

# GARDEN WISE

Non-Invasive Plants for your Garden



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 [Invasive.org](http://Invasive.org), TNC's Global Invasive Species Team webpage: [www.invasive.org/gist/horticulture/using-codes.html](http://www.invasive.org/gist/horticulture/using-codes.html)

  
Garden Wise is dedicated to  
Ann Lennartz  


## 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 areas, they cause serious problems. For example invasive knotweeds, butterfly bush, and yellow flag iris are changing our streambanks and riverbanks; spurge laurel and Atlantic ivy are altering our forests.

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.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov) 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](http://www.GreatPlantPicks.org).



FULL SUN



REGULAR WATER



PART SUN



MEDIUM WATER



FULL SHADE



LOW WATER



EVERGREEN



DECIDUOUS



WELL-DRAINED SOIL



HEAVY SOIL



WASHINGTON NATIVE



WILDLIFE FRIENDLY



## 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 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

### Miss Willmott Pincushion Flower & Cultivars

*Scabiosa caucasica* 'Miss Willmott'



This plant is an attractive, clumpforming 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 midsummer 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.



Chris Bligh, Shoots and Roots Nursery

## Recommended Alternative

### 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 doublebloom 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.



Richard Old, www.xidservices.com

## Recommended Alternative

### Pink Cloud Wandflower & 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.



Tiffany Adamowski

## More Choices

Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), snow buckwheat (*Eriogonum niveum*), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and biscuit root (*Lomatium dissectum*), all of which are WA natives.



## 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.



CLASS A WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



## Recommended Alternative

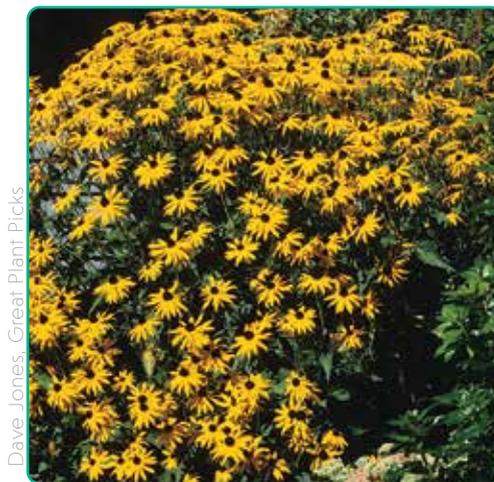
### Goldsturm Coneflower, Black-Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'



This plant is a long-lived, longblooming 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.



Dave Jones, Great Plant Picks

## More Choices

Rosy twisted stalk (*Streptopus lanceolatus*), as well as natives Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), yellow yarrow (*Achillea* 'moonshine'), arrow leaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), and goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*).



## 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 spinetipped 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.



Stevens County NWCB

CLASS A & B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

## Recommended Alternative

### Nootka Rose

*Rosa nutkana*



This native rose blooms fragrant pink flowers.

- A rhizomatous shrub that, if allowed, can spread over time to form thickets.
- Stems have various thorns (prickles), though do have a pair at each leaf node.
- Lovely pink roses, up to three inches wide, bloom from spring to summer.
- Purplish-red hips develop and may remain on the plant into winter.
- Nootka rose is tolerant of a variety of light and moisture conditions.
- USDA Zones 4-9.



## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Chris Bligh, Shoots and Roots Nursery

## Recommended Alternative

### Purple Dome New England Aster

*Symphotrichum 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.



Marilyn Grua

## More Choices

Prince calico aster (*Symphotrichum lateriflorus* 'Prince'), alma potschke New England aster (*S. Novae-angliae* 'Alma Potschke'), Monch frikartii aster (*S. x frikartii* 'Monch'), and natives showy fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*), and wood rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*).



