GARDEN WISE

Non-Invasive Plants for Your Garden

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WESTERN WASHINGTON GUIDE
WHILE MOST EXOTIC PLANTS are not problematic, a few have become invasive in Washington State. When these plants spread to wild areas, they cause serious problems. For example, invasive knotweed, butterfly bush, and yellow flag iris are changing our stream-sides and river banks; English holly and Atlantic ivy are altering our forests.

This booklet represents the collaboration of nonprofit conservation groups, state and county government, and the nursery industry. We believe that preventing introductions is the most efficient way to reduce the spread and impact of invasive species. Whether you are looking for new and exciting plants to add to your garden, or you are looking to replace invasive plants in your yard, we hope this book will be a valuable resource. Working together, we can ensure that future generations enjoy pristine wild areas in Washington State.

Please note that this booklet is a product of an ongoing project. Visit www.invasivespeciescoalition.org for updates and to learn about other problematic plants and their alternatives.
**INVASIVE**

**Common Fennel**
*Ruta graveolens*

*Non-bulbing varieties* of this herb are prized for their tall, feathery, aromatic, and often colorful foliage. However, this perennial colonizes grasslands and disturbed areas, including roadsides and abandoned lots, where dense stands can crowd out native flora. Fennel escapees are a serious problem in California, particularly in native open lands and along the coast. Fennel invasions are becoming a common sight in western Washington and may pose an additional threat to our state’s vanishing grasslands.

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Florence Fennel, Finocchio, Bulbing Fennel**
*Ruta graveolens var. azoricum*

This plant is most like common fennel: ideal for culinary uses and with the same feathery foliage.

- The flavor of foliage and seeds are very similar to common fennel, the bulbs are a valued vegetable in many cuisines.
- Foliage is green and has a feathery texture like common fennel, but the plant is smaller in stature (2-3 feet, not 4-6 feet).
- Like common fennel, Florence fennel likes full sun and well-drained soils.
- Yellow flowers attract butterflies and foliage feeds butterfly larvae.

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Dill**
*Anethum graveolens*

The foliage of this plant is also feathery and reaches 3-4 feet.

- With a wonderful feathery foliage, dill offers a fennel-like hazy texture, although the plant is slightly smaller in stature.
- Dill is easy to grow in sunny, well-drained sites.
- Like fennel, it will self-sow in your garden, so remove spent flower-heads before seeds scatter.
- Flat yellow flowers appear about the same time as those of fennel, attracting butterflies, and foliage feeds butterfly larvae.

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Cosmos**
*Cosmos bipinnatus*

Cosmos foliage is ferny like common fennel, but its daisy-like flowers differ.

- This annual has a long bloom time lasting from summer into autumn.
- It adds pink to white color to the garden.
- Because of the profuse, 3-inch daisy-like flowers, the effect of cosmos in the garden is different from fennel.
- Easy to grow and care for, cosmos can be deadheaded to prolong flowering.
- Prefers well-drained soils and needs sunny sites, like common fennel.

**ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS**

(None)
HERBACEOUS

INVASIVE

Policeman’s Helmet
Impatiens glandulifera

Policeman’s helmet has pretty pink-to-purple flowers and is unusually tall for an annual plant, reaching a maximum height of 10 feet. A garden escapee, this prolific, self-seeding plant has heavily colonized lowland riparian areas, including forests, stream banks, and roadside thickets, where it dominates native plant communities. Already considered a serious problem in Great Britain, it is still often illegally exchanged amongst garden groups in Washington.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Loddon Anna Bellflower
Campanula lactiflora

An upright long blooming perennial for a well-drained, sunny to partly shady site.
- This easy-to-grow perennial will last in your garden to add color and texture over many years
- The upright habit to 30 inches adds similar texture and height to the garden
- Beautiful pink-white star shaped flowers on panicles are similar in color, but not form, to policeman’s helmet
- With a long, early summer bloom-time, it does not add color in late summer

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Delphinium, Larkspur
Delphinium parishii ‘Sky Blue,’ D. x elatum ‘Pacific Giants,’ ‘Magic Fountains’

An upright, taller herbaceous perennial for a sunny site.
- Flower color ranges from white to deep lavenders and blues
- Some cultivars reach heights similar to policeman’s helmet
- Spurred flowers on long spikes attract butterflies
- Deciduous perennial grows back stronger each year; check with your local nursery for disease resistant varieties

Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis & cultivars

An upright herbaceous perennial for a moist, sunny to partly shady site
- Grows in similar conditions as policeman’s helmet: moist soils and part shade
- Can reach heights of 3 feet, similar to policeman’s helmet
- Blooms are generally bright red, though color can vary in some cultivars
- Attracts hummingbirds

ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS
Cleome species, Gilia species, Ipomopsis species, Linum perenne, Mimulus guttata, M. lewisii, Nicotiana mutabilis, Primula japonica, Dicentra formosa, Vancouveria hexandra
**HERBACEOUS**

**INVASIVE**

**Tall or Purple Verbena**
*Verbena bonariensis*

Tall verbena has been a popular addition to garden borders for its lavender, tubular flower clusters borne atop elevated flower stalks. Although attractive in the garden, this vigorously self-seeding perennial is rapidly spreading into fields and open areas around the world, including the state of Oregon, and is on its way to being a problem in western Washington. The prickly hairs on the stem make this weed difficult to hand pull. Identify it early and nip it in the bud!

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Homestead Purple Verbena**
*Verbena ‘Homestead Purple’*

This tender, perennial verbena is a shorter option for color in a sunny site.

- The long flowering period (May-October) of ‘Homestead Purple’ offers bright color throughout the season
- This drought-tolerant plant does well in low maintenance gardens
- Low-growing ‘Homestead Purple’ does not reach the heights achieved by tall verbena

**Ultra Violet Pincushion Flower**
*Scabiosa caucasica ‘Ultra Violet’*

An ever-blooming perennial for a well-drained, sunny site.

- Bright violet pincushion-shaped flowers are perched on thin stems to 2 feet tall
- A great cut flower that attracts butterflies
- ‘Ultra Violet’ is a new cultivar with greater disease resistance than past offerings

**ADDITIONAL HERBACEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Penstemon species*
**Herbaceous**

**Invasive**

*Knotweeds*  
*Polygonum species*  
Giant, Bohemian, Himalayan, & Japanese

Feathery white flower heads, large foliage, and tall, bamboo-like stems once made this group of knotweeds popular as garden ornamentals. Native to Asia, knotweeds have become a serious problem worldwide and are increasingly prevalent in Washington. They rapidly invade riparian zones: blocking sunlight, disturbing nutrient cycling, and facilitating stream bank erosion. These knotweeds are a serious problem along Washington State waterways where they degrade habitat for wildlife and fish, including salmon.

**Recommended Alternative**

*Fothergilla*

*Fothergilla major*

Deciduous shrub with gorgeous fall foliage.

- Small, fragrant white flowers bloom in spring, unlike the later blooming knotweeds
- Green foliage in summer turns to spectacular fall color as opposed to the less colorful knotweeds
- Like the knotweeds, fothergilla sports large leaves up to 5 inches long
- Shrub grows up to 9 feet tall
- Prefers moist, well-drained soils

**Recommended Alternative**

*Robusta Clumping Bamboo*  
*Fargesia robusta*

A true clumping bamboo with an upright form.

- Grows to be 15-20 feet tall, taller than knotweeds
- Unlike knotweeds, clumping bamboo does not spread
- The stems provide the bamboo effect that gardeners prize in knotweeds
- Unlike the knotweeds, *Fargesia* keeps its narrow, shiny leaves in the winter for year-round interest
- Takes morning sun and afternoon shade

**Additional Herbaceous Recommendations**

*Amelanchier alnifolia, Cornus stolonifera, Holodiscus discolor, Hydrangea macrophylla, Physocarpus capitatus, Woodwardia fimbriata* (all WA natives except *Hydrangea*).
**GROUND COVER & VINES**

**INVASIVE**

**Yellow Archangel**
*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*

*Striking variegated leaves and the ability to thrive in shady areas makes yellow archangel a popular ornamental plant for ground cover and hanging baskets. Unfortunately, this trailing plant easily establishes wild populations, in many cases as the result of improper disposal of garden cuttings. Yellow archangel forms dense, homogenous mats in parks and forests, and is a serious problem in British Columbia and western Washington.*

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Heuchera species & Heucherella species**

