

Noxious Weeds and San Juan County Forestry



San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Department

Noxious Weed Board Members and Staff

VACANT
Area 1, West Orcas, Shaw.

William Rupp (Chair)
Area 2, East Orcas, Obstruction.

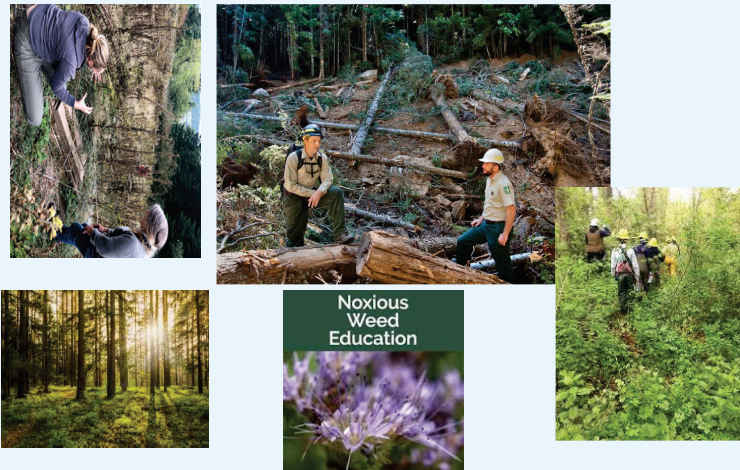
Todd Goldsmith (Vice-Chair)
Area 3, Lopez, Center, Blakely, Decatur.

Dr. James Frampton
Area 4, South San Juan Island.

Adam Martin
Area 5, North San Juan, Stuart

Caitie Blethen (Ex-Officio)
WSU Extension Director

Staff: Michele Smith, Andrew Munson, and Jason Ontjes



On-site advisory services

Plant identification, particularly for invasive species



Garlic Mustard (Class A)

Help finding biocontrol agents



Write and/or distribute educational materials



Help volunteer weed removal efforts



Weed Wrenches on loan

Overview

- Definitions & Weed Laws
- Impacts of Weeds on Forests
- Forestry Weed Management
- Common Weeds of WA Forests

What is a Noxious Weed?

- Non-native “*plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices*”.
- Defined and regulated by state law (**RCW 17.10**)
 - control required only where weed is not widespread (State or County)
 - goal of law is to prevent spread of new invaders to uninfested areas

Not all introduced plants are invasive but majority of invasive plants were brought here intentionally as ornamentals (60+%)

Washington State Weed Laws

- **RCW 17.10**
The primary noxious weed law. Landowner responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property (RCW 17.10.140). Forested lands, too.
- **16-750 WAC**
Contains the Noxious Weed List (updated every year), definitions, and descriptions of regional boundaries for Class B-designate weeds. Also establishes the schedule of penalties for noxious weed infractions.
- **16-752 WAC**
The “Prohibited Plants List”. Targets ornamentals detrimental to state’s natural resources. Cannot transport, buy, sell, distribute or offer for sale.
- **RCW 64.06.020(8)** Seller must disclose **material defects** that affect the property or its value at the time of sale. Noxious weeds considered property defects IF property owner has received noxious weed notification.

Two State-Wide Weed Lists

- **Noxious Weed List (WAC 16-750)**
 - List set primarily by State Weed Board; law enforced by county noxious weed boards
 - Requires property owners to prevent designated plants from spreading
- **Prohibited Plants List (WAC 16-752)**
 - List is determined by WSDA, enforced by state Nursery Inspection Program
 - Prohibits transport, sale and purchase of certain plants and seeds

Other Definitions

- **“Control”** means the use of any lawful method (cultural, mechanical, manual, biological, chemical) to prevent the spread of noxious weed propagules (seeds, etc.) within or beyond a property.
- **“Eradication”** means complete removal (in theory)—Class A species.
- **“Owner”** means the person in actual control of a property (includes some easement holders)

How Are Noxious Weeds Listed:

