Bull thistle

 $Cirsium\ vulgare$



Why is bull thistle a problem?

Bull thistle outcompetes native plants and desirable wildlife. It invades most disturbed habitats such as pastures, roadsides and ditch banks, and grows in dense thickets. Bull thistle is an economic threat by reducing hay quality.



Recognizing bull thistle

Bull thistle is a biennial herbaceous plant that grows three to seven feet tall with one branched, upright stem.

In its first year of growth, it forms a basal rosette, and grows an upright stem and bloom in the second year.



Flowerheads are numerous, and one and a half to two inches in diameter. Bracts at the base of flowerheads are spiny. Flowers are purple or rarely white and bloom July to September. Leaves are

alternate and coarsely lobed. Each lobe has a spiny tip, and upper leaf surface is rough with bristle-like spines. Stems are spiny-and winged.



Controlling noxious weeds on your property is your responsibility and the law.

Chapter 17.10 RCW, County Code Title 7

YOU can help stop the spread of noxious weeds

- Report infestations
- Actively control noxious weeds on your property
- Contact Clark County's Vegetation Management Program for more information on species ID and recommended control methods
- Spread the word about noxious weeds, and why controlling them is so important

Remember, weeds are everyone's problem. Controlling noxious weeds on your property is your responsibility and the law.

Online Resources

Clark County Noxious Weed Program www.clark.wa.gov/weed

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Www.nwcb.wa.gov

Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Mobile App: www.eddmaps.org/west

Scan this QR code to download

For more information:

Vegetation Management Program (360) 397-6140 email: weed.management@clark.wa.gov

For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: Voice (360) 397-2322, Relay 711 or (800) 833-6388, Fax (360) 397-6165, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov.

Clark County Public Works Vegetation Management (360) 397-2121 www.clark.wa.gov/weed

Bull thistle



CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Why control noxious weeds in Clark County?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that can be toxic, destructive, competitive and difficult to control once established.

Economics - Noxious weeds cost the United States on average 30.6 billion dollars each year in decreased land value, money and time spent in control efforts, lower crop yields, reduced forage quality and impacts on animal health.

Environmental health - Noxious weeds displace native species, destroy natural habitat, clog waterways and increase erosion and fire risk.

Human & animal health - Many noxious weeds are toxic to humans and livestock. Contact or ingestion of some species can lead to serious health problems or death.

Recreation - Noxious weeds hurt recreation opportunities such as bird watching and fishing through reduced accessibility and destruction of native landscapes.

Integrated Weed Management (IWM)



An Integrated Weed Management plan is an ongoing, continuing cycle of weed prevention, control, monitoring, evaluation and planning

Managing weeds with Integrated Weed Management

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to use a combination of control methods specific to the problem weed, where it is in its growth-cycle, and the location where it is growing. This approach is called integrated weed management, or IWM, which uses biological, mechanical, cultural, and chemical (herbicide) control methods that treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

Prevention is better than control - The best control method of all is to prevent weeds in the first place. IWM starts with understanding the soil, water, natural resources and human impacts and uses on a site. For example, weeds often invade due to overgrazing, bare soil, or other factors that should be corrected for the control measures to be fully effective.

Long-term effectiveness – A good IWM plan is more effective than complete reliance on herbicide management. While not all control methods are useful for all weed species, taking an integrated approach to weed management can greatly increase the effectiveness of your efforts. As weed control is not a one-time fix, an IWM strategy should be practical, adaptable, cost-efficient, and effective.

IWM control recommendations for bull thistle

	IWM			Effectiveness of control method							THE WEED CONTROL 1	
control		Control method		Small/backyard site			large/rural site					
	type			Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	PHYSIC
	Physical & mechanical	digging									•	mowir
		hand-pulling									•	pullin
		mowing							•			diggin
		tilling										
	Cultural	bark mulch									•	
		black plastic									•	
		cover crop							•			
		native plant restoration				•						
		soil amendment					•				•	
	Biological	managed grazing					•				•	CULI UKAL soil amendments
		weed-feeding insects					•					cover crops•mulch
			Product examples *									native plants
	Chemical	aminopyralid	Milestone									
		glyphosate	Roundup, AquaNeat, Rodeo	•					•			
		triclopyr amine	Garlon 3A, Lilly Miller Brush Killer	•				•				

OOLBOX

Managment uses multiple tools in combination for the most effective weed control.

Integrated Weed



ed-eating insects anaged grazing



* Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed chemical control. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. Always read and follow the herbicide label. For more information on specific herbicides, please contact Vegetation Management.