## 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. 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

### 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.



Ann Chapman

## Recommended Alternative

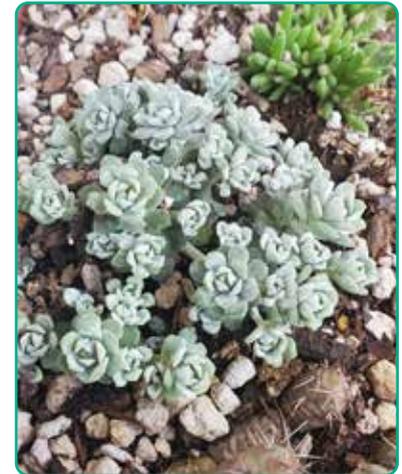
### Cape Blanco or Purple Stonecrop

*Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco', 'Purpureum'



This plant is an excellent, matforming 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.



## Recommended Alternative

### Evergreen Spurge

*Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* & 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.



## More Choices

Sulfur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), kinnikinnick (*Artostaphylos uva-ursi*), alpine stonecrop (*Sedum divergens*) and lance-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum lanceolatum*), all of which are WA natives.



## 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 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 C WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Becky Shasta Daisy

*Leucanthemum x superbum* 'Becky'

This plant is a charming and wellbehaved 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.



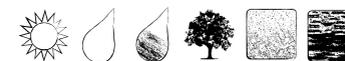
Great Plant Picks



## Recommended Alternative

### White Wood Aster

*Eurybia divaricata* (syn. *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.



Randall G. Prostak, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Chris Blich, Shoots and Roots Nursery

## More Choices

Angelita daisy (*Tetraneuris acaulis*), threadleaf fleabane (*Erigeron filifolius*), as well as natives showy fleabane (*Erigeron speciosus*), Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia amoena*), and common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).



## Invasive

### Clary Sage, Meadow Clary, & Mediterranean Sage

*Salvia sclarea*, *S. pratensis*, & *S. aethiopis*

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.



CLASS A WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### 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 shortlived perennial.
- Silver sage prefers full sun and good drainage with some summer water.
- USDA Zones 3-8.



Lenne Valkenburg

## Recommended Alternative

### Common & Giant Camas

*Camassia quamash* & *C. leichtlinii*



This native bulb produces stems topped with lovely blue-violet flowers.

- Flowers range in color from purple to violet to dark blue to occasionally white, adding a splash of spring color to your landscape.
- Camas flowers support spring pollinators, growing well in gardens, meadows, and rockeries.
- Long narrow leaves grow from the base of the flowering stem.
- Camas is adapted to moist soils in the spring and dry summer conditions.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



## Recommended Alternative

### Meadow & Woodland Sages

*Salvia nemorosa* cultivars and *S. x sylvestris*



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

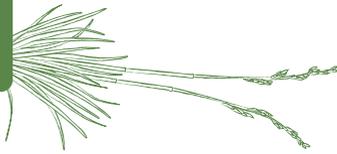
- Flowers are showy, held in spikes above the foliage, and are good for cutting.
- Deadheading will prolong blooming into autumn.
- The foliage of meadow sage is rugose, dull green, broad-leaved and held in a clump.
- The foliage of woodland sage is similar in shape but is green to gray-green.
- Height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



Ann Chapman

## More Choices

Gray ball sage (*Salvia dorrii*), sticky Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis russeliana*), as well as natives antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*).



## Invasive

### Ravenna Grass

*Saccharum ravennae* (syn. *Tripidium ravennae*)

Large tussocks of green leaves with tall stems topped by plumes make Ravenna grass a striking plant to include in ornamental landscapes. Unfortunately the seeds from these large grasses readily spread and escapees invade a variety of habitats. Its large basal clumps of leaves crowd out native and desirable plant species. Escaped populations are increasingly being found in Washington and are prevalent in central and southeast Washington, including locations near the Columbia and Yakima Rivers.



CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Shenandoah Switch Grass

*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'



A perennial ornamental grass with striking red-tinged foliage.

