



## Weeds to watch out for

**Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*)** photo courtesy of Mason County, Nebraska Noxious Weed Authority

This invasive woody species gets up to 20' in height. A member of the Tamarix (*Tamaricaceae*) family, saltcedar is evergreen with scale-like leaves that overlap along the stem. This invasive spreads to form dense thickets that exclude native vegetation. A large taproot enables this species to alter hydrology and lower water tables over time. Populations exist in King, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Whatcom and other counties.



**Yellow floatingheart (*Nymphoides peltata*)** photo courtesy of www.parks.it

This aquatic species resembles a water lily and is in the Buckbean (*Menyanthaceae*) family. A newer invader, yellow floatingheart is not yet widely spread in western Washington and confirmed populations currently exist only in Whatcom and Clark counties. Yellow floatingheart spreads both by seed and vegetatively to form dense mats in shallow waters. This species was introduced as a garden ornamental and is still commonly sold today.

**European hawkweed (*Hieracium sabaudum*)** photo courtesy of King County WA

New addition to the Class A state noxious weed list, this species is currently present only in King and Clallam counties. A member of the Aster (*Asteraceae*) family, European hawkweed spreads prolifically by seed. We have plenty of native hawkweeds with yellow blooms so take care to distinguish this from our native species. This species spreads along disturbed roadsides and in pastures and fields.



**Traveler's joy (*Clematis vitalba*)** photo courtesy of Environment Bay of Plenty

This species is in the buttercup (*Ranunculaceae*) family and is a perennial vine. Similar to English ivy, traveler's joy climbs and covers trees competing for light and causing trees to become top-heavy. This species spreads by seed and vegetatively. Take care to distinguish this species from our native *Clematis ligusticifolia* (western white clematis) – traveler's joy has up to seven leaflets per leaf and western white clematis has five or fewer. Traveler's joy occurs throughout western Washington.

**Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)** photo courtesy of www.emmitsburg.net

A small to medium sized tree in the *Simaroubaceae* family that can get up to 75 feet in height. In Washington this species occurs escaped along road sides or in riparian areas. Leaves have an unpleasant odor when crushed resembling peanuts or cashews. This species grows extremely rapidly, can subsist in very harsh conditions or in urban sites with very little soil. Spreads by both seed and resprouts from stumps and portions of the root system.



For more info, check: Noxious/Invasive Weed Control on the Links page on our website, UW Herbarium WTU Image collection site ([biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/image\\_collection.php](http://biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium/image_collection.php)), and weed board websites for your area. "Invasive Species in the Pacific Northwest", edited by P.D. Boersma, S.H. Reichard and A.N. Van Buren, was used when preparing this information sheet.



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