*Low growing perennials, some native to the Northwest.*

- These plants produce small, airy flowers above ornamental leaves in a variety of colors and patterns, rivaling the foliage of yellow archangel
- Heucheras and heucherellas tolerate sun to light shade
- Their flowers are also attractive to hummingbirds

**Japanese Spurge**
*Pachysandra terminalis*

*This evergreen ground cover with dark green foliage thrives in the shade.*

- Fragrant white flowers add interest in summer, unlike the insignificant flowers of yellow archangel
- Japanese spurge tolerates partial sun to full shade, like yellow archangel
- Has beautiful, deep green leaves

**ADDITIONAL GROUND COVER & VINES RECOMMENDATIONS**

-Dicentra formosa, Epimedium species, Maianthemum dilatatum, Oxalis oregana, Sarcococca humilis, Tiarella trifoliata
INVASIVE

Old Man’s Beard & Silverlace Vine
*Clematis vitalba & Polygonum albertii*

Climbing vines such as old man’s beard and silverlace vine are commonly used on arbors and trellises. Yet these vines can establish in forests and along riverbanks where they can smother shrubs and trees and form dense mats in the understory, displacing native flora. Both vines produce thousands of tiny seeds, which are spread by wind or carried on the bodies of birds. Silverlace vine can also regenerate from garden cuttings tossed aside, making escape from cultivation easy.

CLASS C WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Sweet Autumn Clematis
*Clematis paniculata or dioscoreifolia*

This clematis is a vigorous and fragrant climber.
- Fragrant creamy white flowers
- Like the invasive vines, this is a robust climber
- Takes full sun to partial shade
- Flowers from summer to fall, like silver lace vine and old man’s beard
- Grows up to 20 feet tall

ITALIAN CLEMATIS

*Clematis viticella & cultivars*

This species includes a variety of colorful cultivars.
- Various flower colors to choose from, other than just the white flowering, invasive vines
- Growing only 15 feet tall, it does not overburden trees like the invasive vines
- Prefers full sun
- Like silverlace vine and old man’s beard, this plant is not particular about soil type

ORANGE HONEYSUCKLE

*Lonicera ciliosa*

Colorful northwest native that butterflies and birds love too.
- Brilliant orange instead of white flowers
- Up to 30 feet tall, like old man’s beard
- Takes full sun to partial shade
- Blooms from May to July, earlier than either of the invasive vines
- Attracts birds and butterflies with edible berries and nectar flowers

ADDITIONAL GROUND COVER & VINES RECOMMENDATIONS

*Actinidia kolomikta, Akebia quinata, Schizophera hydrangeoides*
Ground Cover & Vines

Invasive

Atlantic or Irish Ivy & English Ivy Cultivars

While over 400 cultivars of ivy are used for landscaping, only a few are considered invasive. When allowed to climb and mature, invasive ivies produce seed-filled berries which are spread by birds. A serious problem in western Washington, these cultivars spread into forests where the vines block sunlight, smother trees, and encourage rot. Dense mats of ivy blanket the forest understory, displace native flora, preclude forest seedlings, and harbor pests such as rats.

Recommended Alternative

Innikinnick
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Great native plant for carpeting the ground and helping sustain wildlife.

- Evergreen foliage and mat-like spreading habit gives an emerald look year-round
- Like ivy, inkinnick is adapted to well-drained sandy soils and sun
- Though drought tolerant once established, unlike ivy, it does not tolerate shade
- Unlike ivy, innikinnick flowers are ornamental. White tinged pink bells appear in summer, with red berries following in late summer

Climbing Hydrangea
Hydrangea anomala subspecies petiolaris

A good vine for climbing trees or walls or fences: holds on like ivy.

- Medium green, heart-shaped leaves are beautiful, but different in texture and scale
- Large-leaved deciduous foliage will cover like ivy in summer, and cinnamon-red shaggy bark offers winter ornament
- Unlike ivy, it has beautiful lacy hydrangea-like blooms of cream-white in June which are good for dried arrangements
- Plant is relatively disease free and easy to care for

Additional Ground Cover & Vines Recommendations

All purpose: Hedera helix ‘Hahn’s’; ground cover options: Cotoneaster dammeri, Euonymus fortunei (see p. 25); Fragaria chiloensis, Gaultheria shallon (see p. 25), Lonicera pileata, Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis, Viola sempervirens; climbing: Parthenocissus tricuspidata; additional climbing plants: see pp. 12–13

