

# ESCAPED ORNAMENTALS: Garden Plants that became Noxious Weeds

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**Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Program**

*Program Coordinator*

# Bighead Knapweed

*Centaurea macrocephala*

Quarantine List

A

AKA lemon fluff, globe centaurea, yellow bachelor's button

Listed in 1988

Native to Romania & Armenia



# Bighead Knapweed

Quarantine List

A

## *Centaurea macrocephala*

- Documented as early as 1918 in Klickitat County
- May be found in nurseries or seed packets

### Benefits:

- Garden ornamental
- Dried flower arrangements

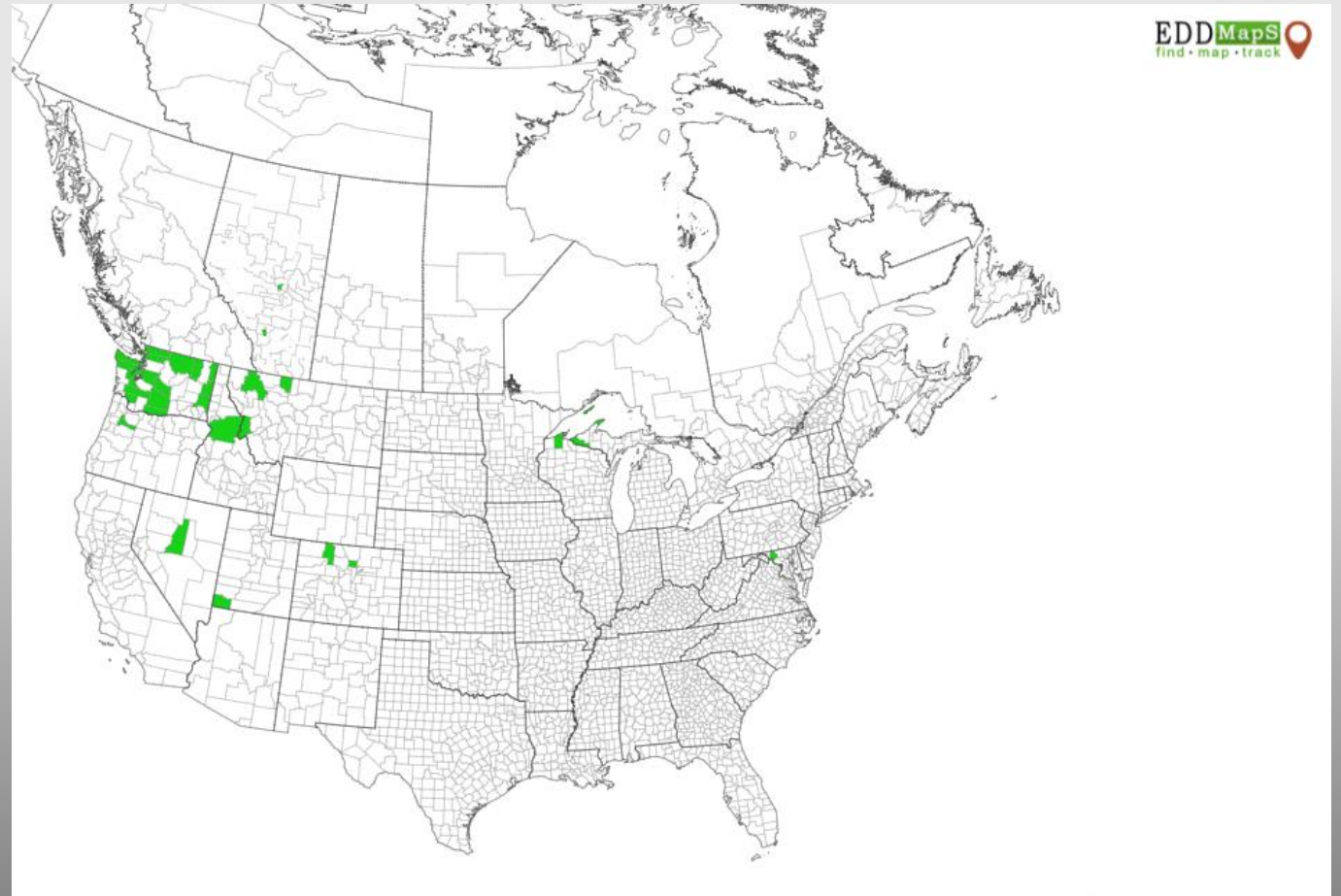
### Detriments:

- Very difficult to control once established
- Threatens natural areas, subalpine meadows

AKA lemon fluff, globe centaurea, yellow bachelor's button

Listed in 1988

Native to Romania & Armenia



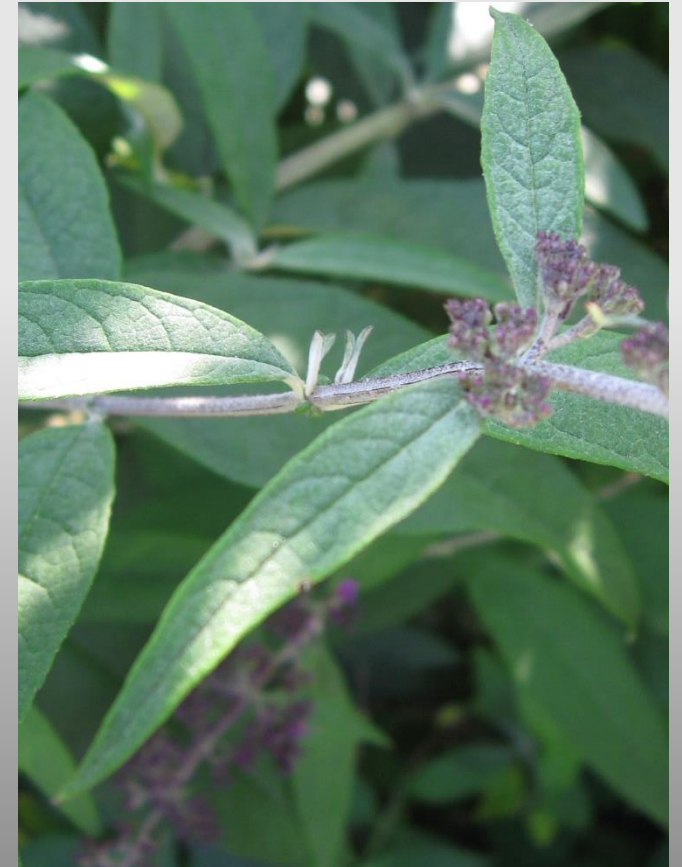
# Butterfly Bush

*Buddleja davidii*

Quarantine List

B

AKA Summer Lilac, Orange Eye  
Listed in 2005  
Native to China



# Butterfly Bush

## *Buddleja davidii*

- Documented as escaped in at least 14 counties in Washington
- Common escapee along roadsides and railways in western Washington in 1973

### Benefits:

- Garden ornamental, bright fragrant flowers
- Attracts butterflies
- Easy to cultivate