- **Class A:** Limited distribution, high threat; Must be *eradicated* under state law. Local examples: Giant hogweed, Eggleaf spurge, and garlic mustard. Class A (40 on list; 7 have been found in San Juan County, four active as of 2026)
- **Class B-Designate:** Wider distribution, absent from or limited in distribution in some portions of the state but abundant in other areas. Must be controlled or contained within designated areas. 66 species designated in the county. Examples: Tansy Ragwort, Scotch Broom, Spurge Laurel, Shiny Geranium.
- **Class C:** Widespread, may be selected by the county for control or containment. Examples of Class C weeds: Canada Thistle, Bull Thistle, Blackberries, English Hawthorn. Examples of Class C species selected for control in San Juan County: English Ivy, Common Teasel, Old Man's Beard (*Clematis*).
- **Weeds of Special Concern:** Unlisted but perceived as threats in San Juan County. Examples: Ripgut, Foxglove, Everlasting Peavine, Common Mullein, Bur Chervil.

Why Do They Matter?

Impacts of noxious weeds on forestry operations:

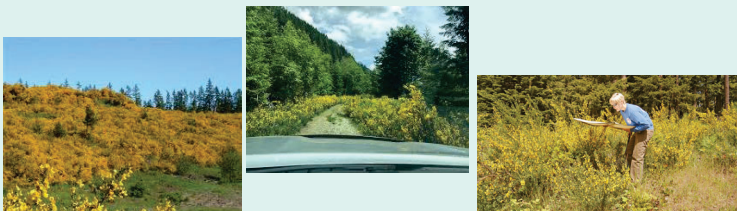
- Forest Regeneration Suppression
- Plantation Resource Competition
- Pests, Pathogens & Allelopathy
- Increased Erosion
- Safety & Wildfire Hazards
- Increased Management Costs

Forest Regeneration Suppression



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Plantation Resource Competition



Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Provides Habitat for Pests



Rabbits



Voles



Rats





Increased Erosion



Hybrid Knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*)

Safety and Wildfire Hazards



John Boyd

Gorse wildfires



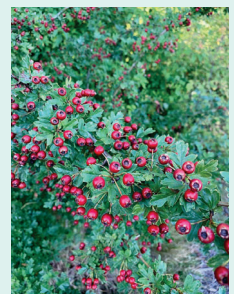
GORSE



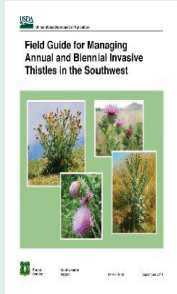
Increased Management Costs



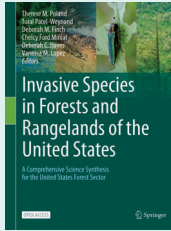
English Hawthorn infestation, San Juan Island



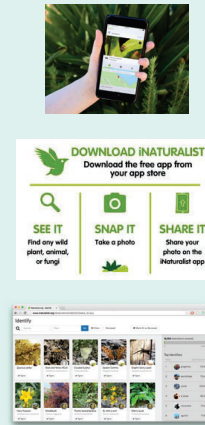
Forestry Weed Management



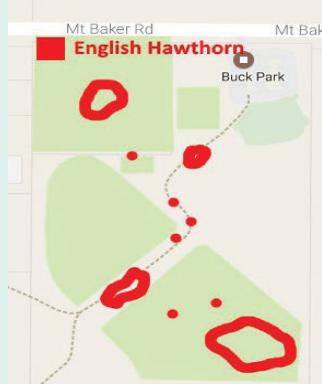
- Planning
- Prevention
- Control Methods
- Restoration & Reclamation



Know Your Plants—or ask!

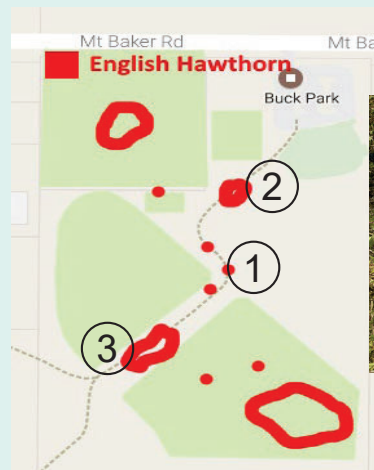


Weed Management Planning Mapping



Develop maps of weed populations to more easily prioritize control efforts in the future.

