

## What is an invasive weed?

Invasive weeds are usually non-native plants which spread rapidly and cause economic or environmental damage by taking over an area.

## Why are weeds such a problem?

- A. They out-compete other plants for water, nutrients, and sunlight
- B. They spread rapidly
- C. They are difficult and often expensive to control or eradicate
- D. They impact recreational areas
- E. They can reduce property value
- F. They destroy wildlife habitat
- G. They have no natural predators (such as insects or disease) in this region
- H. They can make streambanks unstable

## What are good alternatives to plant after removing weeds?

Recently cleared areas should be replanted with other vegetation to limit chances of a weed re-infestation. Local resource groups recommend planting species that are native to our area. Native plants are preferable because they are adapted to our climate and soils, they tend to require less maintenance, and they provide valuable wildlife habitat. Native plants can be purchased at local nurseries or at local plant sale events.



Nootka Rose

## Who can you contact for help?

See the back of this brochure for contacts and resources available to help.

## Resources for help

If you have questions about controlling invasive weeds on your property, there are many resources for help. The groups listed below provide advice and assistance with weed control and alternatives to weeds.

### LOCAL AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

**Marion Soil & Water Conservation District**  
503-391-9927

**OSU Extension - Marion County Office**  
503-588-5301

**Polk Soil & Water Conservation District**  
503-623-9680

**Pringle Creek Watershed Council**  
503-566-4034

**Native Plant Society of Oregon**  
Willamette Valley Chapter  
503-399-8615

### WEBSITES

**Marion Soil & Water Conservation District**  
[www.open.org/mariswcd](http://www.open.org/mariswcd)

**Oregon Department of Agriculture**  
[www.oda.state.or.us](http://www.oda.state.or.us)

**Oregon State University**  
[cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/weeds](http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/weeds)

**OSU Extension - Marion County Office**  
[extension.oregonstate.edu/marion](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/marion)

**Pacific Northwest Weeds Handbook**  
[weeds.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/weeds](http://weeds.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/weeds)

**The Nature Conservancy Wildland Invasives Information**  
[tncweeds.ucdavis.edu](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu)

**Ivy Removal Project**  
[www.noivyleague.com](http://www.noivyleague.com)

*The printing of this brochure was made possible through funding by the City of Salem Watershed Protection and Preservation Grant Program, 2004.*



*A guide for understanding, identifying, and managing weeds in your yard and neighborhood*

Developed by:

*Pringle Creek Watershed Council*

# Common invasive weeds that you may find in your neighborhood

## Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)



- a plant that grows for two years (biennial)
- forms a spiny low-growing plant the first year and a tall branched stem with flowers the second year
- 2-5' tall when full-grown
- flowers are bright purple

and grow to 1½ - 2" in diameter  
- has a taproot; spreads by seeds

**Controlling may involve hand pulling, cutting, mowing, or herbicide use.**

## Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



- an aggressive perennial with deep horizontal roots
- rigid stems are 1-4' tall and branch near the top
- small clustered flowers are light pink to purple, ½ - ¾" in diameter
- spreads though extensive

root system, by breaking up of roots, or seeds

**To control, pull by hand (small plants), or apply herbicides.**

## English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) \*



- evergreen climbing vine often used as groundcover
- attaches to trees, bricks, and other surfaces with rootlike structures
- leaves are dark green with light green veins
- spreads by seeds and

extensive root system

**Vines can be pulled by hand, dug up, repeatedly cut, or treated with herbicides. Vines climbing trees should be cut from the trunk of the tree and pulled back from the tree base.**

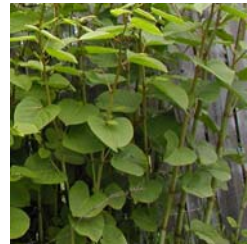
## Himalyan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) \*



- a sprawling shrub that often forms thorny thickets
- has toothed leaves in groups of three
- produces edible berries that contain lots of seeds
- the seeds are widely dispersed by birds

**Controlling can involve mowing, digging and pulling up roots, herbicide use, or shade from larger trees.**

## Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)



- a perennial that reaches 4-8' tall in moist soil
- stems are hollow and jointed resembling those of bamboo and green to reddish-brown in color
- has small white-greenish flowers in late summer

- drops its leaves in fall; stems remain standing  
- spreads quickly by deep-rooting infestation and root fragmentation

**To control, cut regularly, dig (small plants), or apply herbicides.**

## Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)



- a perennial with erect stems growing to 6-8' tall
- likes moist or wet areas
- cultivated by gardeners but can completely take over wetlands and displace native species

**Control by cutting, digging or hand pulling (small plants). To reduce spreading, cut and remove the flowering spikes to prevent new seedlings.**

## Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) \*



- a stout perennial grass
- leaf blades are flat, ¼ - ¾" wide and blue-green in color
- has hollow stems that are 2-7' tall with a waxy coating
- forms dense, single species stands that threaten many wetlands and stream systems

- likes wet, disturbed sites including ditches, streambanks, ponds, and marshy spots

**To control, try hand pulling, burning, mowing, shading out the plant, or herbicide use.**

## Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)



- a shrubby member of the pea family
- spindly dark green branches grow 3-10' tall
- has bright yellow flowers and seed pods
- spreads by seeds
- any soil disturbance may

result in a new crop of seedlings

**Pulling with weed wrench, mowing or cutting (prior to seed ripening), burning or herbicide use may help control it.**

\* These species are on the City of Salem's Invasive Non-Native Plant List denoted as "Undesirable Plants." The City of Salem considers these plants "undesirable for use in all landscaping situations within the city limits and plants which are prohibited from use by Oregon State Law." The other species pictured are deemed "noxious" weeds by the Oregon State Weed Board. The Board defines noxious weeds as "exotic, non-native species that are injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or any public or private property."

Source: City of Salem Natural Resources Department website

Note: The best or most appropriate control method for each weed species will vary by site and time of year. Check with the organizations or websites listed on the back of the brochure to determine which will work for you.