lower down on the stem. It is the most common type of knotweed found in the Pacific Northwest.

\*Hand removal of knotweed is impractical and may exacerbate the problem

\*Chemical - Stem Injection can be effective (Only to be performed by Parks staff or contractors)

\*Grubbing may work for VERY small patches – all material must be removed, bagged, and disposed of in a landfill immediately.





## INVASIVE - Field Bindweed

### field bindweed

(*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Bindweed is an invasive vine which can spread underground through its rhizomes and by regrowth of pieces of root, or above ground through its vining habit and seeds. It will wrap around or intertwine with any surface it can in order to spread, even climbing other plants.

\*Hand pull at least three times per year; early growing season, mid-summer and late summer for at least three growing seasons

\*Remove all fragments from the site

\*Flag site and monitor





## INVASIVE - Clematis

### clematis

(*Clematis vitalba*)

Clematis is an invasive vine which quickly forms large mats over structures or other vegetation, shading out the plants it covers and often killing them.

- \* Cut vine at the base in early summer before seed production and grub out roots
- \* Seedlings can be handpulled
- \* Stems may be pulled in winter when brittle





## INVASIVE - Giant Hogweed

### giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

Giant hogweed is a Class A noxious weed, and its eradication is required in Washington. However, extreme caution should be taken when handling it as the plant produces a sap which can cause irritation of the skin when exposed to sunlight, and can lead to blistering and permanent scarring in some cases.

If you need help with identification or removal, contact:  
Green City Partnerships 206-292-5907 or  
King County Noxious Weed Control 206-296-0290

- \*When working with or near Giant Hogweed; wear gloves, long sleeves, long pants, and eye protection.
- \*Small patches of Hogweed can be removed by hand while the soil is damp, using a trowel.
- \*Be sure to dig down at least 6 inches when removing the root. When on a slope, remove as much root as possible without destabilizing the soil.
- \*Larger plants can be carefully cut near the base of the stem before digging.
- \*Monitor the area for at least three years and continue to remove any seedlings that emerge.
- \*Mowing is not effective in removing Giant Hogweed, and may stimulate budding on the roots. Do not mow or weed whack the plant, as it will spray the sap and may cause injury.
- \*Dispose of all plant parts, especially flower heads, in garbage bags for trash collection. Do not compost or pile the plant parts. Do not put in a food and yard waste cart.





## INVASIVE - Tansy Ragwort

### tansy ragwort

(*Senecio jacobaea*)

Tansy ragwort can poison horses and cattle, and toxins from the plant can be found in milk from goats and cows who have eaten it, and even in honey made from its pollen. The plant reproduces by seed and from the roots, and can spread rapidly.

- \*Plants can be pulled by hand, especially when the soil is damp.
- \*Be sure to wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants.
- \*Do not mow, as this is not effective.
- \*Pull the plants in May or June before they have gone to seed, and put all the plants and flowers in bags to be disposed of in the trash.
- \*Continue to monitor the area for seedlings and new sprouts from old roots.
- \*In highly infested areas, parks staff can use herbicides to control the infestation.





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# Further Resources

## Book:

Pojar, Jim, A. MacKinnon, and Paul B. Alaback. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast: Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska. Vancouver: Lone Pine Pub., 2004. Print.

## Website:

Washington Native Plant Society

Native plants by common name

[http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/plantid\\_cn.html](http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/plantid_cn.html)

Native plants by scientific name

[http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/plantid\\_sn.html](http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/plantid_sn.html)

Invasive plants by common name

[http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/weedid\\_cn.html](http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/weedid_cn.html)

Invasive plants by scientific name

[http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/weedid\\_sn.html](http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/weedid_sn.html)