

It's hard to keep up with all of the invasive plants out there—you control one and another moves in, and brand new exotic plants are being introduced to our region all the time. This information sheet points out a few species of concern that may not be as well known as others.

Policeman's helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*) – A tall (3–8'), hollow-stemmed annual with purple and white blooms and swollen nodes. This species spreads primarily by seed (but also vegetatively) along streams, wetlands and in other moist areas. This species readily displaces native species due to rapid growth and overtopping. This species can also cause hydrological changes when dense patches inhibit drainage and flow.

Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) – Dramatically variegated foliage makes this mint family invader hard to miss. Leaves have silver patches near the margin and blooms are tubular and yellow. Tolerates a wide range of soil conditions and exposures though usually prefers moister sites. Once introduced to an area, usually through dumping of yard waste, this species spreads quickly both vegetatively and by seed to outcompete native groundcovers.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*) – A common garden perennial, this vigorous shrub is now found volunteering far from urban areas along roadsides, in logged areas and on river gravel bars in our forests and parks. Butterfly bush spreads by seed via both air and water, and cut branches in contact with soil can also form roots. Dense, rapid growth allows this species to outcompete native understory species.

Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) – Flowering rush is not a true rush but rather a broadleaf emergent perennial. This species is not common in Washington yet but has the potential to spread through waterways by seed and vegetative methods. Large, showy pink flowers are the easiest way to identify this newer weed. Sale of this plant and its seed are prohibited in our state.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) – In Washington this invasive exists primarily in King County at this time, though populations have also been reported in Clark and Skamania counties. Because of its limited distribution, eradication is possible and preventing every population from going to seed is of utmost importance. This species is a biennial, overwintering as a basal rosette with rounded leaves and in the second year forming a single flowering stem with triangular-shaped leaves. Garlic mustard spreads by seed and is self-fertile.

Common fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) – The feathery foliage and distinctive odor make this weed easy to recognize. Common fennel can also be identified by its umbels of yellow blooms and tall height (4–10'). A prolific seed producer, this species spreads quickly to form large masses that can crowd out native species. A variety of this species, var. azoricum, otherwise known as bulbing fennel, is not considered invasive.

County weed control programs and boards are a good place to start when gathering more information about a particular weed (see *Noxious/Invasive Weed Control* under the Links section of our website).