

GARDEN WISE

Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden



SPRING 2008

EASTERN WASHINGTON GUIDE

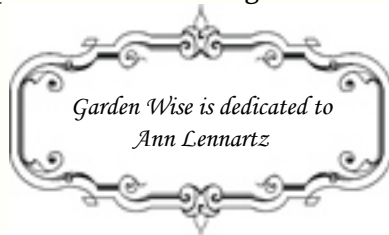
VOLUNTARY CODES OF CONDUCT

For the Gardening Public (annotated):

In an effort to reduce the spread of invasive plants used for horticultural purposes, experts have created the “Voluntary Codes of Conduct,” a series of steps that nursery professionals, landscape architects, gardeners, and others can take to help curb the spread of invasive horticultural plants.

- ◇ Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Plant only environmentally safe species in your gardens. Work towards and promote new landscape design that is friendly to regional ecosystems.
- ◇ Seek information on which species are invasive in your area. Sources could include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies. Remove invasive species from your land and replace them with non-invasive species suited to your site and needs.
- ◇ Do not trade plants with other gardeners if you know they are species with invasive characteristics.
- ◇ Request that botanical gardens and nurseries promote, display, and sell only non-invasive species.
- ◇ Help educate your community and other gardeners in your area through personal contact and in such settings as garden clubs and other civic groups.

For the full Gardening Codes of Conduct, or to learn about the Codes of Conduct for Government, Nursery Professionals, Landscape Architects, and Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, please go to the Center for Plant Conservation’s website at:
www.centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/codesn.html



GARDEN WISE

Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden

While most exotic plants are not problematic, a few have become invasive in Washington State. When these plants spread to wild and agricultural areas, they can cause serious problems. For example purple loosestrife, yellow flag iris, and saltcedar are changing our streamsides and river banks; Scotch thistle and invasive sages compete with grassland forage species used by livestock and wildlife.

This booklet represents the collaboration of nonprofit conservation groups, state and country government, and the nursery industry. We believe that preventing introduction is the most efficient way to reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. Whether you are looking for new and exciting plants to add to your garden, or you are looking to replace invasive plants in your yard, we hope this book will be a valuable resource. Working together, we can ensure that future generations enjoy pristine wild areas in Washington State.

Please note that this booklet is a product of an ongoing project. Visit www.invasivespeciescoalition.org for updates and to learn about other problematic plants and their alternatives. You can also learn more from your local nursery, WSU Master Gardeners, and at www.GreatPlantPicks.org.



Full Sun



Regular Water



Well-Drained Soil



Part Sun



Medium Water



Heavy Soil



Full Shade



Low Water



Evergreen



Washington Native



Wildlife Friendly



Deciduous

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Babysbreath - *Gypsophila paniculata*

The delicate sprays of white flowers make this European native a popular plant for fresh or dried flower bouquets and for garden borders. Unfortunately, this plant with a delicate name and flower can escape gardens and aggressively colonize elsewhere. It is now widespread throughout Canada and much of the



Images courtesy of WSNWCB



northern half of the United States. The seeds can ripen in cut bouquets, left at cemeteries and other locations, allowing the plant to spread into adjacent areas. Babysbreath readily invades pastures and grasslands where it outcompetes desirable plants and reduces forage quality for livestock and wildlife.

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative .2.

Miss Willmott Pincushion Flower & Other White Cultivars

Scabiosa caucasica 'Miss Willmott'



This plant is an attractive, clump-forming perennial.

- Its white flowers are 3 inches across and are very good for cutting.
- The blooms are the same color as babysbreath but not the same texture.
- Flowers are present from mid-summer to late-summer.
- The attractive foliage is dark green and gray-green and provides a lacy effect.
- It prefers a sunny site with good drainage.
- USDA Zones 3-10.



Image courtesy of Chris Bligh, Shoots and Roots Nursery





Pearl Yarrow

Achillea ptarmica 'The Pearl'

Pearl yarrow is a graceful and airy plant.

- This plant has lovely white flowers that are about one-half inch wide.
- Like babysbreath, the double-bloom flowers are long-lasting and good for bouquets.
- Its attractive foliage is delicate and fern like.
- It is best grown in full sun with summer watering.
- This perennial spreads by rhizome and needs good drainage.
- USDA Zones 3-10.



Image courtesy of Richard Old,
www.xidservices.com



Pink Cloud Wandflower & Other Cultivars

Gaura lindheimeri 'Pink Cloud'

'Pink Cloud' is a stunning upright perennial covered with soft, pink blooms.

- Pink-blushed flowers are held on slender stems above foliage which provides an airy look.
- It blooms from summer into autumn.
- Flowers are good in borders and for cutting.
- Foliage ranges from mid-green to gray-green to burgundy, depending on the cultivar.
- This plant can reach three feet in height.
- USDA Zones 6-9.



Image courtesy of Tiffany Adamowski

More choices: Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) and snow buckwheat (*Eriogonum niveum*), both of which are WA natives.