Prioritizing Control Efforts



Prevention Weed-free Material Sourcing

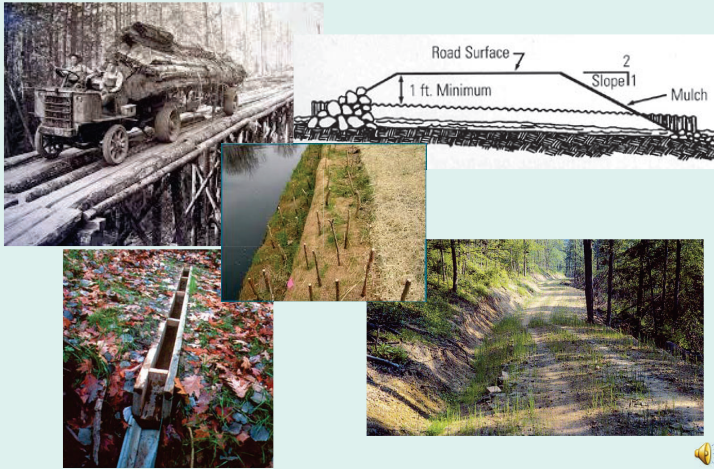


PREVENTION Minimize Ground Disturbance



Figure 9-1. Example of a plan for a system of haul roads, skid trails, and log landings.

Proper Road Construction & Remediation



Equipment & Personnel Decontamination



Control Methods

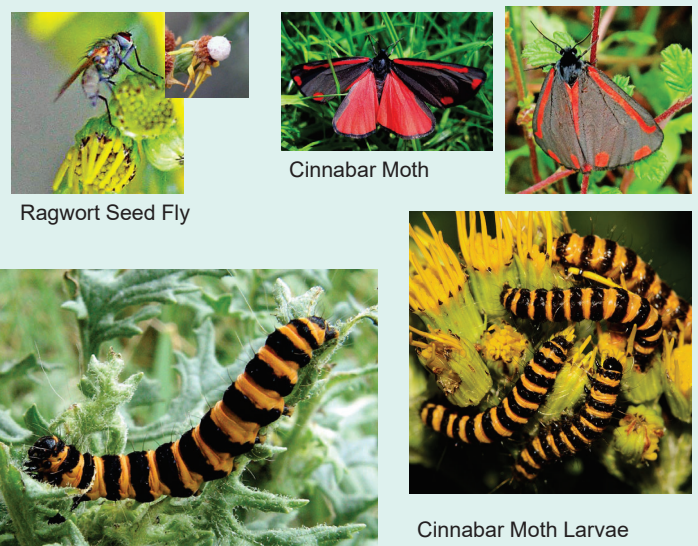
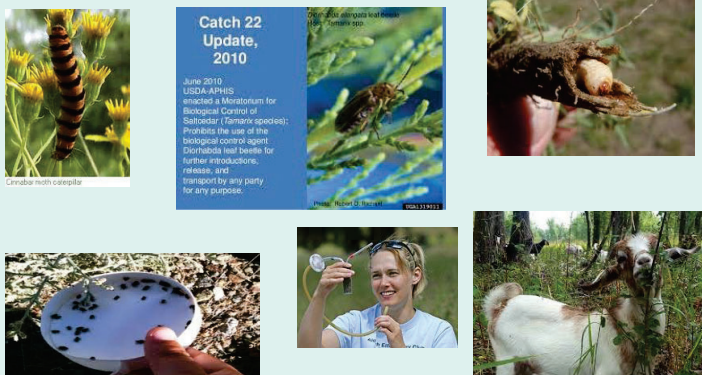
Manual & Mechanical Control

