

Spread the Word Not the Weed



J u n e

S u m m e r | 2 0 1 5

ON THE CALENDAR

- May 30 8am-1pm
Farmers Market
Wenatchee
- June 9 6:30pm
Chelan County NW
Board
- June 11 4-8:00pm
Farmers Market
Leavenworth
- June 27 8am-1pm
Farmers Market
Wenatchee
- July 9 4-8pm
Farmers Market
Leavenworth
- July 25 8am-1pm
Farmers Market
Wenatchee
- August 13 4-8pm
Farmers Market
Leavenworth
- August 29 8-1pm
Farmers Market
Wenatchee

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Use 'weedy' Native Plants to Fight Noxious Weeds

Warm weather and rain are bringing out the weeds. Many different kinds of weeds are now showing up along highways, public lands, and in private yards. Some of these "weeds", however, are not noxious. In fact, they're not a problem at all!

Weedy natives (properly called early successional species) behave so much like their noxious counterparts, people often become alarmed and think they must actually be a noxious weed. But these plants are just well adapted to colonizing disturbed areas. If left in place they can often



prevent noxious weeds from coming in. And, they frequently act as "nurse" plants. These are plants that provide shade, soil moisture and nutrients to more "permanent" species.

One early successional plant *Lomatium nudicaule* commonly known as Desert parsley, Indian celery

or bare stem biscuit root is a member of the carrot family. This early spring perennial grows 10-30" tall and is found in dry, open areas; shrub-steppe, and in mountain meadows

In bare ground, it can spread aggressively-but this can be a good thing. Unless you plan to replant that bare ground immediately with something else, consider leaving it to keep the weeds out. Eventually, other plants (often prettier) will germinate underneath and replace the Desert parsley. (For more on this and other early successional plants, see page 2)

What Can You Do?

Buy Local, Burn Local. Invasive plants, pests and larvae can hide and ride long distances in firewood. Don't make it any easier for them to start a new infestation. Buy firewood where you'll burn it.

Plant Carefully. Buy plants from a reputable source and avoid using invasive plant species at all costs. Plants can be found in catalogs from another state that are listed in Washington State on the Noxious Weed List.

Do Not Bring or Mail plants into your landscape unless you have confirmed they are not noxious. Never dig up plants along the side of the road to plant in your garden.



Plant Community Succession Stages

Early—low growing annuals with short lives
Middle—herbs, taller grasses, shrubs
Late—mostly trees

During the past decade, lower prices and technical advances [from on-board navigation using the Global Positioning System (GPS) to miniaturization of autopilots] have lured many scientific groups to experiment with drones.

Brad Chandler, MSc

“Do not scorn weeds. As a matter of fact, there are some instances where they are necessary for the garden. The question of propriety is decided by the dialogue between man and weed.”

Shimpei Kusano

Virtuous Weedy Native

Lomatium nudicaule (barestem desert-parsley)

Wildlife

Important nectar source for many butterflies.

Landscaping

Potentially useful ornamental for the dry rock garden.

First Nations

Roots dug up in spring before the plants flower [April-June] and eaten raw, boiled, cooked in pits or dried for later use. Often steam-cooked together with other bulbs of yellow glacier lily (*Erythronium grandiflorum*) (Parish et al, 1996). Seeds [late to early July] were used as an incense, fumigant, and house deodorant, as a flavor for meat and fish, and burned as an insect repellent (Turner, 1998). Young sprouts a popular vegetable. Flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds used for teas, soups, stews, and tobacco (Turner, 1997).

*Excerpts with permission from Jennifer Cook, Colorado State University
 Irene Shonie, Director of CSU Extension in Gilpin County.*

Innovation vs Invasion

*Excerpts with permission from Brad Chandler MSc, Senior Adviser
 Plants and Environment Response Investigation—Wellington, New Zealand*

“Successful eradication of weed species is often a challenging prospect, especially when they are widely distributed by birds, grow in difficult terrain and are hidden from view.”

Initial results may be encouraging, but complete eradication relies on removal of that last 1% of the population often in remote or treacherous locations.

Efficient and accurate delimitation of the spread of an invasive species is crucial when attempting to understand the extent of an infestation.