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Bighead Knapweed - *Centaurea macrocephala*



With its large and striking yellow flowers, bighead knapweed, also known as 'Yellow Fluff' and 'Globe Centaury', has sometimes been used in dried floral arrangements. However, this plant is a member of the knapweed family which includes some of the most problematic weeds in the West. Bighead knapweed was discovered escaping gardens in northeastern Washington where it moved along roadsides and spread into high elevation rangeland, reforestation sites, and powerline right-of-ways. It has the potential to invade Washington's precious subalpine meadows.



Images courtesy of WSNWCB

CLASS A WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative · 4 ·

Giant Yellow Star Scabious

Cephalaria gigantea



This alternative is an impressive, eye-catching perennial for the garden.

- Giant pale yellow flower heads resemble pincushions and are 2.5 inches across.
- It blooms during the summer months.
- Mature seed heads are also ornamental.
- With a stately height of up to 7 feet tall, scabious is great as a border or showcase plant.
- It prefers rich, well-drained soil and full sun to part shade.
- USDA Zones 3-10.



Image courtesy of Lenne Valkenburg





Blanket Flower

Gaillardia aristata



Blanket flower is a good native plant for the garden since it adapts well to cultivation.

- Bright golden-yellow petals surround vivid red centers.
- Showy flowers appear in early summer, are daisy like in form, and are 4 inches wide.
- As with knapweeds, the flowers are held above the bluish-green foliage.
- It is excellent for cutting and in borders.
- It grows up to 2.5 feet tall.
- This perennial tolerates heat and needs good drainage.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



Image courtesy of Ben Legler



Goldsturm Coneflower, Black-Eyed Susan

Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'



This plant is a long-lived, long-blooming perennial for a sunny site.

- It has bright, showy flowers with orange-yellow petals surrounding purplish brown centers.
- While the flower form is different, the color impact is similar.
- Flowers bloom between July and September and are excellent for cutting.
- This perennial reaches 24-30 inches in height and 24 inches in width.
- It is great for beds, borders, and meadow areas.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



Image courtesy of Dave Jones, Great Plant Picks

More choices: Large flowered tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora*).

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Knotweeds: Giant Bohemian, Himalayan, & Japanese - *Polygonum* species

Feathery white flower heads, large foliage, and tall bamboo-like stems once made this group of knotweeds popular as garden ornamentals. Native to Asia, knotweeds have become a serious problem worldwide and are increasingly prevalent in Washington. They rapidly invade riparian zones where they block sunlight, disturb nutrient cycling, displace native vegetation, and increase stream bank erosion. These knotweeds are a serious problem along Washington State waterways where they degrade habitat for wildlife and fish species, including salmon.



Image courtesy Whatcom County NWCB

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Recommended Alternative .6.

False Solomon's Seal

Smilacina racemosa

This plant is a shade-loving, early-blooming native perennial with gracefully arching stems.

- Clusters of delicate, creamy white flowers appear in mid-spring, before knotweed blooms.
- The flowers are lightly fragrant.
- Lance-shaped leaves reach lengths of 8 inches.
- It can exceed 3 feet in height and spread to create a large patch in the right place.
- It prefers partial shade and adapts well to a variety of soils.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



Image courtesy of Pat Breen, Oregon State University





Goat's Beard

Aruncus dioicus

This robust perennial native gives height to your garden.

- Like knotweed, goat's beard thrives in moist soil.
- It produces a panicle of cream-colored flowers similar to knotweeds; although, the foliage and flower texture is finer.
- It blooms in June and July, which is a little earlier than knotweed.
- This plant grows up to 6 feet tall.
- USDA Zones 3-7.



Image courtesy of Clayton Antieau



Plume Poppy

Macleaya cordata

Plume poppy provides a dramatic presence in the garden.

- Large plumes of small, buff-white flowers are more attractive than knotweed.
- Its brown seed pods are also ornamental.
- Striking leaves are deeply lobed and measure up to 4 inches across.
- Plants reach a height of 8 feet.
- It spreads by way of stolons to form patches.
- This plant needs water in summer and good drainage.
- USDA Zones 3-8.



Image courtesy of Mike Davy

More choices: Plume poppy (*Macleaya microcarpa*), and rosy twisted stalk (*Streptopus roseus*).

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Milk & Scotch Thistles

Silybum marianum & *Onopordum acanthium*

Milk thistle has often been used as a showcase plant in the garden due to its striking white-laced foliage and spine-tipped flower heads. Scotch thistle has been used as a barrier since this spiny plant can reach a height of eight feet by its second year. As attractive as the managed prickly plants may be in the garden, they are unwelcome in meadows and pastures where they reduce forage quality. Additionally, milk thistle can be toxic to livestock.



Image courtesy of WSNWCB



Image courtesy of Stevens County NWCB

CLASS A & B WA STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

•8•

Recommended Alternative

Globe Thistle

Echinops ritro or
Echinops 'Taplow Blue'



These plants are thistle-like in appearance and are easy to grow.