- Growing to four feet tall, 'Shenandoah' provides great visual impact in the landscape, even though it is shorter than Ravenna grass.
- During the summer, its leaves develop an eye-catching red color, which darkens to burgundy in the fall.
- This is a warm season, clumping grass, with spring growth increasing once the weather is warm.
- Grows best in full sun and well-drained soil with supplemental watering during dry periods.
- Other cultivars available including 'Rotstrahlbusch'
- USDA Zones 3-8



Richie Stephen, Great Plant Picks

## Recommended Alternative

### Basin Wild Rye

*Leymus cinereus* (syn. *Elymus cinereus*)



An impressive native bunchgrass that grows in a variety of conditions.

- This is a cool season, perennial bunchgrass with green to bluegreen foliage.
- Flowering stems grow up to six feet tall and bloom in the summer.
- Its leaves are long (up to 25 inches) and wide (up to 1 inch).
- Plants grow in partial shade to full sun and moist to dry conditions.
- Its recommended for use as a screen or backdrop for smaller plants. Plants are also used for erosion control.
- Zones 3-9

Matt Lavin, © BY-SA 2.0, commons.wikimedia.org



## Recommended Alternative

### Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass

*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'



A fantastic ornamental grass with flowering stems growing 5 to 6 feet tall.

- This perennial begins growing early in the spring with clumps of narrow leaves soon followed by flowering stems.
- Narrow upright growth provides interesting structure to the garden, which can remain into the winter.
- The feathery inflorescences have a pinkish hue that changes to a golden color.
- Group plants together to create visual impact.
- Perennial Plant of the Year award in 2001.
- Zones 5-9

Ray Larson



## More Choices

Natives, June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*), Idaho and Roemer's fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*, and *F. roemerii*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*), and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*, syn. *C. sericea*).



## Invasive

### Knotweeds

*Polygonum & Persicaria sp.*; Giant, Bohemian, Japanese, & Himalayan

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: blocking sunlight, disturbing nutrient cycling, and facilitating stream bank erosion. These knotweeds are a serious problem along Washington State waterways where they degrade habitat for wildlife and fish species including salmon.



Whatcom County NWCB

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Goat's Beard

*Aruncus dioicus*



This robust perennial native provides height to your garden.

- Like knotweed, goat's beard thrives in moist soil.
- It produces a panicle of cream-colored flowers similar to knotweeds, though foliage texture is finer.
- Blooms in June and July, a little earlier than knotweeds.
- Goat's beard grows up to 6 feet tall.
- USDA zones 3-7



Erv Evans, North Carolina State University

## Recommended Alternative

### Red-Osier Dogwood

*Cornus stolonifera* (syn. *Cornus sericea*)



A native shrub with bright red stems and clusters of white flowers.

- This deciduous shrub can grow up to 18 feet tall and can spread by layering lower branches and seed.
- Young stems are red to purplish in color and age to gray.
- While a good plant for wildlife, red-osier dogwood can also help control erosion.
- It can grow in similar wet habitats as knotweed species.
- A number of cultivars are available, such as 'Bailey' and 'Kelsey'
- USDA Zones 3-9



## Recommended Alternative

### False Solomon's Seal

*Maianthemum racemosum*

(syn. *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 grows to around 3 feet in height and spreads 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.

Pat Breen, Oregon State University



## More Choices

Rosy twisted stalk (*Streptopus lanceolatus*), as well as natives oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), mallow ninebark (*Physocarpus malvaceus*), and willows (*Salix amygdaloides*, *S. drummondiana*, *S. exigua*, *S. lasiandra*, *S. prolixa*, *S. scouleriana*, *S. sitchensis*).



## 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 because of their ability to tolerate saturated soils and spread rapidly into nondisturbed areas. Purple loosestrife is notorious for forming uniform stands; it crowds out all native plants and reduces wetland habitat. Garden loosestrife is a new, serious concern as it has been observed out-competing noxious purple loosestrife in Washington State wetlands.



CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

## Recommended Alternative

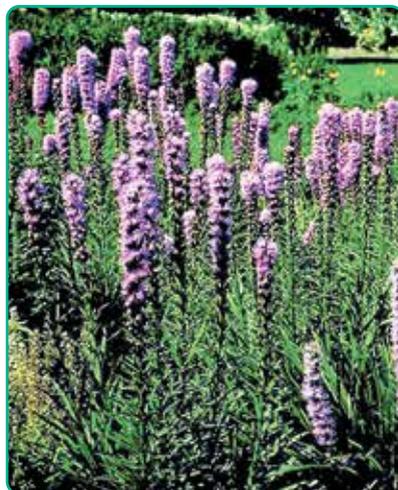
### Dense Blazing Star

*Liatris spicata*



Eye-catching, purple-spiked perennial.