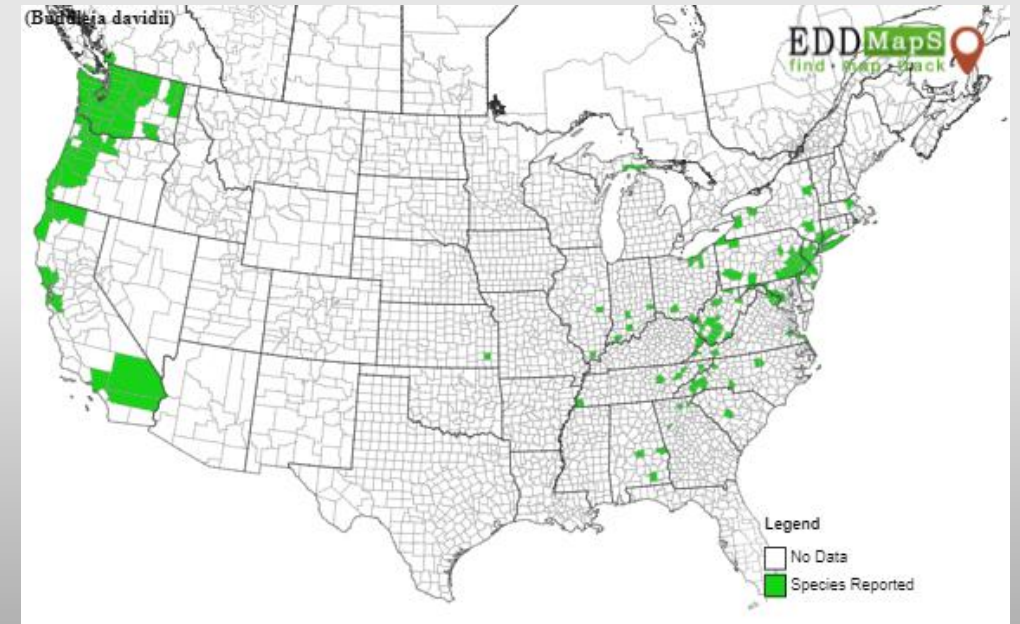
### Detriments:

- Forms dense thickets along river banks, disrupt natural succession of streambanks
- Prolific seeder
- Alters soil nutrient concentrations utilizes and accumulates nitrogen and phosphorus differently from natives
- May detrimentally impact WA butterfly populations:
  - does not provide food source for larvae;
  - displace native nectar sources;
  - attracts butterflies so well that it outcompetes native plants for pollinators

## Quarantine List

B

AKA Summer Lilac, Orange Eye  
Listed in 2005  
Native to China



# Common Fennel

*Foeniculum vulgare*

B

AKA Sweet Fennel, Bronze Fennel

Listed in 2007

Native to Northern Africa, Asia, Europe



# Common Fennel

B

## *Foeniculum vulgare*

- Distribution limited in WA

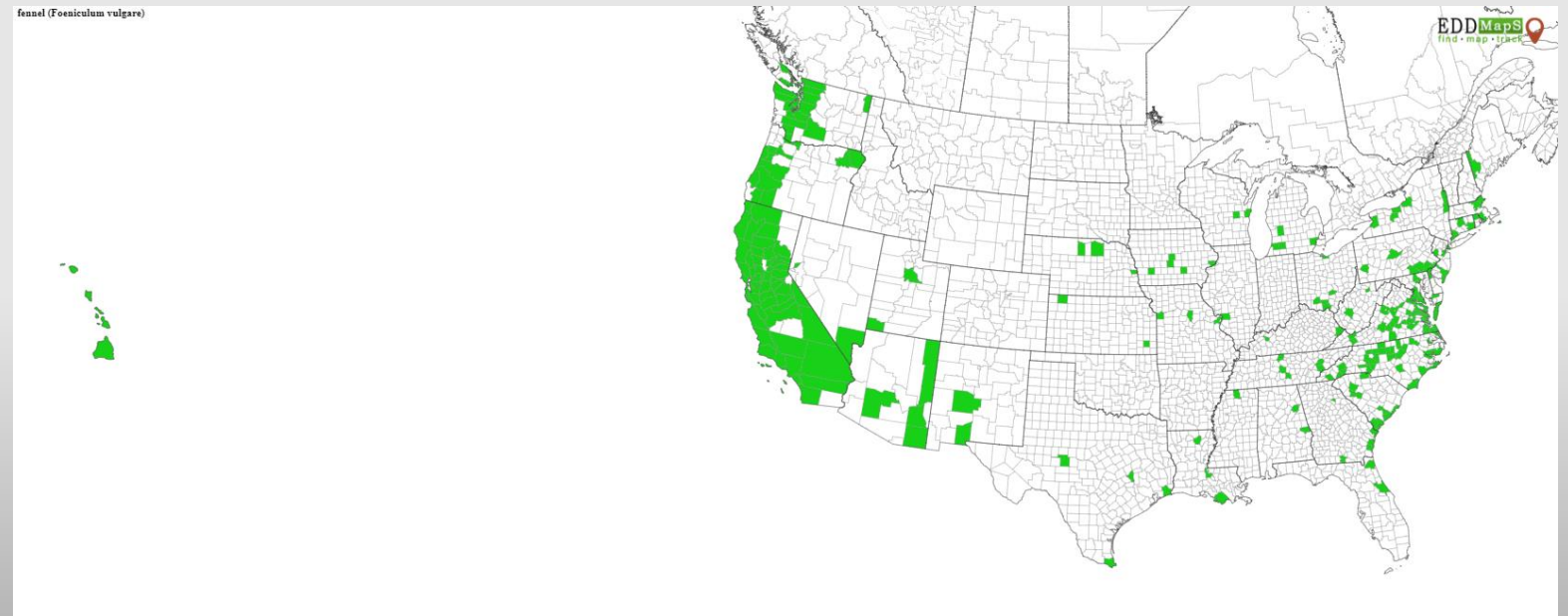
### Benefits:

- Garden Ornamental
- Sweet Fennel used for culinary spice & essential oil
- Florence Fennel used as vegetable

### Detriments:

- Form Dense stands, outcompete native vegetation
- Difficult to control
- Persistent seedbank

AKA Sweet Fennel, Bronze Fennel  
Listed in 2007  
Native to Northern Africa, Asia, Europe



# Dalmatian Toadflax

*Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica*

AKA Balkan Toadflax, Broadleaf Toadflax  
Listed in 1988

B

Native to The Dalmatian coast of the former Yugoslavia to  
Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Crete, Turkey,  
Azerbaijan, Syria, Iran, and Iraq.