- Blooms appear in June and can last until fall.
- The metallic-blue, globe-shaped flower heads are plentiful atop the plant.
- Flowers are excellent when cut.
- Plants are similar in scale to thistles; *E. ritro* is 4 feet in height and *E. 'Taplow Blue'* is 5 feet in height.
- Globe thistle is tolerant of a variety of light conditions and is not fussy about soil type.
- USDA Zones 3-8.



Image courtesy of Alice B. Russell, North Carolina State University





Jerusalem Sage

Phlomis tuberosa



This sage is ideal for hot, dry areas.

- Its hooded flowers are showy pinkish-purple and appear in whorls in the leaf axils.
- This plant blooms during the summer.
- Arrow-shaped foliage measures up to 10 inches in length and is silver in color due to fine hairs.
- The erect habit is similar to invasive thistles.
- This plant reaches a height of 5 feet.
- USDA Zones 4-10.



Image courtesy of Chris Bligh,
Shoots and Roots nursery



Purple Dome New England Aster

Aster novi-belgii 'Purple Dome'



This aster is an excellent plant for adding a purple bloom to the garden late in the season.

- Vibrant purple, daisy-like blooms cover the top of the plant between August and October.
- Flowers are excellent for cutting.
- Its foliage is dense, stalkless, and lance-shaped.
- Sturdy stems make a good shrub like presence when the plant is not in bloom.
- It is smaller in stature than milk thistle.
- This plant is rarely affected by powdery mildew.
- USDA Zones 4-8.



Image courtesy of Marilyn Grua

More choices: Prince calico aster (*Aster lateriflorus* 'Prince'), alma potschke New England aster (*A. Novae-angliae* 'Alma Potschke'), Monch frikartii aster (*A. x frikartii* 'Monch'), sea holly (*Eryngium* 'Sapphire Blue' and other cultivars).

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Myrtle Spurge - *Euphorbia myrsinites*

Its geometric, blue-green foliage, long life, and ability to thrive in gravelly soil have made myrtle spurge a popular plant for xeriscaping and in rock gardens. Capable of throwing its seeds up to fifteen feet, this succulent can spread into arid ecosystems where it displaces native vegetation.



Images courtesy of WSNWCB

Like its cousin leafy spurge - considered one of the worst plants in the West - myrtle spurge is invasive and can be difficult to control. Additionally, it exudes a toxic sap.

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative • 10 •

Sun Rose

Helianthemum spp. and cultivars



Sun Rose is a clumping, evergreen shrub with a spreading habit and brightly colored flowers.

- The flowers are unlike Euphorbia flowers and resemble wild rose.
- Cultivars provide an array of vibrant colors such as magenta, pink, orange, and yellow.
- It blooms between June and September.
- As a low spreading shrub, it measures less than 1 foot tall and 2 to 3 feet wide.
- Although its texture differs from myrtle spurge, sun rose is a mannerly and uniquely beautiful plant with green to silver foliage.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Image courtesy of Ann Chapman





Cape Blanco or Purple Stonecrop

Sedum spathulifolium 'Cape Blanco', 'Purpureum'

This plant is an excellent, mat-forming evergreen plant.



- Its bluish toned foliage is beautiful year-round.
- Bright golden-yellow, star-shaped flowers provide striking contrast in June.
- A white, powdery coating on its leaves gives 'Cape Blanco' a silvery blue appearance.
- 'Purpureum' has purple-tinged, bluish foliage.
- Plants reach a height of 4 inches and spread about 2-4 feet forming a tight mat.
- This plant tolerates some shade and requires good drainage.
- USDA Zones 6-10.



Image courtesy of Ben Legler



Evergreen Spurge

Euphorbia characias subsp. *wulfenii* and cultivars

Blue-green foliage and large leaves give this plant a bold texture in the landscape.



- Showy flowers feature lime-green to chartreuse flower bracts and burgundy-black eyes.
- It has a long bloom time, extending from March to May.
- Flowers are very good for cutting.
- This plant and its cultivars may be damaged by severe winters and are best considered short-lived perennials in such climates.
- Plants reach a height and width of 3-4 feet.
- USDA Zones 7-10.

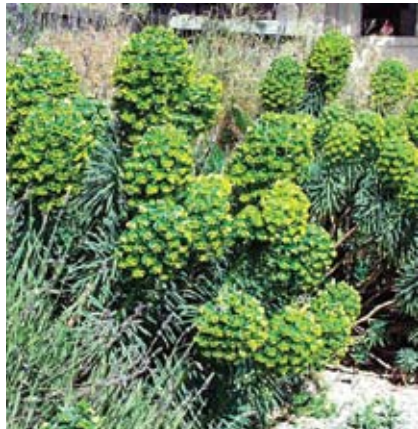


Image courtesy of San Marcos Growers

More choices: Sulfur flower (*Ergonum umbellatum*), kinnikinnick (*Artostaphylos uva-ursi*), and lance-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum lanceolatum*), all of which are WA natives.

