

Noxious weeds are everyone's problem

- **They Impact:** Roadways, lakes, parks, shorelines, streams, salmon habitat, agricultural lands, public health and safety, septic systems, and back yards.
 - They are a biological pollutant that knows no boundaries.
 - When left uncontrolled noxious weeds expand exponentially causing more damages and costing more to control

The Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program

- Each County shall have a Noxious Weed Control Program for controlling the spread of class A and B designate noxious weed infestations
 - Mandated by RCW Chapter 17.10
- Program is the sole provider for the County:
 - Identify the scope of the noxious weed problem in County
 - In 2011 our site surveys to date increased by 60%
 - Infestation reports by citizens increased by 30%
 - Follow up by staff has helped increase control by 40%



Poison hemlock, a toxic plant, found by field staff during roadside surveys

The Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program

- Program is the sole provider for the County:
 - Provide guidance to agencies on Best Management Practices
 - County & City Public Works Department
 - » Roads Departments
 - » SWWM retention/detention pond teams
 - County Health District
 - State DOT
 - County/ City Parks Departments



The Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program

- Program is the sole provider for the County:
 - Provide assistance for removal of toxic noxious weeds that pose health threats
 - This year we have removed 43 truck loads of noxious weeds from roadsides and private properties.



The Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program

- Program is the sole provider for the County:
 - Provide landowners with education and recommendations for best management practices for the control of noxious weeds.
 - Attended 4 Farmers Markets and spoke to an average of 160 people at each event
 - Spoke with 840 citizens at our fair display
 - We have sent out over 2000 information letters



The Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program

- Program is the sole provider for the County:
 - Provide quality, timely and responsive service to the residents of Kitsap County
 - We have received and responded to over 500 emails
 - We have assisted landowners by distributing Biological control agents for control efforts
 - We have increased our landowner assistance program by 40%
 - Created a streamlined reporting page for citizens to help be weed warriors
 - Working with creating Weed Warrior groups to assist with weed control on private and public properties



Up coming Projects

- Creation of a pilot project to remove Noxious weeds from roadsides similar to litter pick up
- Creating of a noxious weed disposal **voucher program**
- Creation of Inter Local Agreements/ Partnerships
 - City of Port Orchard (cost recovery)
 - Salmon Enhancement Group knotweed Project (cost recovery)
 - Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Recreation District(cost recovery)



Scotch broom control



Knotweed control

What weeds we are working to control

- Perennial pepperweed (2 sites)
- Purple loosestrife (14 sites)
- Knapweed (24 sites)
- Poison hemlock (23 sites)
- Giant hogweed (84 sites)
- Tansy (over 500 sites)
- Knotweed (over 600 sites)
- What about Scotch broom, Ivy and thistles?
 - Staff will work with volunteers to remove many of these on public sites.