# Dalmatian Toadflax

AKA Balkan Toadflax, Broadleaf Toadflax  
Listed in 1988

B

## *Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica*

- Cultivated since the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- Documented in Washington around 1920

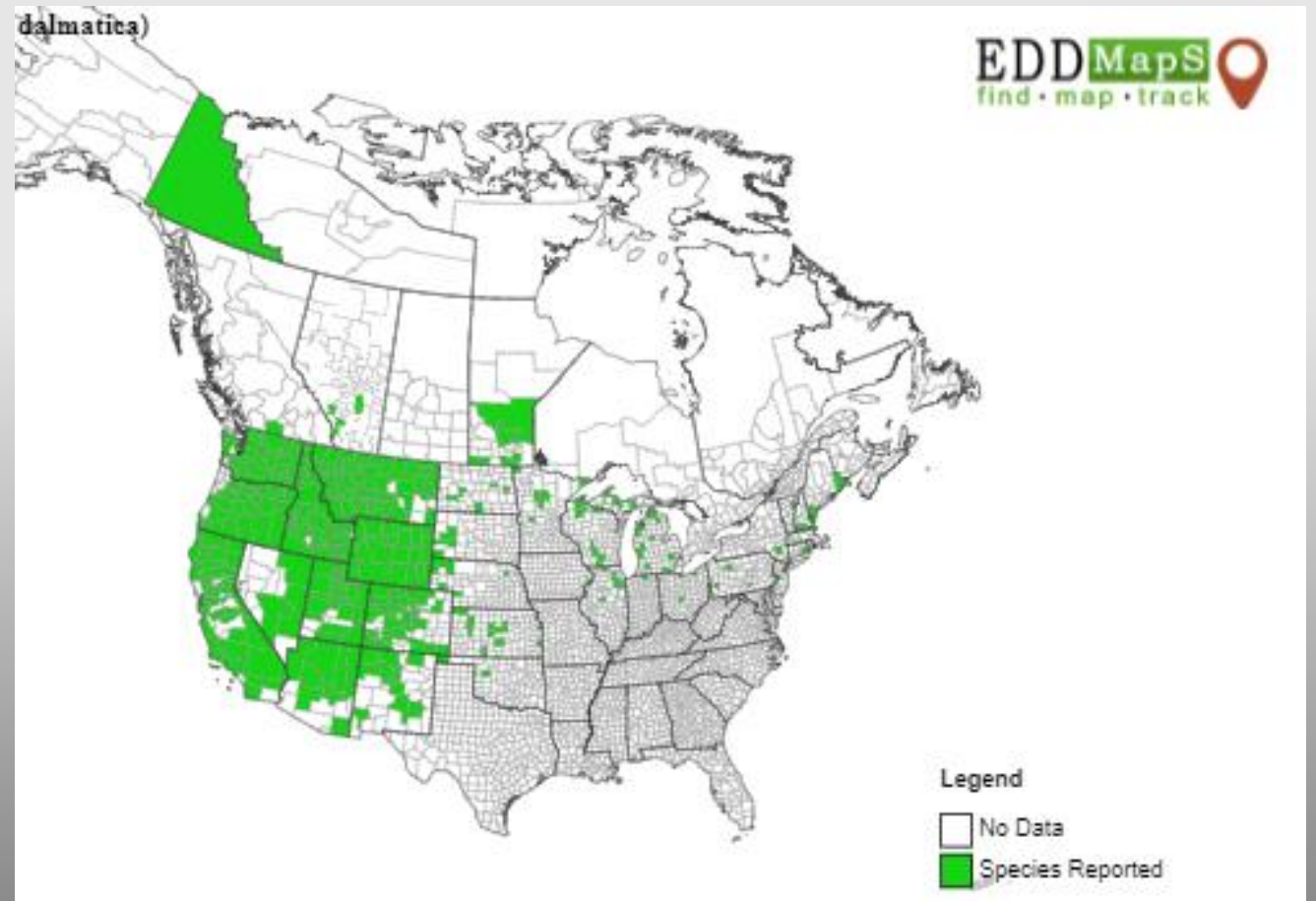
### Benefits:

- Garden ornamental with showy flowers

### Detriments:

- Extremely competitive
- Prolific seeder

Native to The Dalmatian coast of the former Yugoslavia to Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Crete, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Syria, Iran, and Iraq.



# English Holly

*Ilex aquifolium*



# Monitor

Native to Asia, Europe, Northern Africa

# English Holly

*Ilex aquifolium*

- Common in Washington, monitoring underway

## Benefits:

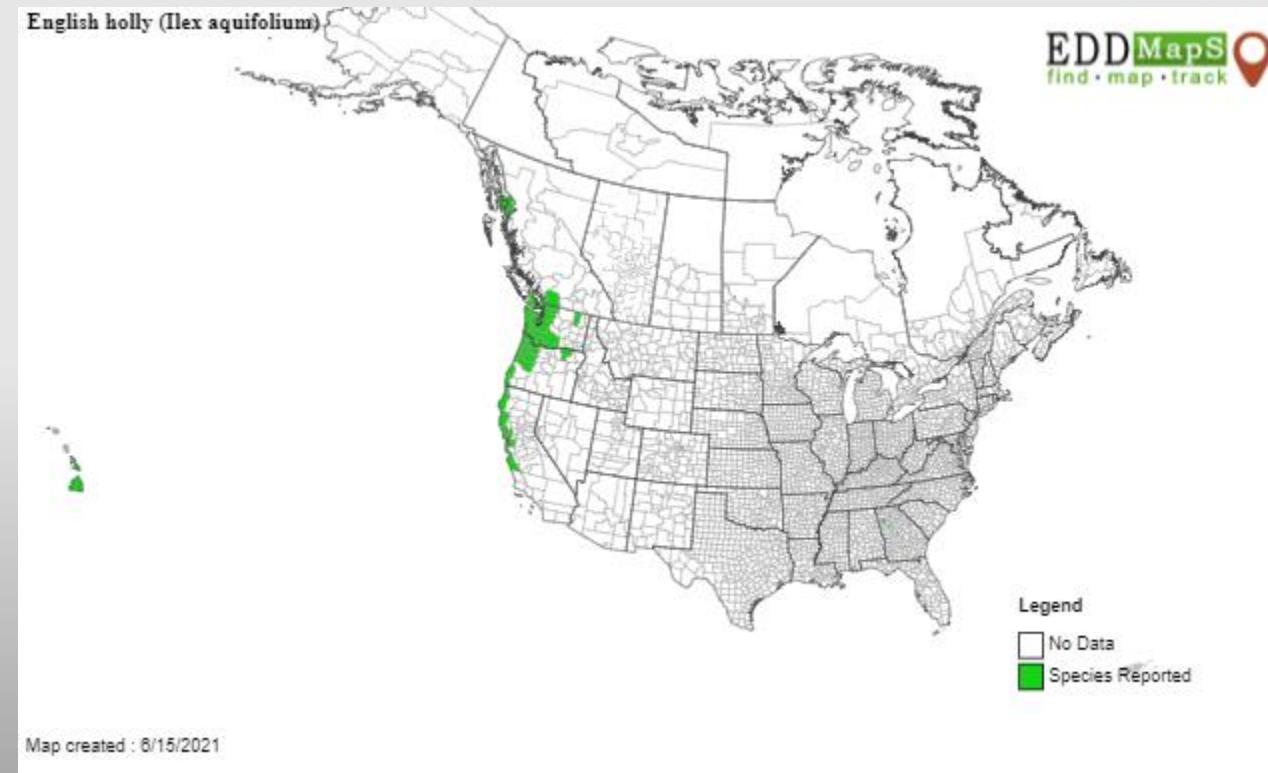
- Garden Ornamental
- Cultivated commercially in PNW