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Oxeye Daisy - *Leucanthemum vulgare*

A common sight throughout the United States, oxeye daisy was first introduced, probably as a seed contaminant, into the Pacific Northwest in the late 1800s. It is a familiar sight along roadways where it can spread into native grasslands, fields, and pastures. It reduces plant diversity and lowers forage quality for grazing



Image courtesy of WSNWCB



wildlife and livestock by replacing plants that are higher in protein. Oxeye daisy competes with crops, especially cereal crops, which are so important in eastern Washington.

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative • 12 •

Becky Shasta Daisy

Leucanthemum x superbum 'Becky'



This plant is a charming and well-behaved daisy.

- Its daisy-like flowers are much larger than oxeye.
- The flowers attract butterflies and are good for cutting.
- The dark green foliage is attractive and sturdy.
- A tidy, upright habit makes Becky Shasta daisy a terrific garden plant.
- Its long bloom period extends from June to September.
- Becky Shasta daisy is not fussy about soils but needs good drainage.
- USDA Zones 5-9.



Image courtesy of Great Plant Picks





White Wood Aster

Aster divaricatus

Profuse blooming makes this plant delicately showy.

- White, daisy-like flowers are smaller than oxeye daisy and measure 1 inch across.
- The bloom time is later than oxeye daisy, from July through September.
- Wiry, blackish stems contrast beautifully with white flowers and green foliage.
- The leaves are heart shaped and coarsely toothed.
- It tolerates some shade and may need summer water.
- USDA Zones 3-8.

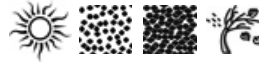


Image courtesy of Randall G. Prostak, University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Moonbeam Thread-leaved Tickseed

Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'

This plant is similar to oxeye daisy but with glowing, pale yellow blooms.

- Its flowers attract bees and butterflies.
- Tickseed blooms from summer into fall.
- The foliage is green and filament-like creating a fine texture in the landscape.
- A low maintenance, drought-tolerant plant, tickseed is excellent in the garden or as a container plant.
- Tickseed grows quickly and should be divided every two years or replanted.
- USDA Zones 3-10.



Image courtesy of Chris Bligh, Shoots and Roots nursery

More choices: Angelita daisy (*Hymenoxys acaulis*)

HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Clary Sage, Meadow Clary, & Mediterranean Sage - *Salvia sclarea*, *S. pratensis*, and *s aethiopsis*

The bi-colored pink and cream, solid blue-violet and white flowers of these sages make them attractive additions to the garden. While there are many equally, if not more attractive and well-behaved sages for the flower, herb, and medicinal garden, these three species are particularly problematic in Washington. They invade pastures, rangeland, and natural meadows where they reduce forage quality and displace native plants. Mediterranean sage can also compete with some crops.



Courtesy of WSNWCB



CLASS A & B WA STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Recommended Alternative · 14 ·

Silver Sage

Salvia argentea

Striking, silvery and fuzzy foliage adds texture and contrast to the garden.

- Flowers are white to pale pink and are borne on candelabra like branching stems.
- This plant reaches 3 feet in height and has a clumping habit that is similar to invasive sages.
- It behaves as a biennial or short-lived perennial.
- Silver sage prefers full sun and good drainage with some summer water.
- USDA Zones 3-8.



Image courtesy of Lenne Valkenburg





Russian Sage

Perovskia atriplicifolia



Russian sage is a long-blooming perennial for a sunny, dry site.

- Twelve-inch spires of tubular, purple flowers add a splash of color in late summer.
- Like the invasive sages, Russian sage is a drought-tolerant plant that does well in poor soils.
- This plant adds a strong vertical element to the garden with its silvery stem and foliage.
- USDA Zones 5-10.



Image courtesy of Alice B. Russell
North Carolina State University



Meadow & Woodland Sages

Salvia nemorosa cultivars and *S. x sylvestris*



Both of these sages are similar in appearance to invasive sages.

- Flowers are showy, held in spikes above the foliage, and are good for cutting.
- Deadheading will prolong blooming into autumn.
- The foliage of meadow sage is rugose, dull green, broad-leaved and held in a clump.
- The foliage of woodland sage is similar in shape but is green to gray-green.
- Height for both sages range from 1-3 feet.
- USDA Zones 4-8.



Image courtesy of Ann Chapman

More choices: Gray ball sage (*Salvia dorrii*), and sticky Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis rus-seliana*).

AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANTS

INVASIVE

Purple Loosestrife & Garden Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria & *Lysimachia vulgaris*

Both garden and purple loosestrife are common additions to flower gardens. These invasive plants are a major threat to wetlands due to their ability to tolerate saturated soils and spread rapidly into non-disturbed areas.



Images courtesy of WSNWCB

Purple

loosestrife is notorious for forming dense, uniform stands; it crowds out all native plants and reduces wetland habitat. Garden loosestrife is a new but serious concern in both eastern and western Washington where it has been observed out-competing the noxious purple loosestrife in some wetlands.

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Gayfeather

Liatris spicata



Gayfeather is an eye-catching, purple-spiked perennial.