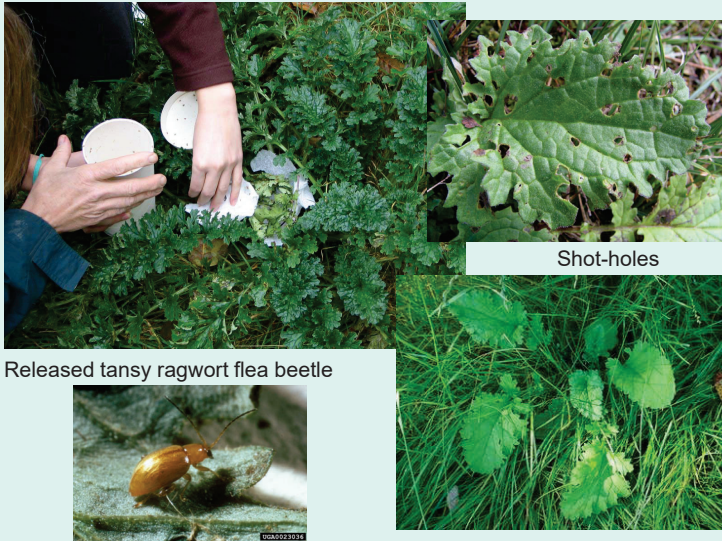


Cultural Control



Biological Control





Released tansy ragwort flea beetle

Shot-holes



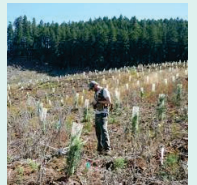
Tansy Ragwort Flea Beetle Larva

Chemical Control



Chemical Control

- Always follow the label—it's the law.
- Use the right product for the right species.
- Timing matters: season, drought, life stage
- Minimize exposure: PPE
- Choose a product with the least hazard or risk (avoid waterways, drift, etc.)
- "Organic" vs. Synthetic
- Systemic vs. Contact
- Application Method



Some Application Types

- Cut-Stump
- Frilling
- Spot-Spray
- Injection
- Basal Bark

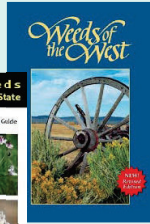
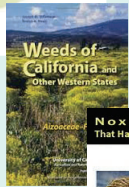
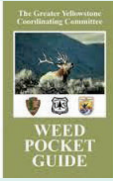


Restoration & Reclamation Revegetation



©Allstar Hydroseeding,
Stanwood/Monroe

Integrated Weed Management (IWM)



Monitoring



Common Weeds of WA Forests

- Herbaceous Plants & Groundcovers
- Shrubs
- Small Trees
- Woody Vines

Herbaceous Plants & Groundcovers



Tansy ragwort has been responsible for livestock deaths in San Juan County and throughout North America.

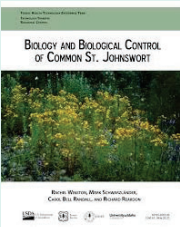


Tansy ragwort

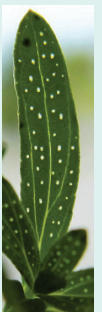
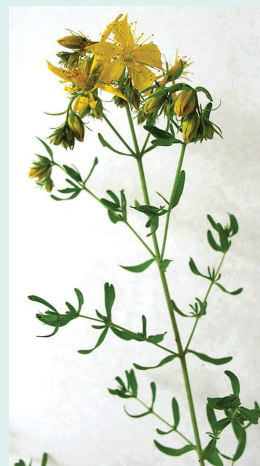


