



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



KITSAP NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

2014

BY THE NUMBERS

*5399 private sites have been identified and visited by staff throughout Kitsap county.

*3684 individual private landowner properties controlled by staff.

*Sites managed by staff have been reduced by 75%-80%.

*214 of the sites we have found 100% control of the infestations.

*60 citizens have rented the Weed Wrench

*5369 bags of noxious weeds have been disposed of

*46 presentations were given through out the county in 2014

*214 weed warriors trained

*10 community weed pulls throughout the County

Provide quality, timely and responsive service to the residents of Kitsap County

ISSUE

Noxious Weeds Impact: roadways, lakes, parks, shorelines, streams, salmon habitat, agricultural lands, public health and safety, septic systems, and back yards. Our goal is to carry out the mandates of the State Weed Control Law, Chapter 17.10 RCW; control the spread of class A and B designate weed infestations. Our program is the CDC of the plant world. We work to address the worst invaders, like hogweed, and stop their spread. We use education and out reach to the general public for the "common colds" like scotch broom and Ivy. Noxious weed issues know no boundaries, our crew works to stop the spread of invasive plants throughout the county. We work with private citizens and on public lands.

RESPONSE

The Noxious Weed Control program is a state mandated program that has been active in Kitsap County for 10 years. The goal of the program is to reduce the spread of designated noxious weeds in the County. The program aims to accomplish this goal through education, outreach and direct on the ground control activities. Through our integrated management strategies we reduce the negative ecological and economic impacts of noxious weeds.

The program reaches an average of 800 citizens per year through direct phone and email contacts. We receive an average of 100 calls or emails with inquiries about noxious weeds and requests for identification assistance from local partners and other county agencies. Through farmers markets and the county fair staff reach over 6,000 citizens each year indirectly.

Through education and staff surveys, the program has identified 5399 noxious weed sites on private properties. Program staff have assisted 3684 landowners who have responded with gratitude for our efforts.

The program coordinator also works with volunteer groups to provide educational guidance, management, and control recommendations on public properties. The coordinator provides 3 site specific management plans each year for public spaces to be used as guidance for stewardship groups.



QUOTES

Home Owner:

In response to our staff managing the caustic Giant hogweed:

"Thanks for the fast reply and I had no idea that you could actually do that for me, I was just hoping for some advice! What a nice surprise!"

Volunteers post training:

"one of the most entertaining and informative presentations, who knew noxious weeds could be so much fun."

Citizen who we have worked with for 2 years:

"I still have a few persistent Knot weed plants. If your crew is in my area, they are welcome to treat them." - Alan

IMPACTS

Noxious weed management is a long term process that can take over 5 years on a single site. The end goal for noxious weed management is to have a healthy ecological system. The noxious weed program controls many noxious weeds that are harmful to humans and animals. The efforts of our crew reduce the spread of these ecological toxins in a more efficient manner. Program staff work with farmers and land managers to reduce the impacts of noxious weeds to agricultural lands and reduce their potential to cause economic harm.

Each season, our staff revisits all of our previously identified and managed sites to "clean up" the sites. These revisited sites are drastically reduced by an average of 75-90% within the first 2 years of control. The efforts of dedicated staff is to provide landowners and volunteers with the tools to have successful long term control of noxious weeds.

Each year our program works with hundreds of volunteers to control noxious weeds like Ivy, Broom and Blackberry on public sites. Staff provides guidance and educational information on integrated weed control techniques to provide efficient long term control.