- Its tall spikes of purple flowers are similar in appearance to purple loosestrife.
- This plant blooms July through September, around the same time as purple loosestrife.
- Unlike purple loosestrife, it likes well-drained soils.
- Gayfeather takes full sun.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



Image courtesy of Alice B. Russell, North Carolina State University





Jacob Kline Bee Balm

Monarda didyma 'Jacob Kline'

The foliage and flowers of Jacob Kline differ from the loosestrifes but are wonderful in their own right.

- Cheery crimson, shaggy flower heads attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.
- It blooms between June and July and provides excellent cut flowers.
- The habit is upright and spreading and can reach 4 feet in height.
- Deer reportedly do not like bee balm, so it may be useful to screen other plants.
- 'Jacob Kline' is very mildew-resistant.
- USDA Zones 4-10.



Image courtesy of Alice B. Russell, North Carolina State University

Cardinal Flower & Hybrids

Lobelia splendens, *L. x speciosa*, *L. x syphilitica*, *L. x gerardii*

These striking plants are well suited to damp places.

- Bright red flowers are held in upright spikes above the foliage.
- Hummingbirds are attracted to the blooms.
- Some cultivars of *L. splendens* have deep purplish-maroon foliage.
- They behave as annuals or short-lived perennials but self-seed in moist soil without becoming weedy.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



Image courtesy of Erv Evans, North Carolina State University



More choices: Red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*), lady's thumb (*Polygonum amphibium*), all of which are WA natives.

AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANTS

INVASIVE

Yellow Flag Iris - *Iris pseudacorus*

With its showy yellow flowers and dense, lance-shaped leaves, yellow flag iris has been a popular addition to ornamental ponds and water gardens. However, this emergent wetland plant quickly spreads through underground rhizomes and rhizome fragments.



Images courtesy of WSNWCB

It is naturalizing along streams, canals, and shorelines throughout Washington, particularly near developed areas. Yellow flag iris can completely displace native wetland plants along the shoreline. Its dense, root-like mat collects sediment and severely reduces water flow, affecting plants, fish, and other animals.

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative

• 18 •

Japanese Iris

Iris ensata, 'Variegata' & cultivars



This is a beautiful iris for pond edges and bogs.

- It is ideal for wet boggy areas and is an easy to grow edge-of-pond plant.
- Elegant large flowers of white, purple, and violet-blue form in late spring and early summer, a little later than yellow flag iris.
- Foliage can reach 16 inches, and the scale of the plant is smaller than *Iris pseudacorus*.
- Foliage of the cultivar 'Variegata' offers a creamy white and green foliar accent to pond plantings.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Image courtesy of Laura Burton



Laevigata Iris

Iris laevigata & cultivars

Laevigata iris is a true water-loving iris which is beautiful in and out of flower.

- This plant is an ideal replacement for yellow flag iris in pond plantings. Laevigata iris will grow well in 6 inches of water. It is also good for wet boggy areas and is easy to grow.
- Its flowers are large white, purple, lavender, and pink. Yellow blooming varieties are rare.
- This plant blooms later than yellow flag iris.
- Foliage can reach 18 inches, so the scale of the plant is smaller than yellow flag iris.
- USDA Zones 2-9.



Image courtesy of Pat Woodward, Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery



Siberian Iris

Iris sibirica & hybrids such as 'Butter & Sugar', 'Sunfisher' (both yellow blooming)

Siberian iris is a very versatile, easy-to-grow iris and the perfect choice, other than a bearded iris, if you want yellow flowers.

- It is good for mixed borders with normal water needs; also suitable for damp sites, but not for standing water.
- The flower colors range from white to purple to blue-purple to yellow.
- With foliage usually 2 feet or less, and taller flowers, the plant is smaller than yellow flag iris.
- Blooms May-June, but its lovely foliage makes this iris beautiful in and out of bloom.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



Image courtesy of Todd Boland

More choices: Arctic iris (*Iris setosa*), blueflag iris (*I. versicolor*), *I. virginicum*, bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*), and native species Rocky Mountain iris (*I. missouriensis*), western skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*), and golden-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*).

AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANTS

INVASIVE

Parrotfeather - *Myriophyllum aquaticum*

This South American native has been a popular plant for ornamental ponds as its emergent stems are bright green and attractive, and its submerged stems act as a



natural filter and provide oxygen for fish. Like many nonnative, invasive



aquarium and pond plants, parrotfeather has been carelessly released into our natural aquatic systems where it forms dense mats that out-compete native submerged plants and can reduce water flow. Until recently, escaped populations were limited to areas west of the Cascades; however, at least one new population has been documented in eastern Washington.

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative • 20 •

Mare's Tail

Hippuris vulgaris



Mare's tail is an attractive native plant with a similar habit to parrotfeather.

- Stiff emergent stems are 6 to 12 inches tall with whorls of small, rigid, needle-like leaves.
- Submerged stems are softer with longer, more flexible whorled leaves.
- It prefers shallow, non-acidic, cool water.
- This plant can be propagated through stem cuttings and can spread through rhizomes.
- It prefers full to part sun.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



Image courtesy of San Marcos Growers



Coontail

Ceratophyllum demersum

Coontail is an excellent, easy-to-grow, oxygenating plant for ornamental fishponds.