## Detriments:

- Birds spread berries, allowing establishment in natural areas
- Forms dense thickets, suppressing natives
- Reproduce by suckers, or re-root where touching the ground
- Toxic to humans if ingested, gastrointestinal issues

# Monitor

Native to Asia, Europe, Northern Africa



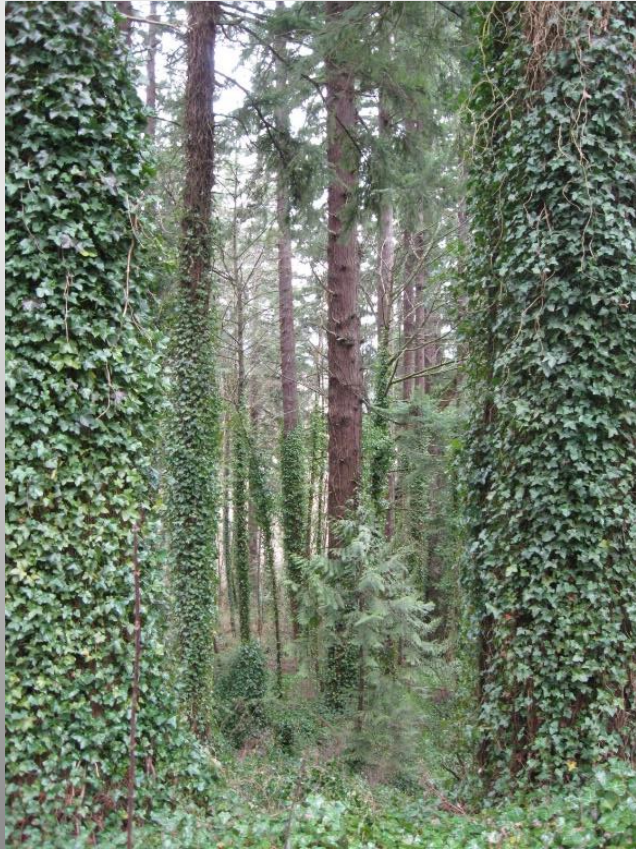
# English Ivy

*Hedera helix* 'Baltica', 'Pittsburgh', and 'Star';  
*Hedera hibernica* 'Hibernica'



AKA Atlantic ivy  
Listed in 2002

Native to *Hedera helix* - parts of Europe, Asia and North Africa;  
*Hedera hibernica* - parts of western Europe.



# English Ivy

*Hedera helix* 'Baltica', 'Pittsburgh', and 'Star'; *Hedera hibernica* 'Hibernica'

- Brought to North America by colonial settlers
- Earliest in US 1727, in PNW 1890's

## Benefits:

- Garden Ornamental - hardy groundcover
- Inexpensive & easy to grow
- Poultices of leaves for cuts and sores

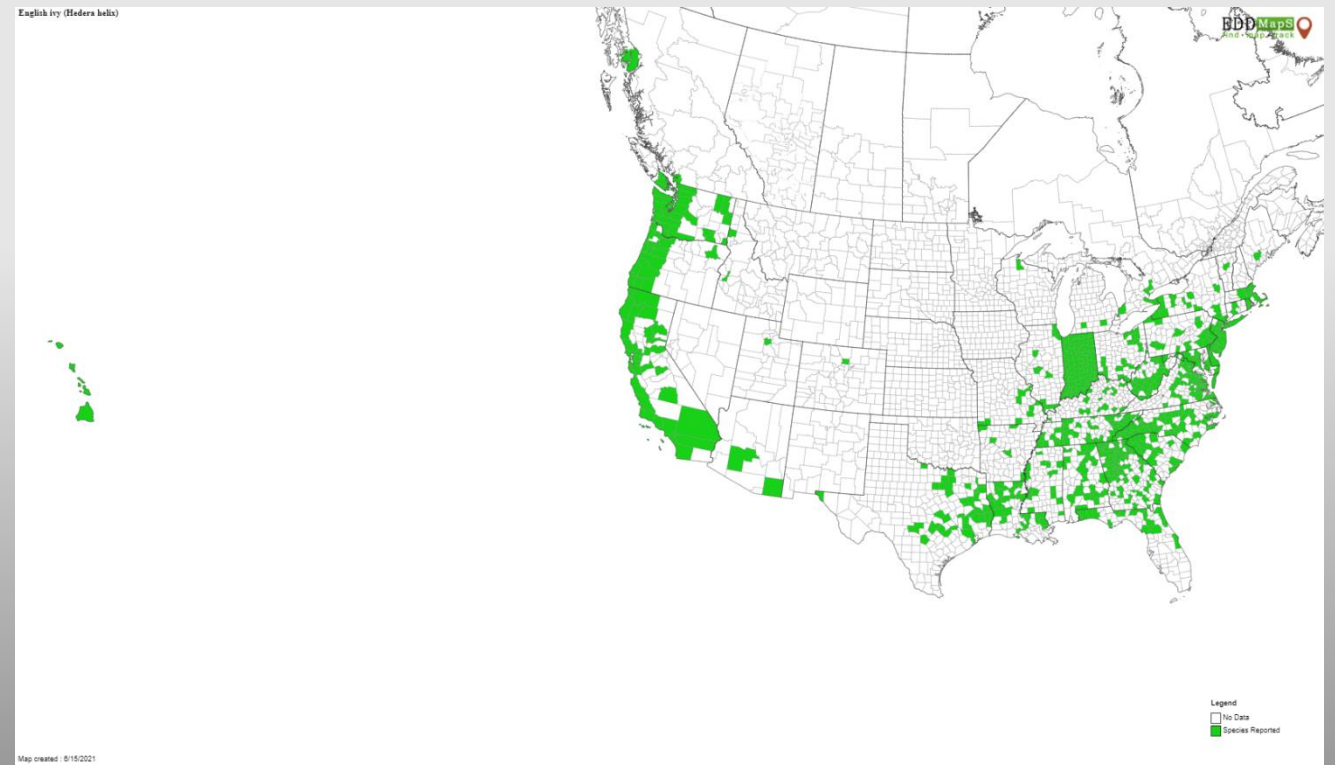
## Detriments:

- Outcompetes grasses, herbs and trees
- Reduce animal forage & habitat
- Suppresses trees by shading out foliage, adding weight to trees
- Shallow roots not suited for erosion control
- Slightly toxic, glycosides



AKA Atlantic ivy  
Listed in 2002

Native to *Hedera helix* - parts of Europe, Asia and North Africa;  
*Hedera hibernica* - parts of western Europe.