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**AQUATIC & WETLANDS PLANTS**

**INVASIVE**

**Yellow Flag Iris**

*Iris pseudacorus*

*With its showy yellow flowers and dense, lance-shaped leaves, yellow flag iris has been a popular addition to ornamental ponds and water gardens. However, this emergent wetland plant quickly spreads through underground rhizomes and rhizome fragments. It naturalizes along streams, canals, and shorelines in Washington, particularly near developed areas. Yellow flag iris can completely outcompete native wetland plants along the shoreline, and its dense, root-like mat collects sediment and severely reduces water flow, affecting fish, plants, and animals.*

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Japanese Iris**

*Iris ensata, ‘Variegata’ & cultivars*

*This is a beautiful iris for pond edges and bogs.*

- Ideal for wet boggy areas and edge-of-pond plantings, easy to grow
- Elegant large flowers of white, purple, and violet blue form in late spring and early summer (a little after yellow flag iris)
- Foliage can reach 16 inches, the scale of the plant is smaller than *Iris pseudacorus*
- The foliage of the cultivar ‘Variegata’ offers a creamy white and green foliar accent to pond plantings

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Siberian Iris**

*Iris sibirica & hybrids such as ‘Butter & Sugar’, ‘Sunfisher’ (both yellow blooming)*

*A very versatile, easy-to-grow iris; the one to pick, other than a bearded iris, if you want yellow flowers.*

- Good for mixed borders with normal water needs; also suitable for damp sites, but not for standing water
- Flower colors range from white to purple to blue-purple to yellow
- Foliage usually 2 feet or less, flowers taller, the plant is smaller than *Iris pseudacorus*
- An easy plant to grow and beautiful in and out of bloom, blooms May-June

**ADDITIONAL AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Iris aetos, Iris missouriensis, Iris versicolor, Iris virginicum, Lysichiton americanum, Scirpus californicus, Iris x germanica (a bearded iris)*

**WA State Noxious Weed Control Board**

Brian Thompson

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**AQUATIC & WETLANDS PLANTS**

**INVASIVE**

*Fragrant Water Lily*

*Nymphaea odorata*

*Although native to the eastern half of North America, fragrant water lily has been deliberately introduced into ponds and water gardens in the Pacific Northwest because of its large and beautiful, sweet-smelling white flowers. However, this floating-leaved plant can quickly dominate the water, denying submerged aquatic vegetation light and oxygen, stagnating water flow, and restricting wildlife and human access to water bodies.*

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**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

*Water Shield*

*Braesenia schreberi*

*A native aquatic plant with floating leaves.*

- Floating oval leaves are dark green on top and purple underneath
- Grows in water 2-6 feet deep
- Found in lakes around western Washington, water shield is safe to use in any natural water body to replace fragrant waterlilies
- Small, dark purple flowers that rise an inch or so above the water surface in late summer are attractive but unlike fragrant water lilies’ showy blooms
- Fish and other wildlife use this plant for valuable food and shelter

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*Spatterdock*

*Nuphar polysepalm*

*A large native aquatic plant found in a range of water depths.*

- Floating leaves on stiff stems sometimes lift above the water during low water levels
- The showy yellow flower is dissimilar to fragrant waterlily’s lotus-like bloom, but no less eye-catching
- This native plant is found in ponds and lakes around Washington and is an important source of food and shelter for local fish and wildlife

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**ADDITIONAL AQUATIC & WETLAND PLANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Fragrant Waterlily Cultivars*

*Nymphaea ‘Luciana,’ N. ‘Pink Beauty,’ N. ‘Hermine’*

Fragrant waterlilies for contained water gardens.

- Less aggressive cultivars of *Nymphaea*, such as the Marliac varieties, come in a wide range of both bold and subtle colors
- These water garden plants should not be placed in natural ponds, lakes, streams, or rivers where spread may be a danger or a problem
AQUATIC & WETLANDS PLANTS

INVASIVE

Purple Loosestrife & Garden Loosestrife

*Lysichrom salicaria & Lysimachia vulgaris*

Both garden and purple loosestrife are common additions to flower gardens. These invasive plants are a major threat to wetlands because of their ability to tolerate saturated soils and spread rapidly into non-disturbed areas. Purple loosestrife is notorious for forming uniform stands; it crowds out all native plants and reduces wetland habitat. Garden loosestrife is a new, serious concern as it has been observed outcompeting noxious purple loosestrife in Washington State wetlands.