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



## Recommended Alternative

### Jacob Cline Bee Balm

*Monarda didyma* 'Jacob Cline'



The foliage and flowers of Jacob Cline 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 Cline' is very mildewresistant.
- USDA Zones 4-10.



Erv Evans, North Carolina State University

## Recommended Alternative

### Cardinal Flower & Hybrids

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



An upright herbaceous perennial for a moist, sunny to partly shady site.

- Cardinal flower grows in similar conditions as policeman's helmet: moist soils and part shade.
- Showy flower spikes can reach heights of 3 feet, shorter than policeman's helmet.
- Blooms are generally bright crimson, though color can range from orange-red to fuchsia to purple in some cultivars.
- A popular choice for attracting hummingbirds.
- USDA zones 3-10



Erv Evans, North Carolina State University

## More Choices

Red columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), rosy spirea (*Spiraea douglasii*), lady's thumb (*Polygonum amphibium*), all of which are WA natives.



## Invasive

### Yellow Flag Iris

*Iris pseudacorus*

With its showy yellow flowers and dense, lanceshaped 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. It naturalizes along streams, canals, and shorelines in Washington. Yellow flag iris can completely out compete native wetland plants along the shoreline, and its dense, root-like mat collects sediment and severely reduces water flow, affecting plants, fish, and other animals.



CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Japanese Iris

*Iris ensata* cultivars including 'Variegata'



These are beautiful irises for pond edges and bogs.

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



Laura Burton

## Recommended Alternative

### Water Iris

*Iris laevigata* & cultivars



A true water-loving iris, beautiful in and out of flower.

- An ideal replacement for yellow flag iris in pond plantings, laevigata iris grows well in 6 inches of water. It is also good for wet boggy areas, and it's easy to grow.
- Flowers are large white, purple, lavender, and pink. Yellow blooming cultivars are rare.
- 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

Pat Woodward, Pacific Rim Native Plant Nursery



## Recommended Alternative

### Siberian Iris

*Iris sibirica* & hybrids such as 'Butter & Suga', 'Sunfisher'



A very versatile, easy-to-grow iris: the one to choose, other than a bearded iris, if you want yellow flowers.

- Good for mixed borders with normal water needs; also suitable for damp sites, but not for standing water.
- 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

Todd Boland



## More Choices

Arctic iris (*Iris setosa*), blue flag irises (*Iris versicolor* and *Iris virginica*), bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*), and native species Rocky Mountain iris (*I. missouriensis*), western skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanum*), and golden-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*).



## Invasive

### Flowering Rush

*Butomus umbellatus*

Introduced to ponds and water gardens for its clusters of pretty pink flowers, flowering rush has become an aggressive invader in freshwater habitats. This perennial can grow submersed or emerging from water, as well as in wetlands and shorelines. It spreads readily by rhizomes, rhizome fragments, bulbils (bud-like structures), and seeds. Flowering rush outcompetes native plant species, severely degrading habitat for wildlife and native fish. Dense stands may provide cover for introduced predator fish that eat our native fish species. These stands can also impact our swimming and boating areas and can clog unlined irrigation canals and drainage ditches.



Laurel Baldwin

CLASS A WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Hardstem Bulrush

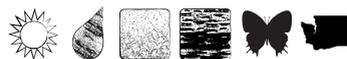
*Schoenoplectus acutus*

This native perennial species grows in patches of striking upright stems.

