

The Beauty of Weeds

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Weeds are generally considered to be “wrong plant, wrong place.” Many have delightfully beautiful flowers and some are garden plants that escape cultivation to invade roadsides and other disturbed places. Some are edible or have medicinal properties, which is why they were introduced to North America by settlers who brought them from their home country. Others were introduced accidentally as contaminants in seed or in ships’ ballast. A smaller number are now listed as noxious weeds (see Washington’s noxious weed classifications at the end), which means they’re defined in state law as a weed and usually because of their impact on agriculture or the environment.

Scientific	Common	WA Noxious Weed Class	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	English Daisy		
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush	B	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Morning Glory		

<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Shotweed		
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Bachelor's Button		
<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed	B	
<i>Centaurea montana</i>	Mountain Bluet		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black Knapweed	B	
<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>	Short-fringed Knapweed	A	
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Starthistle	B	

<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	C	
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	C	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	C	
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom	B	
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink		
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove		

<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Fuller's Teasel	C	
<i>Draba verna</i>	Spring Whitlow-grass		
<i>Fallopia xbohemica</i>	Bohemian Knotweed	B	
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	B	
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Geranium	B	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovefoot Geranium		
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	B	

<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy		
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Baby's Breath	C	
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket		
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange Hawkweed	B	
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Policeman's Helmet	B	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag Iris	C	
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Tansy Ragwort	B	

<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Golden Chain Tree		
<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	B	
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit, Giraffe Head		
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Purple Dead-nettle		
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Perennial Sweet-pea		
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	C	
<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian Toadflax	B	

<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil		
<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Money Plant		
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Tree Lupine		
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Rose Campion		
<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	Whorled Loosestrife		
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	B	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow		

<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Cheeseweed		
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Woodland Forget-me-not		
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	Fragrant Water Lily	C	
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch Thistle	B	
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Creeping Yellow Wood Sorrel		
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English Plantain		

<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Sulphur Cinquefoil	B	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal		
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		
<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>	Russian Knapweed	B	
<i>Rubus bifrons</i>	Himalayan Blackberry	C	
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort		
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common Tansy	C	

<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion		
<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	Yellow Salsify		
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Purple Salsify		
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Rabbit-foot Clover		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover		
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	B	

<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Woolly Mullein		
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Hairy Vetch		
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle		
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Dog Violet		

Washington Noxious Weed Laws

Source: <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/washingtons-noxious-weed-laws>

The State's Noxious Weed List is Organized into Three Classes of Weeds: Class A, B, and C.

Class A Weeds

- Class A weeds are mostly newcomers to Washington, and are generally rare.
- The goal is to completely eradicate them before they gain a foothold.
- Landowners are required to completely eradicate Class A weeds. (Eradicating weeds means getting rid of the plants altogether, including plant roots.)

Class B Weeds

- Class B weeds are those that are widespread in some parts of the state, but limited or absent in other parts of the state.
- The goal with Class B weeds is to prevent them from spreading into new areas, and to contain or reduce their population in already infested areas.

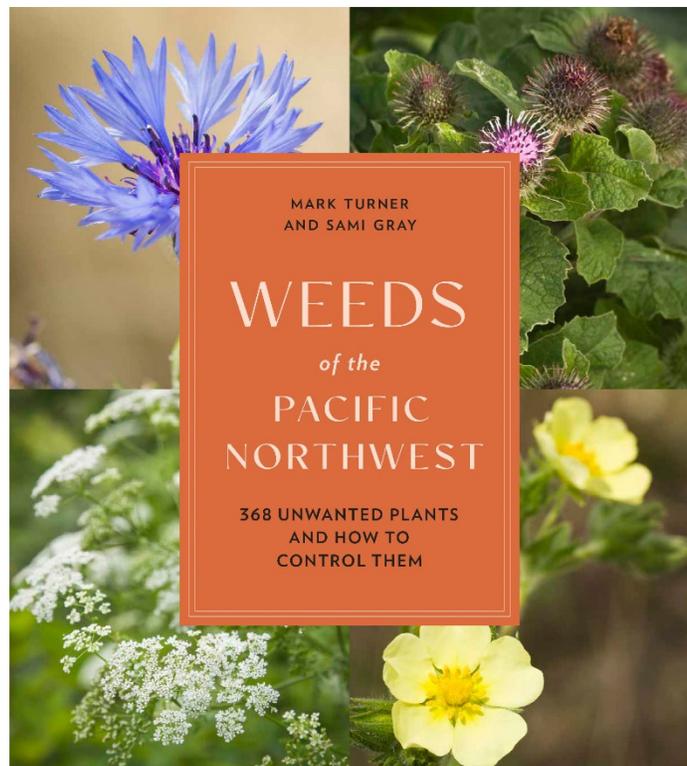
- The State Weed Board designates Class B noxious weeds for control in those parts of the state where they are limited or absent and threaten to invade. Additionally, a County Weed Board may select a Class B non-designate for control if it is considered a local priority.
- Landowners may be required to control Class B noxious weeds, depending on how widespread the species is and/or whether the species is a local priority. Check with your County Noxious Weed Control Board for more info on which Class B species you must control.

Class C Weeds

- Class C weeds are often widespread, or are of special interest to the agricultural industry.
- The State Weed Board does not require control of Class C noxious weeds.
- The State and many County Weed Boards provide information on identification and best management practices for these species.
- A County Weed Board may require landowners to control a Class C weed if it poses a threat to agriculture or natural resources. Check with your County Noxious Weed Control Board for more info on which Class C species you must control.

Mark Turner is the photographer and co-author, with Sami Gray, of the new *Weeds of the Pacific Northwest*, published by Timber Press. The book is a comprehensive guide to 368 species of weeds found in Washington, Oregon, and adjacent areas of California and British Columbia.

Each plant treated in the book is illustrated with one or more photos and the descriptive text includes information about the weed's origin and suggests best practices for controlling it. It's priced at \$34.99 and is available everywhere books are sold (ask your local bookstore to get it for you if they don't have it on the shelf).



Looking for a speaker for your garden club or other group? Mark Turner is available to present this program as well as numerous programs on native plants and plant photography. Email mark@turnerphotographics.com or call 360-671-6851 to schedule a program and discuss fees.