



CONTROLLING NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEEDS ABOUT AND IDENTIFICATION

What is a Weed?

A weed is defined as a plant growing in a place in which it is not wanted. Most plants classified as weeds are persistent and hard to keep out of a garden, lawn, or field. Plants that are harmful to animals, water, or humans are referred to as **noxious** weeds. Plants that spread aggressively outside of their range, outcompeting native plants, are called **invasive**. Invasive and noxious weeds threaten ecosystems. If native plants are displaced, the ecology of an area changes, impacting wildlife, soil quality, water availability, and the fire regime.

Weeds can take over your garden or field and spread out of control to creeks, parks and your neighbors' property. Help control weeds in your community by knowing what you're up against.



Yellow star thistle

Japanese knotweed

Prevention

Prevention is the most effective and most economical way to fight weeds. Homeowners greatly impact the plant community on their properties with their garden planting choices, crop management choices, and overall maintenance of their plant and soil resources.

Some of the most persistent weeds of our time were planted intentionally, like Himalayan blackberry and English ivy. Once plants destined to become weeds escape cultivation, they are very expensive to control.

To learn about alternatives to invasive garden plants, check out [Garden Smart Oregon: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants](#).

Tips to Prevent Weed Establishment

- Provide strong competition from desirable plants. This will increase the competition for space, moisture, and nutrients.
- Keep your garden planted throughout the year. Annual gardens are difficult to manage because they do not maintain a stable population of plants to compete with weeds.
- If a perennial garden is not an option, mulch your garden to make it more difficult for unwanted seeds to establish themselves.

Weed Control

If weeds are already established on your property you have several options for combatting them:

- Mow or pull weeds before they go to seed.
- Once mowing and pulling has been completed several times, replant the area with desirable species.
- As a last resort, you may have no choice but to apply herbicides. Remember that this is a costly, short-term solution.
- Consider teaming up with your neighbors to control weeds in your area. All your hard work means nothing if your neighbor's field or yard is supplying weed seeds.
- Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR), see resource box

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Common Aggressive Weeds*

- Purple loosestrife
- Canada thistle
- Scotch broom
- Japanese knotweed
- Spotted knapweed
- Puncturevine
- Garlic mustard.

Common Upland Noxious and Invasive Weeds*

- Garlic mustard
- Starthistle

Common Riparian Noxious and Invasive Weeds*

- Himalayan blackberry
- English ivy
- Purple loostrife

Common Noxious and Invasive Weeds in Developed areas (roadsides, driveways, front yards)*

- Himalayan blackberry
- English ivy

If you find invasive plants on your property please call JSWCD for advice for removing them. You can also call the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-INVADER.

*For a detailed list of noxious invasive weeds in Jackson County, including photos, refer to JSWCD's *Noxious Weeds in Jackson County* Factsheet



Purple loosestrife



Puncturevine

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this a noxious weed on my property or a native/non-invasive?

A: Proper identification is in order! Refer to the resources below. Signs of noxious weeds include outcompeting surrounding native plants, and (sometimes) unusual burs or thorns.

Q: How do I control the weeds on my property?

A: Mechanical control (hand removal/solarization), chemical control (herbicides), and/or bio control (outcompete with natives). Talk with JSWCD for more details.

Q: Do all invasive weeds require herbicide for removal?

A: No, but it is more challenging, especially for widespread noxious invasives over a large area of land. It is important to weigh your individual maintenance ability/time commitments, and equipment access. Hand removal takes longer but is possible. Talk with JSWCD for more details.

Resources & Further Reading

- [Garden Smart Oregon: A Guide to Non-Invasive Plants, OSU Extension](#)
- [EDRR Resource](#)
- JSWCD's Nature Apps Factsheet (weed ID)
- JSWCD's Noxious Weeds in Jackson County
- [ODA Noxious Weed Control Website \(Explore tabs\)](#)
- [USDA Plant Search](#)