Weed eradication programs in New Zealand, England and Switzerland now include innovative techniques to assist with the delimitation and surveillance of infestations.

Innovative uses of technology and control methods help eradicate weed populations.

Descending vertical drops, climbers rappel down to search for and control plants growing on steep river cliffs. **Drones** are rapidly becoming indispensable to surveying large or remote areas. **Digital recognition software** highlights extent of infestation. **Detector dogs** are trained to find a weed by its scent.

What Can You Do

Cont'd from page 1

Cooperate with your neighbors; share your experience. Many land owners do not understand the difference between noxious and obnoxious weeds or the detrimental effects to the environment, habitat and water quality, property values and recreation.

Keep it Clean. Wash animals, tires and gear between fishing hunting, or camping trips. Thoroughly hose of boat trailers and vehicles before leaving the landing. Clean lawn furniture when moving it from one home to another.

Learn to Identify. If you see signs of a suspected noxious weed, write down or take a picture of what you see and notify your local Noxious Weed Control Board. In Chelan County report a weed infestation electronically at www.co.chelan.wa.us/noxious-weed.

About Us

The Noxious Weed Board was created April 22, 1986. It consists of five citizen volunteers who represent five geographic districts that cover the entire county. The Board meets throughout the year and provides vision and direction for the weed control program.



Our Mission

"It is the mission of Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board to protect and preserve the agricultural lands and natural resources of the county from the degrading effects of invasive noxious weeds and to promote the control of invading noxious weeds through best management practices with a focus on education, prevention, technical assistance and control of noxious weeds through voluntary compliance with RCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750."



"Our primary goal is to focus on education, prevention, and technical assistance."

From the Coordinator's Desk



This time of year we get lots of questions about nuisance weeds.

Western salsify also known as goats beard is considered a non-native plant. While it is a nuisance, it is not on the noxious weed list.

Western salsify is an annual and grows 1-3' tall in warm sheltered spots with moist soil. It has a long taproot but can be pulled fairly easily.

Stalks are swollen just beneath the flower head and when broken exude a milky substance. It's leaves are

narrow up to 12 inches.



Flowers of the **Western salsify** are lemon-yellow ray flowers and their seed heads look like huge dandelions, another nuisance but certainly not a noxious weed.

Chelan County

Noxious Weed Control

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Poison-hemlock

Visit us on the web! [Click here](#). Don't find what you're looking for? Call and let us know.



Poison hemlock — one deadly Class B noxious weed

Poison-hemlock may be on the B list of noxious weeds, but it is deadly poisonous. **There is no antidote!**

The Washington Poison Center has treated 10 people so far this year who reported eating poison-hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). Even touching the plant may cause a severe skin reaction in some people.

All parts of poison-hemlock can kill humans and animals, even when dried.

Foragers can easily mistake it for wild carrot, parsley, parsnip, sweet cicely, anise, fennel, wild chervil, and caraway. Toxic alkaloids in poison-hemlock can cause a burning sensation in the mouth, nausea, vomiting, confusion, rapid heartbeat, seizures and paralysis. Death

occurs by respiratory paralysis. In Chelan County, poison-hemlock has been found in Manson and Malaga.

Spring is the peak time for poison-hemlock poisoning when people mistake it for many edible and other deadly wild plants. In Washington state one person died in 1999 after eating poison-hemlock, and another in 2010.

“Misidentifying poison-hemlock or other toxic plants can have truly tragic results” says Alison Halpern, executive secretary of the State Noxious Weed Control Board. “To avoid poisoning or severe rash, before attempting to remove poison-hemlock, confirm its identification with your county Nox-

ious Weed Board.” Poison-hemlock invades roadsides, construction sites, vacant lots, stream banks and gardens. Look for purple spots on a smooth, hairless, hollow stem 2 to 12 feet tall and a musty smell some liken to mouse urine.

Poison-hemlock spends its first year as a rosette of glossy, fern-like leaves. In this stage, its stem may or may not show purple. In spring its second year, it produces many umbrella-shaped clusters of white flowers, which develop into ridged seeds.

Take anyone who has eaten poison-hemlock to the local ER immediately. If you think you or someone you know might have eaten poison-hemlock, call the Washington Poison Center, at 1-800-222-1222.