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
Upcoming 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.