CLASS B WASHINGTON STATE
NOXIOUS WEEDS

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Gayfeather

*Liatris spicata*

Eye-catching, purple spiked perennial.
- Tall spikes of purple flowers are similar in appearance to purple loosestrife
- Takes full sun
- Blooms July through September, around the same time as purple loosestrife
- Unlike purple loosestrife, it likes well-drained soils

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Meadow Rue

*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*

Features light and airy mauve to purple flowers above feathery foliage.
- Mauve to purple flowers are similar to purple loosestrife
- Thrives in moist, rich soils, like purple loosestrife
- Full sun to light shade
- Leaves resemble those of the columbine

ADDITIONAL Aquatic & Wetland Plant Recommendations

Agastache foeniculum, Hebe 'Purple Picture', Lobelia cardinalis, Monnulc guttatus, M. lewisii, Penstemon species, Prunus triloba, Coreopsis grandiflora, Caryopteris incana
**TREES & SHRUBS**

**INVASIVE**

*Butterfly Bush*

*Buddleja davidii*

With its showy purple flowers and ability to thrive under a variety of conditions, butterfly bush has become a popular garden ornamental in North America. However, it has escaped cultivation, invading roadsides, pastures, and other disturbed areas where it can form dense thickets and crowd out native plants. In the Pacific Northwest, it is problematic along rivers and streams where it traps sediment, and also in recently logged clearings. It spreads in the garden as well.


**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

*Chaste Tree*

*Vitex agnus-castus*

A tall and upright buddleja-like shrub for a hot sunny site.

- Summer to early autumn blooms adds flower color at the same time of year as David’s buddleja
- Blooms are lilac-like in form, fragrant, and lavender-purple or white, blooming late summer into fall in full hot sun
- Nectar attracts butterflies and foliage provides a food source for butterfly larvae
- Dark green palmately compound foliage is aromatic; the chaste tree is free of pests and diseases


**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

*Pacific Ninebark*

*Physocarpus capitatus & cultivars*

A profusely blooming shrub with beautiful bark for full sun or shade.

- Attracts butterflies and their larvae
- A deciduous shrub with an upright habit reaching a similar height to David’s buddleja (12-15 feet). It can be maintained at 8-10 feet, and adapted to a wide range of soils and exposure to sun
- Blooms are rounded pompoms of white to white-pink and the bloom time is earlier than buddleja – late spring to early summer
- The bark of this plant, like butterfly bush, is shaggy and ornamental

**ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Caryopteris x clandonensis, Hibiscus syriacus, Holodiscus discolor, Philadelphus lewisii, Ribes sanguineum, Solanum crispum ‘Glasnevin,’ Buddleja falloviiana, Buddleja globosa, Buddleja x weyeriana*
**Invasive**

**Spurge Laurel**

*Daphne laureola*

Spurge Laurel is a shade-tolerant ornamental shrub with shiny, dark evergreen leaves and light green flowers. Birds spread its bluish black berries into the forest understory, where the shrub competes with native plants for water and nutrients. A native to the Mediterranean region, spurge laurel is considered one of the top ten plants threatening rare Garry oak ecosystems in British Columbia, and is spreading throughout Washington and Oregon.

**Recommended Alternative**

**Winter Daphne**

*Daphne odora*

This is a winter blooming, deliciously fragrant shrub.

- Has larger, fragrant pinkish flowers than spurge laurel
- Prefers shady areas and is evergreen like spurge laurel
- Like spurge laurel, winter daphne is an early bloomer, from February to March

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**Recommended Alternative**

**Daphnoides Rhododendron**

*Rhododendron ‘Daphnoides’*

- **Beautiful, large purple flowers** decorate this evergreen shrub.
  - Larger purple flowers unlike spurge laurel’s insignificant white flowers
  - This rhododendron does not have *Daphne* species’ fragrant flowers
  - Prefers sun to partial shade
  - Blooms in late spring, after spurge laurel
  - As its name suggests, the leaves are very “daphne-like”

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**Recommended Alternative**

**Salal**

*Gaultheria shallon*

A highly tolerant native evergreen shrub with round leathery leaves.