- Submersed plants lack true roots but stems can be anchored to the substrate or left loose.
- Whorled, needle-like leaves cover the stem and are densest at the tip.
- This plant provides habitat, oxygen, and some filtration for fish.
- It is tolerant of frost.
- USDA Zones 4-10.



Image courtesy of Richard Old, www.xidservices.com



Canada Elodea

Elodea canadensis

This plant is a submersed native that does well under a variety of conditions.

- Bright-green leaves are whorled around stems in groups of three.
- Careful! The noxious weeds *Hydrilla* and *Brazilian elodea* look similar. The leaves of Canada elodea appear in whorls of three. *Hydrilla* and *Brazilian elodea* leaves appear in whorls of four.
- Small, white flowers appear between June and September above the water's surface.
- It is native throughout much of the United States and Canada.
- USDA Zones 5-10.



Image courtesy of Richard Old, www.xidservices.com

Please remember, never dump water garden or aquarium plants and fish into natural water systems.

TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

Butterfly Bush - *Buddleja davidii*

With its showy purple flowers and ability to thrive under a variety of conditions, butterfly bush has become a popular garden ornamental in North America. However, it has escaped cultivation and invaded roadsides, logged clearings, and other disturbed areas where it can form dense thickets.



Images courtesy of Tim Miller, WSU-NWREC

In the Pacific Northwest, it is problematic along rivers and streams, where it traps sediment. It does not seem to be a host plant for many butterfly larvae, but it can displace native willow species upon which many of our native butterfly larvae feed.

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative



Heteranthrea Indigo Bush

Indigofera heterantha



This shrub replicates the screening function of butterfly bush.

- It has purple pink, pea-like flowers held in numerous erect racemes about 6 inches long.
- It is not noted to attract butterflies, but flowers are reminiscent of butterfly bush.
- The bloom time is from early summer into autumn.
- Its foliage has the same green-gray tones as butterfly bush but leaves are pinnate.
- This spreading shrub has arching branches that can reach 10 feet in height.
- USDA Zones 6-9.



Image courtesy of Antonie Van Den Bos, www.botanypictures.com



Bush Clover

Lespedeza thunbergii



This shrub makes a great screening plant.

- Its profuse blooms and bloom time makes it a good substitute for butterfly bush.
- The flowers are bright violet, although they are not fragrant.
- The foliage has a similar green-gray hue, but the leaves are compound.
- Arching branches reach a height of 6 feet and a width of 10 feet, making it a good low-screening plant.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Image courtesy of Janet Rowley



Black Twinberry

Lonicera involucrata



Black twinberry is an attractive, easy-to-grow, deciduous screen.

- The flowers are tubular, light yellow, and held in pairs in leaf axils.
- It blooms from April to June, much earlier than butterfly bush.
- Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees are attracted to it.
- The leaves are bright green and lance-shaped.
- Similar to the habit of butterfly bush, twinberry attains a vase shape over time.
- It tolerates a range of cultural conditions, but prefers moist soil.
- USDA Zones 6-8.



Image courtesy of Clayton Antieau

More choices: Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), variegated red-twig dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima'), and black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*).

TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

Saltcedar - *Tamarix ramosissima*

Saltcedar was once highly prized as an ornamental shrub due to its high drought tolerance and its pink or white, feathery, flower clusters. Unfortunately, its rapid colonization of riparian habitat throughout the Southwest and its detrimental ecological impacts have made it one of the worst invasive woody species in the west. It displaces native riparian trees and plants that



Images courtesy of WSNWCB

provide superior habitat and food resources. Additionally, saltcedar makes the soil salty which inhibits germination of native plants. Its deep tap roots and heavy water consumption cause moist areas to dry up. It is especially problematic along the eastern Washington waterways.



CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Smoke Bush

Cotinus coggia & its cultivar 'Royal Purple'

Smoke bush has the same misty purplish pom-poms that make salt cedar attractive.

- Smoke bush has dramatic clouds of small, wispy flowers.
- 'Royal Purple' cultivar has rich, brownish-purple foliage.
- It is easy to grow and fast growing.
- It can reach 12-15 feet high and can easily be trimmed into a shrub or small tree.
- Smoke bush is considered a fire-safe plant.
- It prefers sun to part shade and well drained soil.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Image courtesy of Alma Nylund



Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

Eastern redbud provides a beautiful springtime presentation.

- Creamy pink, pea-like flowers cover the tree before foliage emerges in early spring.
- It offers pink blooms like saltcedar but they have a different shape and time of bloom.
- The leaves are heart-shaped and turn bright yellow in autumn.
- It can reach 20-25 feet tall at maturity.
- It prefers similar conditions to saltcedar.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



Image courtesy of Pat Breen,
Oregon State University



European Elderberry

Sambucus nigra & cultivars

The foliage of this shrub is lacier and more ornamental than saltcedar.

