

October 8, 2019

Contact Mary Fee, Executive Secretary, at MFee@agr.wa.gov or 360-902-2053 for more information.

For immediate release

State Noxious Weed Control Board sets public hearing to consider changes to the 2020 noxious weed list and WAC 16.750

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB) will hold a public hearing on November 5th in Wenatchee to take comments on proposed rule-making changes to the 2020 state noxious weed list and WAC 16.750. The changes proposed consist of one Class A addition, thirteen Class B noxious weed designation changes, creating two new sections regarding WSNWCB staff job descriptions, and updates to three additional sections of WAC 16-750.

When: 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Where: The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, 201 N Wenatchee Ave, Wenatchee, WA 98801.

How to comment:

- Mail written testimony to: WSNWCB; P.O. Box 42560; Olympia, WA 98504-2560.
- Send comments by email to noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov.
- Attend the public hearing to provide written or verbal testimony in person.

Written testimony should be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday, November 4, 2019 or brought to the public hearing on November 5. At the hearing, verbal testimony will be limited to three minutes per person, with an additional opportunity to speak if time allows.

At the same location, the WSNWCB will vote on the proposed rule changes during its regular board meeting, which will be held the next day, Wednesday November 6, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is also open to the public.

Proposed Class A addition to the 2020 state noxious weed list:

- One Proposed Class A addition- South American spongeplant, *Limnobium laevigatum*
Found in only one location in Pacific County, South American spongeplant is an aquatic perennial that can form dense mats on the water surface. Plants can spread vegetatively by producing daughter plants and also by seed, which can be viable for at least three to four years. In California where it is already listed as a noxious weed, mats of South American spongeplant have accumulated on infrastructure, blocking pumps, dams, and gates, as well as recreational water access. A Class A listing would require eradication of all known plants. The intent is to eliminate known populations while its distribution is limited, preventing this invasive species from gaining a foothold in Washington.

Proposed Class B designation changes to the 2020 state noxious weed list:

The WSNWCB will be considering the following designation changes to these Class B noxious weeds:

- Designate Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, in Kitsap, Kittitas, and Whitman counties
- Designate Bohemian knotweed, *Polygonum x bohemicum*, in San Juan, Stevens, Whitman, and Yakima counties
- Designate Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, in Stevens County

- Designate Himalayan knotweed, *Persicaria wallichii*, in Clark and Stevens counties
- Designate lesser celandine, *Ficaria verna*, in all of Washington State except for King and Whatcom counties
- Designate leafy spurge, *Euphorbia virgata*, in Whitman and Garfield counties
- Designate purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, in Pierce and Benton counties
- Designate wand loosestrife, *Lythrum virgatum*, in Mason, Pierce, and Benton counties
- Designate poison hemlock, *Conium maculatum*, in Douglas County
- Designate policeman's helmet, *Impatiens glandulifera*, in Pacific and Pierce counties
- Designate Ravenna grass, *Saccharum ravennae*, in Grant County
- Designate rush skeletonweed, *Chondrilla juncea*, in Kitsap County
- Designate European coltsfoot, *Tussilago farfara*, in Grant County

Proposed additional changes to WAC 16.750:

- WAC 16-750-140 Adding a standing legislative committee.
- WAC 16-750-142 Creating a new section for the State noxious weed control board—Executive secretary and education specialist—Hiring and dismissal.
- WAC 16-750-145 Editing the State noxious weed control board—Executive secretary—Definition.
- WAC 16-750-146 Creating a new section for the State noxious weed control board—Education specialist—Definition.
- WAC 16-750-150 Repealing section on State noxious weed control board- Executive secretary- Hiring and dismissal. Moved to section 142.

Visit <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/whats-new> for more information about these proposed changes and other noxious weeds.