# Italian Arum

*Arum italicum*

Quarantine List



AKA Italian Lords and Ladies, Italian Lily, Cuckoo's Pint  
Listed in 2015  
Native to Asia, Europe, Northern Africa



# Italian Arum



## *Arum italicum*

- Monitored for 5 or more years before listing status
- Present in multiple counties in WA, including Cowlitz

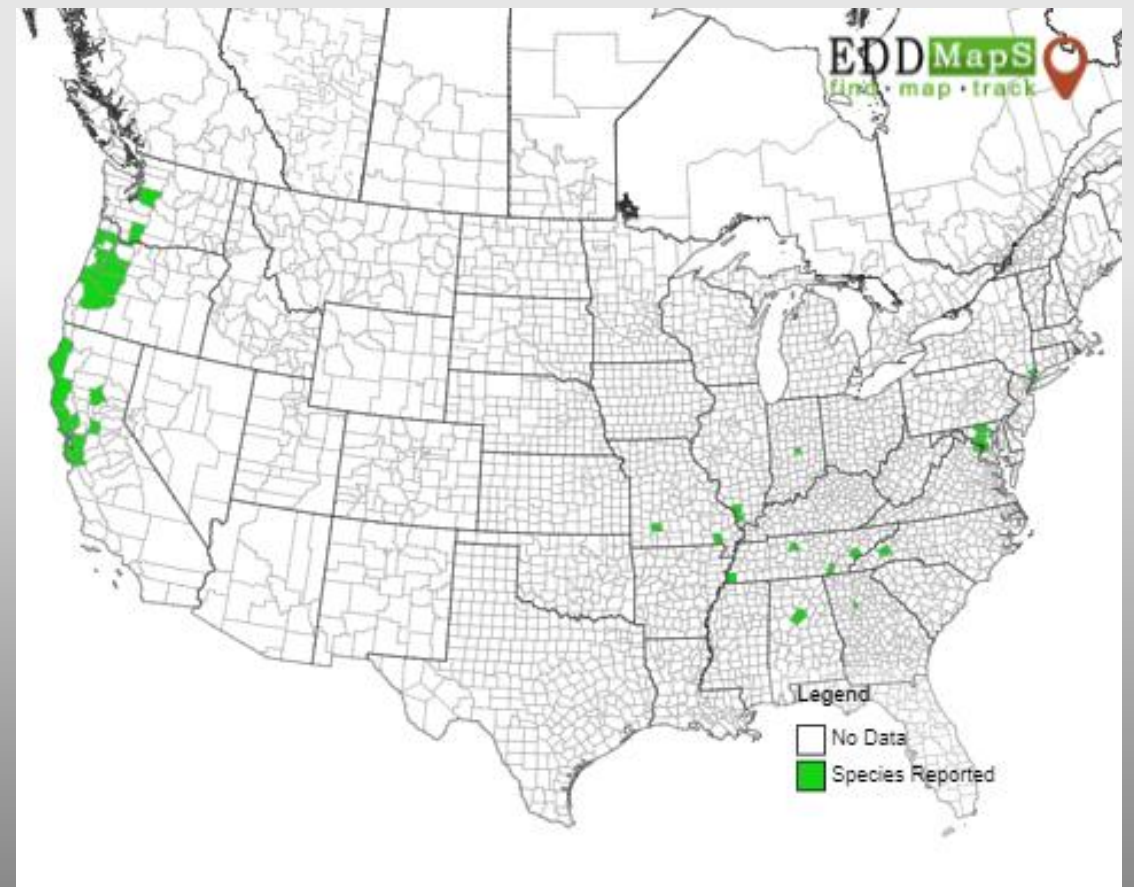
### Benefits:

- Garden ornamental for foliage and berries

### Detriments:

- All plant parts are poisonous: calcium oxalate
- Forms dense cover, especially in riparian areas
- Very difficult to control

AKA Italian Lords and Ladies, Italian Lily, Cuckoo's Pint  
Listed in 2015  
Native to Asia, Europe, Northern Africa



# Kudzu

*Pueraria montana var. lobata*

Quarantine List

A

AKA Japanese Arrowroot

Listed in 2003

Native to Asia and the Pacific





# Kudzu

## *Pueraria montana var. lobata*

- Documented in the US as early as 1876
- Documented in Clark County in 2001

### Benefits:

- Used as an ornamental for forage
- Promoted in 1930's for control of soil erosion
- Culinary/herbal use to include reducing hypertension, studied for alcoholism

### Detriments:

- Aggressive, difficult to control
- Covers & smothers other plants, eliminating native species / natural diversity
- Weight on trees may cause loss of limbs or death
- May render lands unusable
- Estimated economic loss of Kudzu at \$50 million annually
- Weight may bring down power lines, buildings