TOXIC

St. John's Wort



TOXIC



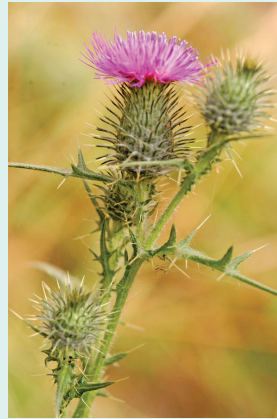
Poison Hemlock



TOXIC



Bull and Canada Thistles



Bull



Canada

Bull and Canada Thistle



Bull rosette & taproot



Canada root network



Short-styled thistle, a native

Bull Thistle



Native Thistle



Some Other Thistles



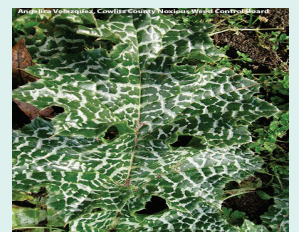
Malta starthistle



Scotch Thistle



Slenderflower Thistle



Milk Thistle

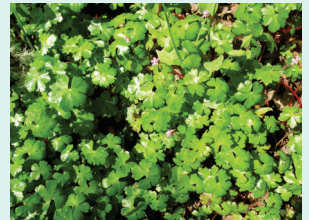
Yellow Archangel



Herb Robert



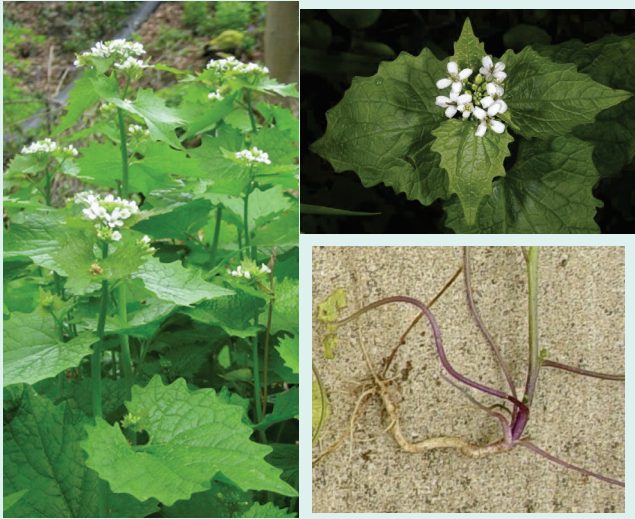
Shiny Geranium



Garlic Mustard



Portland, Oregon



Italian Arum (*Arum italicum*)

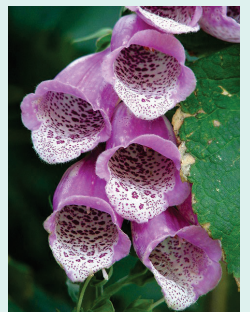
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The Spit, Lopez



Foxglove



TOXIC

Garden Helleborine

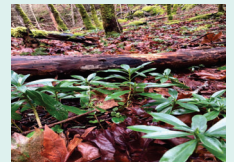


Stinking Hellebore

Shrubs



Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*)



Toxic



Flowers in late winter



Black berries



Spurge laurel removal events, Deer Harbor and White Beach



Gorse



Scot's Broom



Gorse



Doe Bay



The Bandon Fire of 1936



Gorse Spider Mites and Webbing

Doe Bay, Orcas



Scotch Broom





Weed Wrenches on loan for Scotch broom

Broom Seed



Himalayan & Evergreen Blackberry



Himalayan



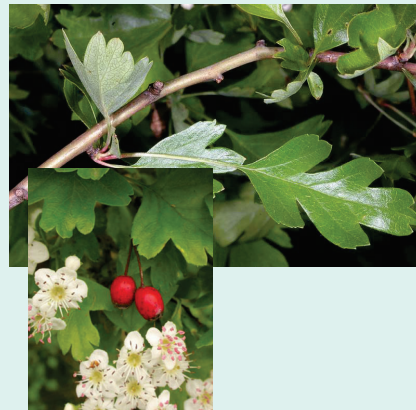
Evergreen



English Hawthorn



English Hawthorn

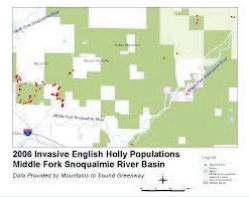


Native Hawthorn





English Holly



English Holly



G.D. Carr



Tall Oregon-grape



Invasive English Holly

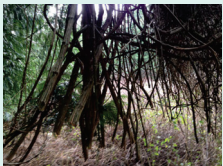


Tree of Heaven

Class C



Old Man's Beard *Clematis vitalba*



English Ivy



Old Man's Beard 🍄

Ivy from Matia



English Ivy



Disposal

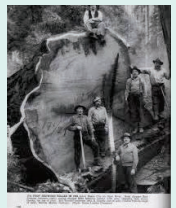


- Compost on Site if Possible (dry on tarp)
- Do not add to your garden compost pile
- Burn if permitted (avoid toxic species)
- Bag seeds and flower heads
- Dispose with regular garbage pickup or
- Haul to transfer station (no charge if the species is noxious, except for English ivy, blackberry and reed canarygrass.

Cover your load!

San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Program

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(360) 376-3499



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<https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/1975/Noxious-Weeds>