- It is ideal for growing at the edges of ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Plants can grow in areas of seasonally flooding.
- Stout, dark green stems grow 3 to 10 feet tall. A few leaves may be present at the base of the stems.
- Small inflorescences at the stem tips are golden brown and form seeds.
- Stands of this native species help provide erosion control along shorelines.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



Max Licher, SEINet, © BY-SA 3.0



## Recommended Alternative

### Buckbean, Bogbean

*Menyanthes trifoliata*



A native aquatic perennial with interesting flowers and leaves.

- Typically found in shallow water habitats, such as bogs and wetlands, buckbean grows from underwater rhizomes.
- Its three-parted leaves occur atop upright stems (petioles), up to one foot tall.
- Upright stems with star-like, white, hairy flowers bloom late spring through summer.
- Plant at the water's edge or in slightly submerged pots.
- USDA Zones 3-9.



Matt Lavin, © BY-SA 2.0, commons.wikimedia.org

Jenifer Parsons

## Recommended Alternative

### Marsh Cinquefoil

*Comarum palustre*



This native perennial grows in wet areas and has striking red flowers.

- This widely distributed native is found in bogs, fens, lake and pond edges, wet meadows, and streambanks.
- Growing from rhizomes, stems form a groundcover or even a floating mat when it has grown over the water's edge.
- Hairy leaves are divided, with 5 to 7 toothed leaflets, and are light green to almost light blue in color.
- Deep red to purple flowers bloom in the summertime.
- USDA Zones 3-7.



Jenifer Parsons

## More Choices

Smallfruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*), slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*), slender rush (*Juncus tenuis*), and wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), all of which are native.



## 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

### 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.

San Marcos Growers



## Recommended Alternative

### 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.

Richard Old, www.xidservices.com



## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Richard Old, www.xidservices.com



## Tips

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



## 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, invading roadsides, logged clearings, and other disturbed areas where it can form dense thickets. 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 and it can displace native willow species upon which many of our native butterfly larvae feed.



Tim Miller, WSU-NWREC



Laurel Baldwin

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Himalayan 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 greengray 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.



Antonie Van Den Bos, www.botanypictures.com

## Recommended Alternative

### 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 greengray 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.



Janet Rowley

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



## More Choices

Non-invasive butterfly bushes *Buddleja fallowiana* and *B. globosa*, *Caryopteris x clandonensis*, Rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*), Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), variegated red-twig dogwood (*Cornus alba 'Elegantissima'*), black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), and willow species (*Salix amygdaloides*, *S. drummondiana*, *S. exigua*, *S. lasiandra*, *S. prolixia*, *S. scouleriana*, *S. sitchensis*).



## 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 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

## Recommended Alternative

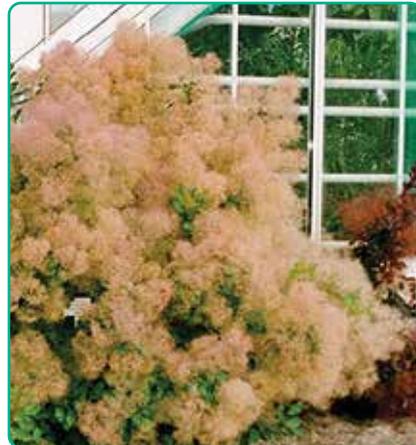
### Smoke Bush

*Cotinus coggygia* & 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 firesafe plant.
- It prefers sun to part shade and well drained soil.
- USDA Zones 5-8.



Alma Nylund

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

## Recommended Alternative

### European Elderberry

*Sambucus nigra* & cultivars



The foliage of this shrub is more lacy and 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.



Ben Lealer

## More Choices

Natives, blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*) and Lewis' mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) and its cultivars, quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and willow species (*Salix amygdaloides*, *S. drummondiana*, *S. exigua*, *S. lasiandra*, *S. prolixa*, *S. scouleriana*, *S. sitchensis*).



## Invasive

### Scotch Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

To some people, the long stretches of yellow-flowering Scotch broom along highways and roads in Washington are a sign of spring. For even more people, Scotch broom is an eyesore and a reminder of what happens when plants, once valued 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.



CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### Golden Currant

*Ribes aureum*

This native shrub provides a splash of yellow in the spring and supports pollinators.