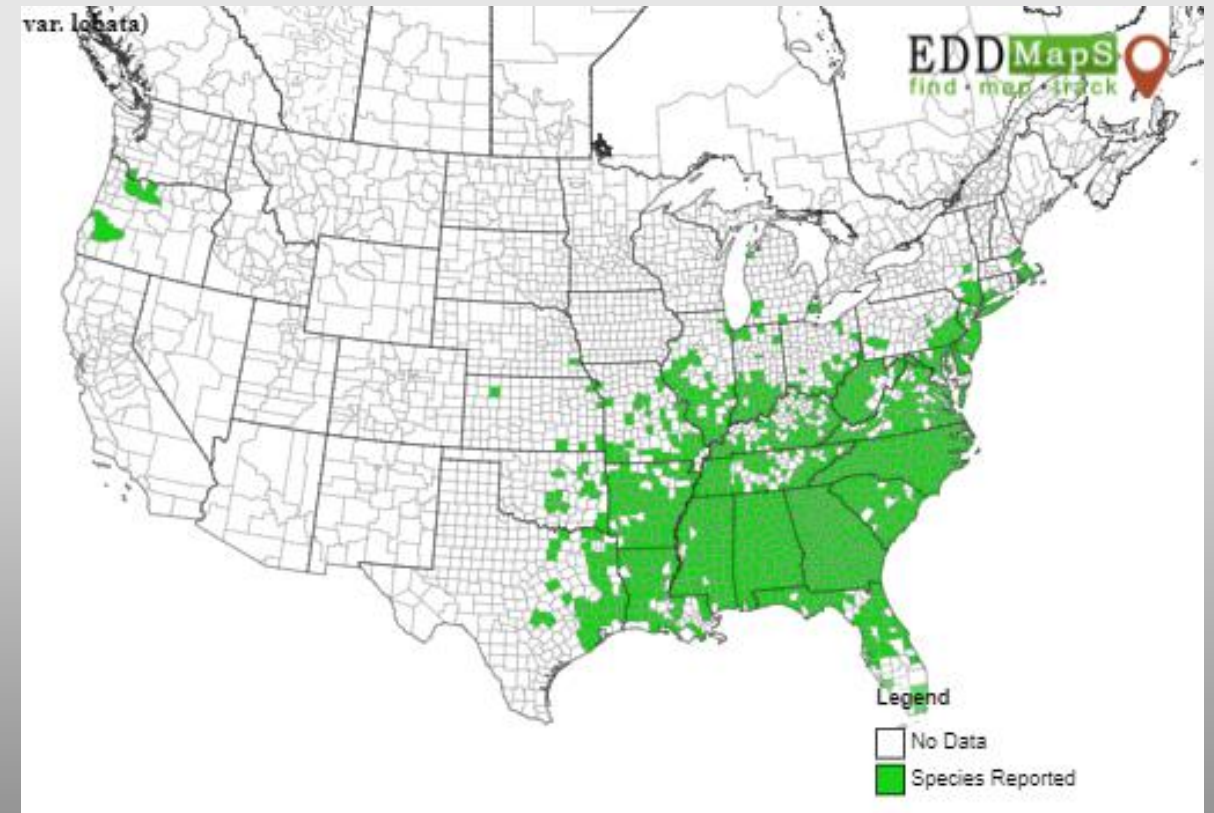
## Quarantine List

A

AKA Japanese Arrowroot

Listed in 2003

Native to Asia and the Pacific



# Milk Thistle

*Silybum marianum*

Quarantine List

A

AKA Blessed Milkthistle, Spotted Thistle, Variegated Thistle

Listed in 1989

Native to Western Asia, Europe, Northern Africa



# Milk Thistle

## Quarantine List

# A

### *Silybum marianum*

AKA Blessed Milkthistle, Spotted Thistle, Variegated Thistle

- Listed on first South Australia Noxious Weed list in 1851
- Infestations in Cowlitz date back to 2008

Listed in 1989

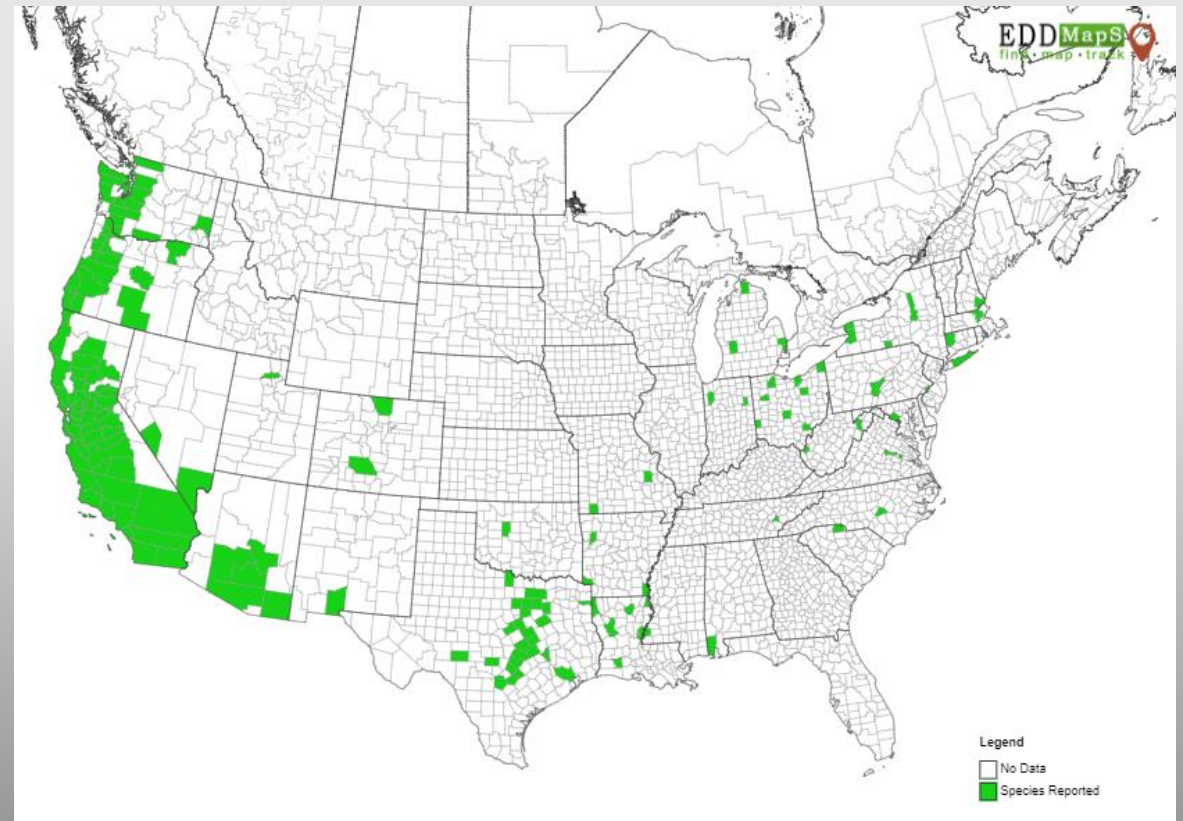
Native to Western Asia, Europe, Northern Africa

### Benefits:

- Garden ornamental, can be found in seed packets
- Ancient medicinal plant, purify liver; antioxidant; alters liver cell membrane structure to block toxins; stimulates production of new liver cells
- Antidote for Death Cap Mushroom poisoning

### Detriments:

- Toxic to livestock, displace native forage species
- Heavy infestations limit livestock movement and access to water
- Nitrate accumulator
- Prolific Seeder