- Its flowers are white, compound, and held profusely in flattened heads.
- The foliage is different from saltcedar, as the leaves are pinnate and either mid-green, yellow, or purple-tinged, depending on the cultivar.
- It has an upright form in youth and a spreading habit, maturing much like saltcedar.
- This shrub can attain a height and width of 20 feet.
- USDA Zones 4-7.



Image courtesy of Ben Legler

More choices: Lewis' mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), which is native to WA, and its cultivars.

TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

Scotch Broom - *Cytisus scoparia*

To some people, the long stretches of yellow-flowering Scotch broom along highways and roads in Washington are a sign of summer. For even more people, Scotch broom is an eyesore and a reminder of what happens when plants, once valuable for ornament or erosion-control, become invasive and are allowed to spread. Scotch broom adds nitrogen to the soil, allowing other non-native species to colonize areas where once only native plants, adapted to nutrient-poor soils, could thrive. It also provides fuel for wildfires.



Image courtesy of WSNWCB

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

Recommended Alternative

•26•

Dyer's Greenweed

Genista tinctoria & its cultivar 'Royal Gold'

If you are after the glorious yellow splash of color the brooms offer in spring, then *Genista* is ideal for you.



- Its yellow blooms are prolific from spring into early summer.
- Like the brooms, this plant has an upright habit.
- The foliage is narrow and about 2 inches long.
- Dyer's greenwood reaches 2-3 feet in height.
- It thrives under the same conditions as brooms: sun, poor soil, and good drainage.
- USDA Zones 4-7.



Image courtesy of Erv Evans, North Carolina State University





Golden Guinea Kerria

Kerria japonica 'Golden Guinea'



Bright green stems and yellow flowers are reminiscent of the brooms.

- The yellow flowers are not as showy as the brooms and bloom earlier in the season.
- Its scale is similar to that of Scotch broom.
- 'Golden Guinea' will reach 6 feet in height and is good as a backdrop screening.
- It can reach a width of 8 feet and may also spread by suckering.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



Image courtesy of Victor S. Carrano



Karl Sax or Lynnwood Forsythia

Forsythia x intermedia 'Karl Sax' or 'Lynnwood'



This plant blooms in such profusion it seems ablaze in yellow.

- The glory of this shrub is in the bloom which rivals any broom.
- It blooms earlier than Scotch broom.
- The foliage is medium-green, lanceolate, and up to 3 inches long.
- Larger in scale than Scotch broom, it reaches 12-15 feet in height without regular pruning.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Image courtesy of Pat Breen, Oregon State University

More choices: Golden pea (*Thermopsis montana*), and western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), both of which are WA natives.

TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

Tree-of-Heaven - *Ailanthus altissima*

Native to China, this tree was sold through nurseries in the 1840s and was also introduced into California during the Gold Rush. Its fast growth rate and ability to thrive in disturbed areas made it a popular ornamental for parks and home landscaping. These same characteristics, and its prolific seed production, has caused tree-of-heaven to become an invasive in much of the U.S. including the Pacific Northwest. Its fast-growing seedlings appear in fields and in yards as well as along roadsides and forest edges. Additionally, it displaces native vegetation and may be a weed in cropland.



Images courtesy of Richard Old, www.xidservices.com

Recommended Alternative

•28•

Autumn Applause Ash

Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Applause'



This tree offers similar foliage texture to that of tree-of-heaven and outstanding fall color.

- Its foliage is compound, like that of tree-of-heaven, and has a somewhat fine texture.
- Dark green leaves turn purple to mahogany in fall.
- 'Autumn Applause' is smaller and can reach a height of 40-45 feet in 30 years.
- This tree may require summer watering until well established.
- USDA Zones 4-7.



Image courtesy of Pat Breen, Oregon State University





Smooth or Staghorn Sumac

Rhus glabra & *R. typhina* 'Lacinata'



Similar in appearance but smaller in stature, sumac is better suited for residential plantings.

- Greenish-yellow flower panicles in June-July become spires of crimson berries in winter.
- Bright green summer foliage turns dramatic colors in fall.
- Like tree-of-heaven, it spreads through root suckers and will form colonies.
- 'Lacinata' cultivar has more delicate, lacey leaves and does not spread as fast.
- Smooth sumac is native and better near riparian areas where it could spread quickly.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



Image courtesy of Pat Breen, Oregon State University



Raywood Ash

Fraxinus angustifolia 'Raywood'



The leaves are similar in form to tree-of-heaven but more delicate in texture.