- Its fragrant, yellow flowers bloom in small clusters and attract early season bees and hummingbirds.
- Golden currant blooms around the same time, and grows almost as tall, as Scotch broom.
- The deciduous, 3-lobed leaves are around 2 inches long.
- Its orange, red, or burgundy-colored berries are edible, but may be more tasty to birds than gardeners.
- This plant grows in a variety of light and moisture conditions.
- USDA Zones 3-9



Ben Legler

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Victor S. Carrano

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

## More Choices

Golden pea (*Thermopsis montana*), western serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), tall oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), and red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), all of which are WA natives.



## 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.



Richard Old, www.xidsservices.com

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

## Recommended Alternative

### 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.



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

## Recommended Alternative

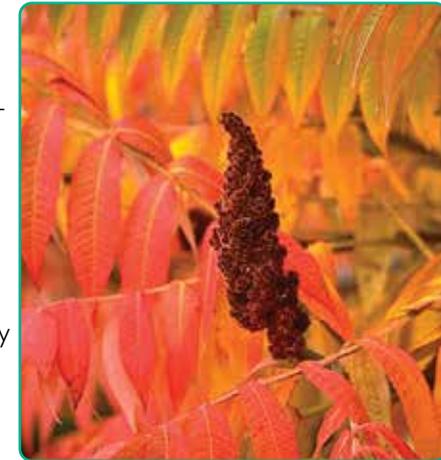
### Smooth or Staghorn Sumac

*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, lacy 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.



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

## Recommended Alternative

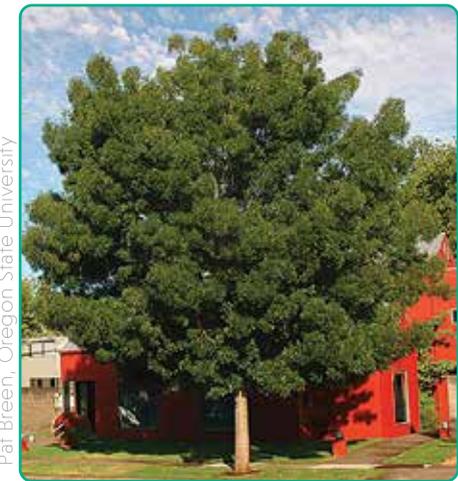
### Golden Rain Tree

*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.



Pat Breen, Oregon State University

## More Choices

Washington natives, vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), mountain alder (*Alnus incana*), water birch (*Betula occidentalis*), shore and ponderosa pines (*Pinus contorta*, and *P. ponderosa*), and black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*).

## More Great Herbaceous Plants for Eastern Washington Gardens

Geranium 'Rozanne'



Richie Steffon, Great Plant Picks

Jack Frost Bugloss



Richie Steffon, Great Plant Picks

Hardy Cyclamen



Ann Chapman

Molly the Witch



Ann Chapman

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 (*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 mlokosewitchii*)  
Hard to find, but worth the hunt, providing visual splendor spring through fall.

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.

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

## More Great Trees & Shrubs for Eastern Washington Gardens

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 till 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.

Rose-of-Sharon



Janet Rowley

Weeping Katsura



J. Frank Schmidt & Son,  
Great Plant Picks

Oak Leaf Hydrangea



Lynne Thompson,  
Great Plant Picks

Double File Viburnum



Victor Carrano

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## WASHINGTON STATE 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 NOXIOUS WEEDS

Species whose distribution in Washington is limited. State law requires eradication of these noxious weeds.

### CLASS B NOXIOUS WEEDS

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

### CLASS C NOXIOUS WEEDS

Noxious Weeds that are often widespread in Washington State. Control is encouraged, and county weed boards have the option to require control at the local level.

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 from our website: [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov) (click on 'Resources'), or email: [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov), or phone: (360) 725-5764.



## 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 bird watching.

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 SEE: [WWW.NWCB.WA.GOV](http://WWW.NWCB.WA.GOV)



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- ☞ Washington Native Plant Society

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

THE OUR WEBSITE:

[www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)



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