

DRAFT
2025 Clallam County Noxious Weed List Supplement
Defining areas of control for selected plants

Per RCW 17.10.090 the county weed board selects state listed noxious weeds not already designated for control in our region that it finds necessary to be controlled in the county. The purpose of this supplement to the county noxious weed list is to define the areas of control proposed for selected noxious weed species and to clarify the rationale for selection. “*Selected*” species include common teasel, herb Robert, lawnweed, invasive knotweeds, perennial sowthistle, Scotch broom, spotted jewelweed, spurge laurel and tansy ragwort.

SPECIES: common teasel, *Dipsacus fullonum* – Class C

CONTROL AREA: Control and preventing spread is mandatory county-wide.

RATIONALE: Common teasel (also known as Fuller’s teasel) readily invades roadsides, ditches, waste areas, pastures and fields both wet and dry. Several agencies have noted that mowing old seedheads containing viable seed is the primary means of spread along roadways and into various habitats. Teasel poses a threat to pastures, hayfields and other agricultural lands both as a contaminant to seed crops and by being too prickly and bitter to be used by livestock or wild foragers. Common teasel forms dense stands that can crowd out native plants, and can impede human access and enjoyment of recreational areas. Common teasel is a relative newcomer to Clallam County with infestations concentrated in Sequim. Small infestations have been recently found in many other parts of the county. Preventing spread county-wide at this early stage is still feasible.

SPECIES: herb Robert, *Geranium robertianum* – Class B

CONTROL AREA: Control and preventing spread is mandatory within right of ways that have the potential to spread onto lands where active treatment measures or priority listing are in place. Additionally, control and preventing spread is mandatory within quarries, gravel or borrow pits, and stockpiles of rock, mineral or soil/mulch products that may be transported offsite.

RATIONALE: Herb Robert poses a severe threat to forest understory habitats by displacing most small herbaceous native plants. The plant spreads quickly even in adverse conditions such as quarries or in rocky soils. Although the eradication of Herb Robert county-wide may not be feasible, focusing on areas that are just becoming infested or that directly lead to lands where active control practices are in place is justified. Coordinating management goals at jurisdictional boundaries between both private and public land is at the heart of noxious weed laws. Curtailing sources of contaminated soil is a preventative measure to reduce the creation of new infestations county-wide.

SPECIES: lawnweed, *Soliva sessilis* – Class C

CONTROL AREA: Control and preventing spread is mandatory county-wide.

RATIONALE: Known lawnweed distribution is limited to three parks in Clallam County. Selecting this plant for control increases its management priority in a recreation area where it has the most potential impact. Preventing a known noxious weed from expanding its very limited distribution is an achievable goal.

SPECIES: invasive knotweeds: Bohemian knotweed, *Fallopia x bohemica*, giant knotweed, *Fallopia sachalinensis*, Japanese knotweed, *Fallopia japonica* – Class B

CONTROL AREA: Control and prevention of spread is mandatory in stream channel, riparian and FEMA 100 Year Flood zones of the Big, Clallam, Ennis, Hoko, and Sekiu Rivers and their associated tributaries. Control and preventing spread is also mandated in ditches or roadside areas because of the high potential to disturb and spread knotweed. Additionally, control and the prevention of spread is mandatory in and 100 feet around quarries, gravel or borrow pits, and stockpiles of rock, mineral or soil/mulch products that may be transported offsite.

RATIONALE: Knotweed poses a significant threat to fish and wildlife habitat along rivers. After several years of treatment in the above mentioned waterways, very limited invasive knotweed remains and control is feasible. Grant funds, as they are available, will be utilized to assist with treatments on these rivers, thus limiting the regulatory difficulties and financial burden for owners with infestations along waterways where impacts to ecosystem functions have been greatest. New knotweed infestations are being discovered in pits and mineral/ soil/mulch product stockpiling areas each year. Because invasive knotweeds spread easily by small root or stem fragments, knotweed contaminated soil/mulch or gravel presents a very high potential for spreading and creating new infestations county-wide. Roadside knotweed infestations where routine maintenance activity such as cleaning, blading or mowing ditches or shoulders occurs, have become the main vector for infesting pits through contaminated spoils or equipment. These necessary maintenance measures as well as natural disturbances inadvertently spread invasive knotweeds along roads and ditches, onto private property, and even into natural areas, and are a source that can be eliminated or avoided altogether. Control in these areas is a necessary preventative measure.

SPECIES: perennial sowthistle, *Sonchus avensis ssp. avensis* – Class C
CONTROL AREA: Control and prevention of spread is mandatory county-wide

RATIONALE: Known perennial sowthistle distribution is limited within Clallam County. Perennial sowthistle can serve as a host to several viruses damaging to row crops and can pose a threat to agricultural. For years control has been designated by the state. Preventing this noxious weed from expanding its very limited distribution is an achievable goal.

SPECIES: Scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius* – Class B
CONTROL AREA: Control and the preventing spread is mandatory in and 100 feet around gravel or borrow pits, and stockpiles of rock, mineral or soil/mulch products that may be transported offsite.

RATIONALE: Although the eradication of Scotch broom county-wide may not be feasible, curtailing sources of contaminated soil can sharply reduce the creation of new infestations. Contaminated soil, mulch or gravel has been a major vector for the spread of Scotch broom in our county. A clean perimeter is required because broom plants explosively eject their seeds when pods are mature. Control in these areas is a necessary preventative measure.

SPECIES: spotted jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis* – Class C
CONTROL AREA: Control and prevention of spread is mandatory county-wide

RATIONALE: Spotted jewelweed spreads rapidly and creates monocultures along riparian zones and roadsides. Known spotted jewelweed distribution in Clallam County is limited to two watersheds. It is more widespread in east Jefferson County. Preventing a known noxious weed from expanding its very limited distribution is an achievable goal.

SPECIES: spurge laurel, *Daphne laureola* – Class B
CONTROL AREA: Control and preventing spread of spurge laurel is mandatory county-wide.

RATIONALE: Spurge laurel is an evergreen, deep-rooted perennial, with all parts of the plant toxic to humans and livestock. The latex in the stem, leaves and roots causes severe skin and eye issues. Spurge laurel quickly spreads in the forest understory, outcompeting native plants to form large monocultures that can alter soil chemistry. It is also often found in parks and along the edges of forests and pastures. It is spread by seed and from root sprouts and due to its extensive root system and waxy leaves is very difficult to control.

SPECIES: tansy ragwort, *Jacobaea vulgaris* – Class B

CONTROL AREA: Control and preventing spread of tansy ragwort is mandatory county-wide.

RATIONALE: Tansy ragwort is a toxic, invasive biennial which can cause irreversible liver damage to livestock. Honeybees that forage on tansy ragwort pollen can produce toxin contaminated honey and cows consuming tansy ragwort can produce toxin contaminated milk. Tansy ragwort can readily invade roadsides, over grazed pastures, and other disturbed areas. Plants can spread rapidly via its substantial production of wind dispersed seeds, and via seed-contaminated equipment, soil, gravel, and hay. The toxicity of tansy ragwort and the threat it poses to human and animal health has made this invasive a top priority. There has been excellent control of east and central county infestations. It has been determined that gaining control of remaining west county infestations is both a priority and within program resources. For west county sites, education and technical advice will be the primary focus of control measures utilized.