- Its compound, dark green leaves color beautifully in fall, varying from claret to smoky purple.
- It has an upright habit in youth but spreads to achieve an oval crown at maturity.
- This tree can reach 40-50 feet tall with a spread of 30-40 feet.
- Raywood ash prefers sun, well-drained soil and may need summer water until established.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Image courtesy of Pat Breen, Oregon State University

HERBACEOUS



Geranium 'Rozanne'

Autumn Blush tickseed (*Coreopsis 'Autumn Blush'*)
Burgundy-blushed yellow flowers bloom from late spring until first frost

Dwarf daylily cultivars (e.g., *Hemerocallis 'Stella D' Oro'*)
Low maintenance plant with bright yellow blooms and grassy leaves

Gateway Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum 'Gateway'*)
Tall wine-colored stems are crowned with mauve flower heads

Hardy cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*)
Delicate pink or white shooting star flowers emerge in September



Jack Frost Bugloss

Jack Frost bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'*)
Pretty, light blue flowers, followed by a stunning clump of frosty foliage

Japanese silver grass (*Micanthus sinensis cultivars*)
Multitude of cultivars offer array of leaf patterns and fluffy flower plumes

Kent Beauty oregano (*Oregano rotundifolium 'Kent Beauty'*)
Wonderful for sunny front borders or in alpine gardens

"Molly the Witch" peony (*Paeonia mlokosewitschii*)
Hard to find, but worth the hunt, providing visual splendor spring through fall



Hardy Cyclamen

Prairie coneflower (*Echinacea hybrids*)
Hybrids offer an array of bright colors and a delightfully sweet scent

Purple wood spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides 'Purpurea'*)
Green spring foliage turns purple, then burgundy; very drought tolerant

Rozanne + Pink Penny hardy geraniums (*Geranium 'Rozanne' and 'Pink Penny'*)
Sterile cultivars, so no more weedy seedlings!

Sedum, Autumn Joy (*Sedum spectabile 'Autumn Joy'*)
Stately foliage and large, persistent, bronze-red flower heads



Molly the Witch peony

Sedum, Purple Emperor (*Sedum 'Purple Emperor'*)
Grow in full sun to enjoy dark burgundy leaves and hot pink flowers

Images 1 & 2 courtesy of Richie Steffon, Great Plant Picks
Images 3 & 4 courtesy of Ann Chapman

TREES & SHRUBS



Rose-of-Sharon

Apple serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* and cultivars)
A winner during every season with a tasty blueberrylike fruit to boot!

Blue weeping Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula')
Weeping limbs can be trained to form beautiful bluish archways

Double file viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* 'Mariesii')
Among the royalty of flowering shrubs

Hydrangea, Annabelle (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle')
Tough snowball hydrangea produces huge blooms June - frost

Hydrangea, Endless Summer (*Hydrangea* 'Endless Summer')
Mop-head cultivar provides glorious blooms, even after hard winters

Hydrangea, oak leaf (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)
Hardy hydrangea with gorgeous, peeling cinnamon bark to admire in winter

PJM hybrid rhododendron (*Rhododendron* 'PJM')
Upright, compact, and rounded shrub with profuse purple blooms

Purple St. Johnswort (*Hypericum androsaemum* 'Albury Purple')
Easy to grow, with purple foliage and contrasting yellow flowers

Rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
Easy to grow, producing spectacular blooms from midsummer through autumn frost

Spiraea (*Spiraea* cultivars)
Offer a variety of foliage colors and textures for the garden year-round

Summer Ice daphne (*Daphne x transatlantica* 'Summer Ice')
Great variegated foliage and fragrant pink and white blooms

Sutherland Gold red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa* 'Sutherland Gold')
Resembles a Japanese maple, but hardier in cooler climates

Weeping Katsura (*Ceridiphyllum japonicum* 'Morioka Weeping')
Limbs drape gracefully like water tumbling down many falls

Image 1 courtesy of Janet Rowley; Image 2 courtesy of J. Frank Schmidt & Son, Great Plant Picks; Image 3 courtesy of Lynne Thompson, Great Plant Picks; Image 4 courtesy of Victor Carrano



Weeping Katsura



Oak Leaf Hydrangea



Double File Viburnum

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NOXIOUS WEED LIST

To help protect our state's resources and economy, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board creates an annual Noxious Weed List of the most serious invasive plants (WAC 16-750). This list separates weeds into three major classes:

Class A Weeds

Species whose distribution in Washington is limited. State law requires eradication of these Noxious Weeds.

Class B Weeds

Species whose distribution is limited to portions of Washington. The goal is to contain plants where they already occur and prevent spread into new areas.

Class C Weeds

Noxious Weeds that are already widespread in Washington State. Counties have the option to enforce control.

Because approximately half of the plants on the weed list are garden escapees, making wise garden choices is an excellent step in controlling invasive plants.

For information on weed laws or weed removal, contact your county's noxious weed control board. The state weed board can direct you to your county weed board: www.nwcb.wa.gov noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov 360-902-2082

INVASIVES

According to the American Nursery and Landscape Association, "invasive, non-native species are those that can or have spread into native wilderness or managed ecosystems, develop self-sustaining populations, and become dominant or disruptive to those systems."

Invasive plants are causing serious environmental and economical damage worldwide. These plants hurt Washington's economy and prized natural resources by reducing crop yields, displacing native plants, destroying fish and wildlife habitat, decreasing land values, choking waterways, and by diminishing recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and birdwatching.

Preventative weed control is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to combat invasive plants, and this practice can start right at home in your own garden.

For more information please see:
www.nwcb.wa.gov

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www.nwcb.gov

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