# Policeman's Helmet

*Impatiens glandulifera*



Quarantine List

B

AKA Ornamental Jewelweed, Himalayan Balsam

Listed in 1999

Native to India and Western Himalaya



# Policeman's Helmet

*Impatiens glandulifera*

- Top 20 British aliens
- It is present in Cowlitz County

## Benefits:

- Garden ornamental
- Late season source of pollen/nectar

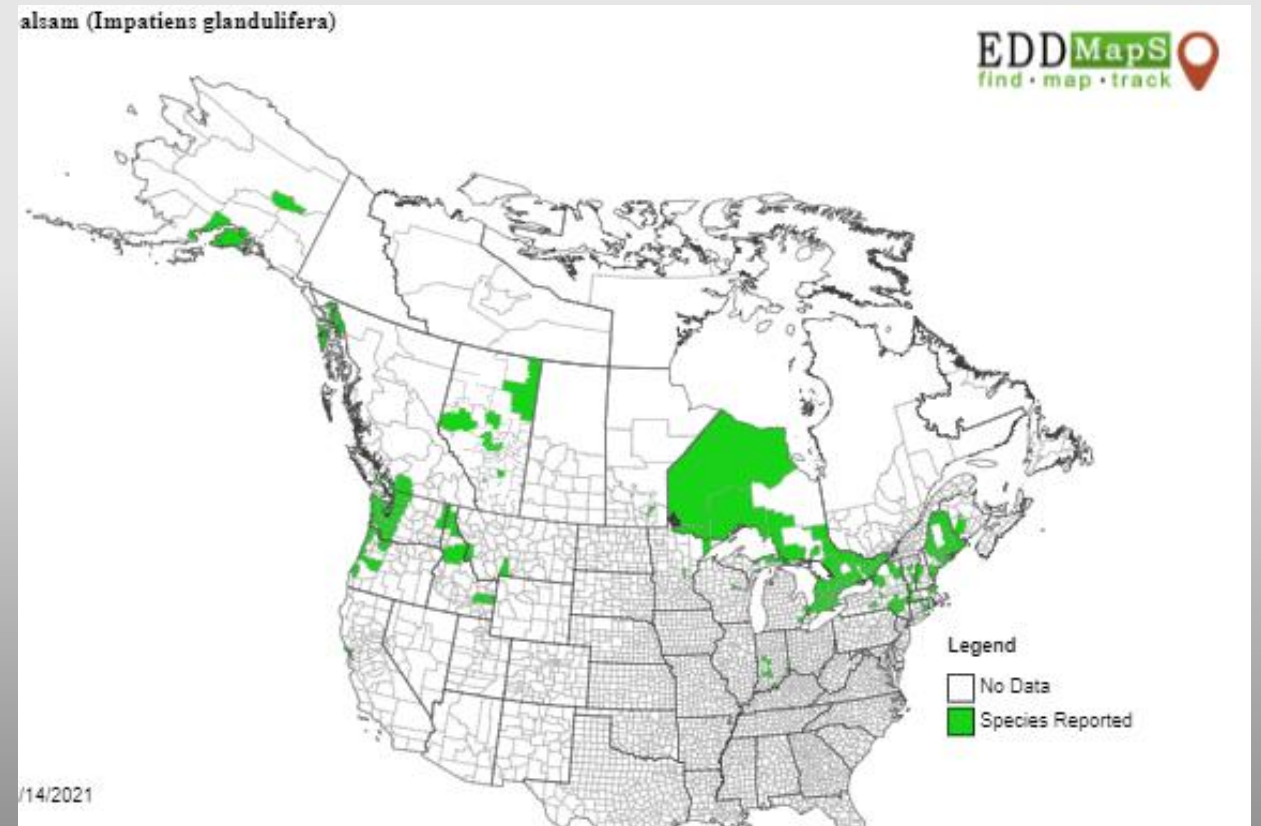
## Detriments:

- Extremely invasive to moist, natural areas

Quarantine List

B

AKA Ornamental Jewelweed, Himalayan Balsam  
Listed in 1999  
Native to India and Western Himalaya



# Spurge Laurel

*Daphne laureola*

AKA Daphne, Daphne spurge, Daphne-laurel, laurel-leaved daphne, olive-spurge, wood laurel, copse laurel

B

Listed in 2007

Native to Europe, Northern Africa



# Spurge Laurel

*Daphne laureola*

- Most infestations west of Cascade Mountains
- Present in Cowlitz County

## Benefits:

- Garden Ornamental
- Studied as a potential treatment for Leukemia

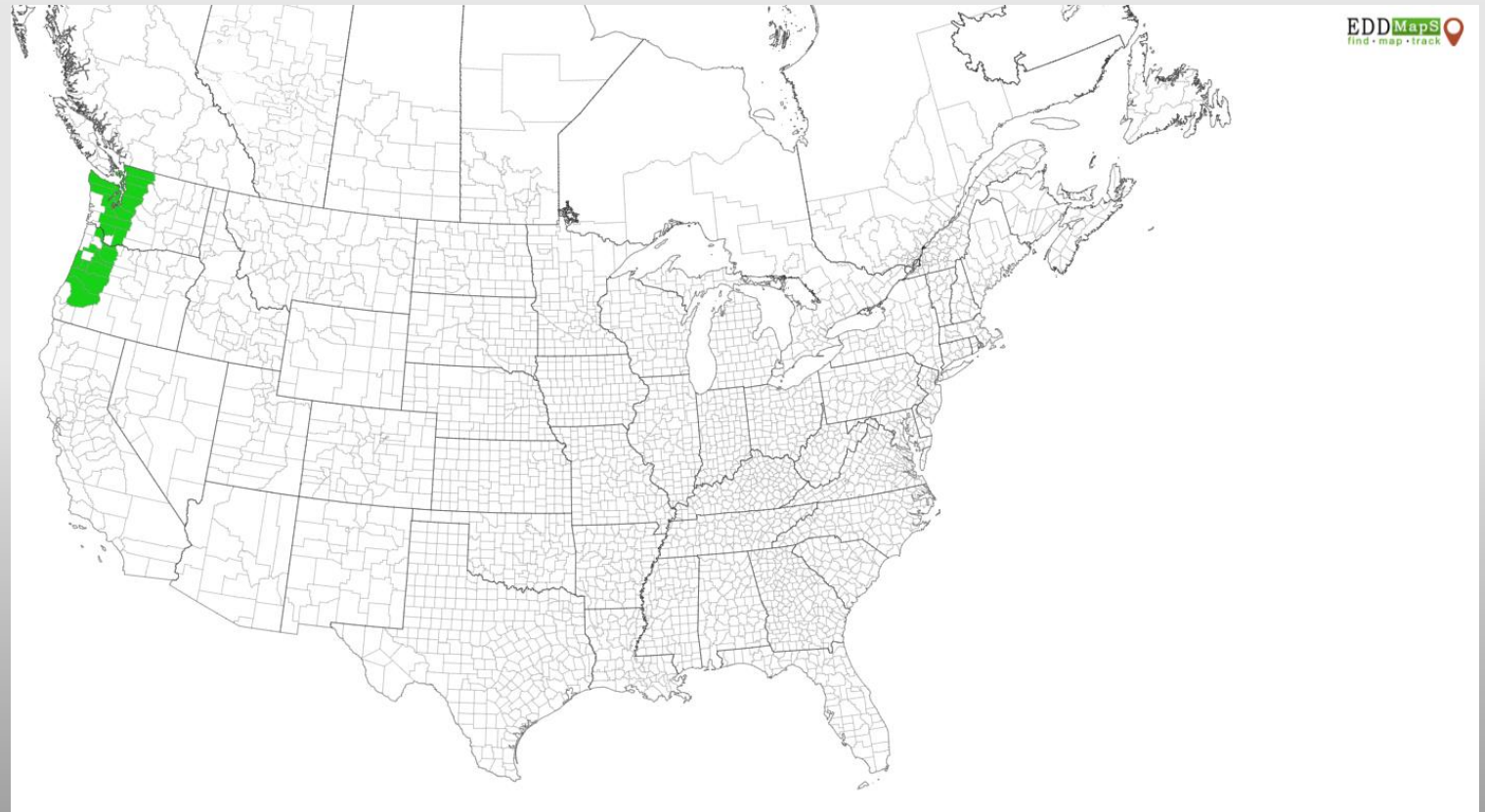
## Detriments:

- Rapidly colonizes & forms dense stands
- Highly toxic - all plant parts
- Garry Oak system threat
- Potential to change soil chemistry
- Alter natural succession

AKA Daphne, Daphne spurge, Daphne-laurel, laurel-leaved daphne, olive-spurge, wood laurel, copse laurel

