



TOP 10 INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE COOS WATERSHED

1 KNOTWEED

Originally introduced as a garden ornamental, this plant quickly grows to 9-12 feet. Reddish-brown stems with heart-shaped leaves characterize this plant. Knotweed spreads aggressively via underground runners.

REMOVAL

Do not cut this plant as small stem fragments can resprout. Herbicide application may be required. Call us at 541-888-5922 for help.



2 REED CANARY GRASS

This is a cool-season grass that grows 3-8 feet tall. It forms dense stands on wet meadows, marshes, or stream banks. It excludes native plant species, therefore reducing biodiversity in wetland areas.

REMOVAL

Hand pulling can be effective for small areas of young plants, and continual mowing during the summer season can be effective for larger stands. However, planting cottonwoods, willows, and dogwoods can shade out the grass naturally.

2

3 ENGLISH IVY

Able to grow as a ground cover or a climbing vine, English ivy excludes native plants by shading. This Ivy's aggressive climbing nature can topple entire trees due to the additional weight.

REMOVAL

Girdle tree ivy by cutting around vines at waist height and removing ground ivy within a 3-foot radius of the tree trunk. Ground ivy is easily removed by hand, but be sure to monitor the area for resprouts.



4 HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

Canes form impenetrable thickets that shade out low growing native vegetation. Dry canes can act as wildfire fuel.

REMOVAL

Clip canes back and dig up root crown to prevent resprouting. Mowing during the fall and winter months for 3-5 consecutive years will eventually exhaust the plant's energy reserves. Application of an herbicide after cutting is recommended.

4

5 SCOTCH BROOM

Scotch broom forms dense stands in disturbed areas that shade and crowd out native plants and destroy wildlife habitat.

REMOVAL

Dense, fibrous roots can make hand removal difficult. Rent a weed wrench by calling us at 541-888-5922.



6

MORNING GLORY

This is a climbing vine with heart-shaped leaves and trumpet flowers. This plant can blanket the entire shrub layer and shade out native plants.

REMOVAL

It is easily removed by pulling out the stem and all of its roots.



BUTTERFLY BUSH

This plant is a tall shrub with purple, pyramid-shaped flowers. It is a very common ornamental plant that invades natural areas and excludes vegetation needed for native butterfly reproduction. Seeds easily disperse up to 5 miles away by wind or water.

REMOVAL

Hand removal is possible. In a garden setting, remove seed heads after the plant flowers to prevent spreading.

7

8

ENGLISH HOLLY

This is a shiny, evergreen shrub with prickly leaves and red berries in the fall and winter months. It is able to dominate the shrub layer and out-compete native plants for sunlight, water, and nutrients.

REMOVAL

Small sprouts are easily removed by hand. Cut down larger shrubs and remove roots with a weed wrench or rub stump with herbicide. Stumps will resprout if left untreated. Replant the area with native Oregon grape.



GORSE

Gorse is a spiny, evergreen shrub with bright yellow, pea-like flowers native to the Mediterranean area. Gorse produces a lot of seeds that can remain viable in the soil for 30 years. Gorse is often found along roadsides or other cleared sites. Gorse outcompetes native vegetation and is also a fire hazard.

REMOVAL

If cut, gorse resprouts quickly. Well-established gorse may be impossible to eradicate - prevention is key. Herbicide application in May/June, before the stems harden, is often necessary, call us at 541-888-5922 for help.

9

10

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

This is a perennial herb with tall spikes of magenta flowers during the summer months. It grows in open, wet areas such as marshes, swamps, and river banks and flourishes in drained or disturbed wetland habitats. It easily outcompetes native wetland vegetation and causes a loss of biodiversity.

REMOVAL

Small areas can be effectively removed by hand pulling, however biological controls such as the release of loosestrife beetles is recommended on larger areas, call us at 541-888-5922 for help.



Learn more about our invasive weed control program on our website at <http://www.cooswatershed.org/knotweed> or by calling 541-888-5922.

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