Listed in 2007

Native to Europe, Northern Africa



# Brooms: French, Spanish, Scotch <sup>Quarantine List</sup>

French Broom

*Genista monspessulana*

A

Spanish Broom

*Spartium junceum*

A

Scotch Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

B



AKA Canary Broom,  
Montpellier Broom, Soft Broom  
Listed in 2013  
Native to Northern Africa,  
Europe



AKA Weaver's Broom  
Listed in 1998  
Native to Northern Africa,  
Western Asia, Europe



AKA Broomtops, Common Broom,  
European Broom, Irish Broom,  
Scottish Broom, Scot's Broom  
Listed in 1988  
Native to Europe



# Brooms: French, Spanish, Scotch <sup>Quarantine List</sup>

French Broom

*Genista monspessulana*

A

Spanish Broom

*Spartium junceum*

A

Scotch Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

B



# Brooms: French, Spanish, Scotch <sup>Quarantine List</sup>

French Broom

*Genista monspessulana*

A

Spanish Broom

*Spartium junceum*

A

Scotch Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

B



# Brooms: French, Spanish, Scotch Quarantine List

## French Broom

*Genista monspessulana*

A

- Identified in 2010 UW's Montlake Cut

### Benefits:

- Garden Ornamental

### Detriments:

- Aggressive pioneer species
- Makes reforestation difficult
- Alters soil nitrogen dynamics
- Fire hazard
- Seed longevity
- Unpalatable to livestock,
- Can be toxic

## Spanish Broom

*Spartium junceum*

A

- 1930s planted as roadside plant in CA

### Benefits:

- Garden Ornamental
- Bank cover - drought tolerant
- Yellow dye from flowers
- S. France & Spain, used for fiber & weaving

### Detriments:

- Aggressive competitor
- Fire Hazard
- Poisonous if eaten
- Host plant for Pierce's Disease in grapevines

## Scotch Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

B

- Introduced to WA 1800's
- Widespread in Western WA

### Benefits:

- Garden Ornamental
- Studied for arsenic accumulator
- Prevent soil erosion, stabilize highway embankments

### Detriments:

- Aggressively spreads to form monocultures
- Interferes with reestablishment of conifer seedlings
- Invades Garry Oak Systems
- Alter soil nutrient composition
- Deplete soil Phosphorus availability
- Fire Hazard
- Allelopathic properties
- Toxic

# Brooms: French, Spanish, Scotch Quarantine List

French Broom

*Genista monspessulana*

A

Spanish Broom

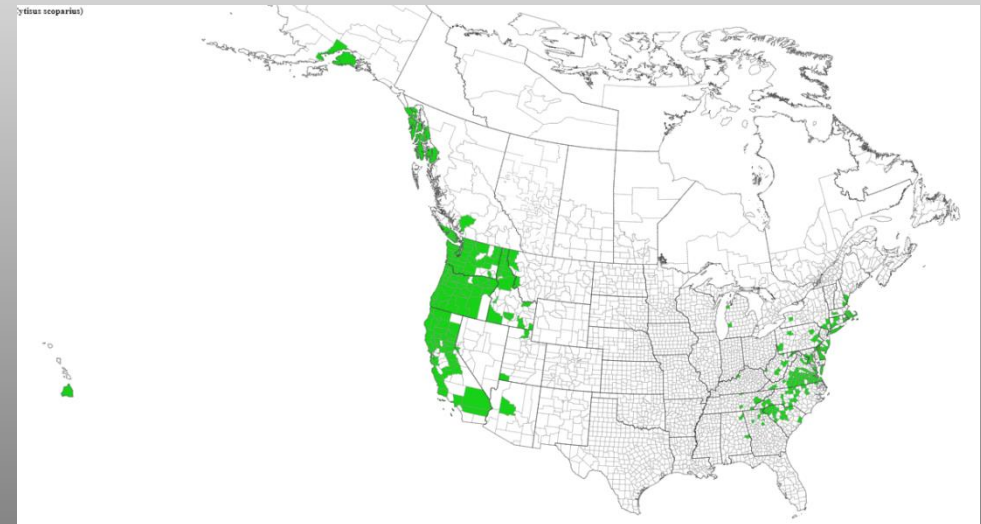
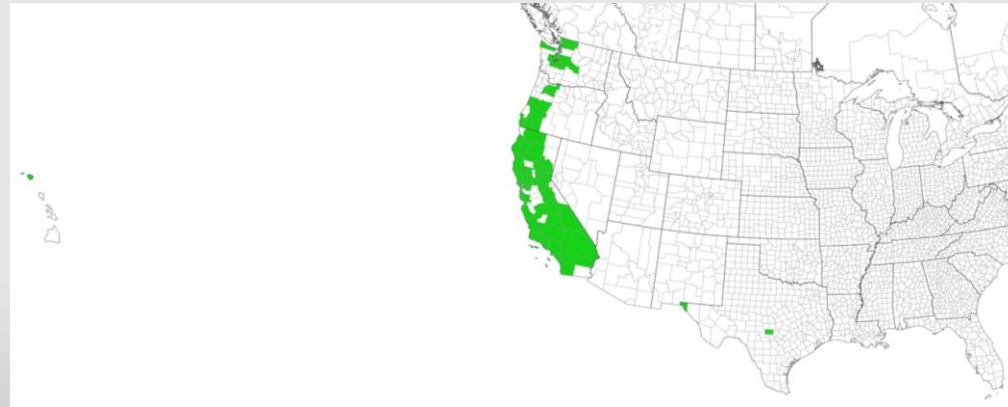
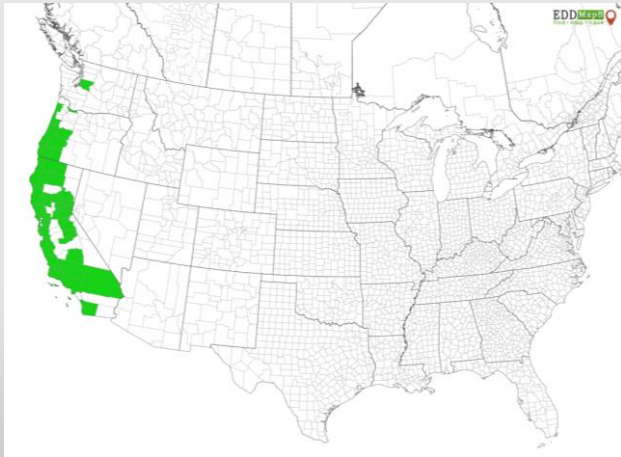
*Spartium junceum*

A

Scotch Broom

*Cytisus scoparius*

B



# Periwinkle & Large Periwinkle

*Vinca minor* & *Vinca major*

# Monitor



Photo by:  
Richard Old  
[www.xidservices.com](http://www.xidservices.com)

UGA524809

# Information Sources

Information & (some) Photos:

<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>

Maps:

EDDMapS. 2021. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>;

last accessed June 15, 2021.

# Stop the Weeds, Catch the Seeds!



# Thank You

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[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/noxiousweeds](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/noxiousweeds)



# Himalayan Blackberry

*Rubus bifrons*



AKA Himalaya Blackberry  
Listed in 2009  
Native to Asia