- Small bell-shaped white flowers in March-June with berries in late summer
- Can inhabit a wide variety of soil types and light levels
- Attracts wildlife including butterfly larvae
- Foliage is often used in flower arrangements
- Thin lush shrub grows 1-6 feet tall, and up to 10 feet tall on favorable sites

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**Additional Tree & Shrub Recommendations**

*Choisya ‘Aztec Pearl’, Sarcococca ruscifolia, Skimmia cultivars, Vaccinium ovatum*
**INVASIVE**

**English Holly**

*Ilex aquifolium*

English holly’s evergreen foliage and red berries make it a traditional hedgerow shrub in the Pacific Northwest. Two distinct leaf characteristics are evident, solid green and variegated. The solid green variety has been found escaping outside of gardens. Birds and small animals use the berries as a food source, and they spread seeds into surrounding areas where plants may propagate. Because the Northwest’s climate is similar to the species’ native Europe, English holly is appearing as scattered shrubs or low growing trees in lowland forests of western Washington.

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Tall Oregon Grape**

*Mahonia aquifolium*

Plant with a dense, upright, almost pillar-like habit and dark green holly-like leaves.

- A great native plant, for screening and hedging in a sunny site where it remains densely cloaked with leaves
- Tall Oregon grape will grow to reach 8-10 feet in time, it is smaller than holly
- Unlike holly, this plant’s bright yellow blooms are ornamental. They appear in very early spring and are followed by blue-black, not red, berries in summer.
- Easy to grow in a variety of soils, it has no disfiguring pests

**RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE**

**Holly-Leafed Osmanthus or False Holly**

*Osmanthus heterophyllus*

Great plant for screening, osmanthus looks like a English holly without berries.

- This plant is often mistaken for a holly and, like holly, is well suited for screening and hedges because of its densely branched upright habit
- The absence of red berries is compensated by small but very fragrant flowers in autumn
- Grows well in a variety of soil types and in sun or partial shade and will reach 15 feet or more
- Easy to care for, it is free of any disfiguring diseases or pests

**ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Berberis x gladwynensis ‘William Penn’, Eucryphia glutinosa, Pyracantha ‘Mohave’, Pyracantha koidzumii ‘Victory’, or other disease resistant varieties of Pyracantha, Ilex aquifolium ‘Ferox Argenta’ and ‘Gold Coast’*
INVASIVE

Black Locust
Robinia pseudoacacia

Native to the southern U.S., black locust has been planted extensively for its attractive and fragrant flowers, hard wood, and rapid growth. This tall, fast-growing, and thorny member of the legume family can quickly form dense stands in prairies and along forest edges, displacing native vegetation and reducing the herbaceous understory. It is good at outcompeting many other plants because of its nitrogen-fixing ability. Already problematic in the northeastern U.S. and in Texas, black locust is also invasive in the Pacific Northwest and California.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Oregon Ash
Fraxinus latifolia

Native to the Pacific Northwest, this tree grows well in moist soils.
• Light green, compound leaves provide a texture similar to black locust
• Oregon ash leaflets are larger than those of black locust
• Similar in height to locust, Oregon ash can grow up to 80 feet
• The round, full crown shape of mature trees is similar to that of black locust

Kentucky Coffee Tree
Gymnocladus dioicus

A drought and air pollution tolerant tree for moist, well-drained sites.
• Small leaflets on compound leaves provide a light and airy texture
• Seed pods similar to those of black locust can be avoided by planting male trees
• With heights of up to 75 feet, Kentucky coffee tree provides a similar shade canopy effect
• Though moderately fast growing, Kentucky coffee tree does not seed aggressively like black locust

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Golden Rain Tree
Koelreuteria paniculata

This medium-sized ornamental tree tolerates a wide range of soil conditions in sunny to partly shady sites.
• Showy yellow flowers grace what is one of the few mid-summer blooming trees
• Compound foliage offers a similar texture to black locust
• Ornamental fruit pods last through winter
• Like black locust, golden rain tree grows quickly

ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS
Katsura japonica, Liriodendron tulipifera, Sophora japonica
TREES & SHRUBS

INVASIVE

Common European Hawthorn & European Mountain Ash
Crataegus monogyna & Sorbus aucuparia

These small, ornamental trees are popular for landscaping because of their attractive white flowers and showy red berries. But birds readily disperse the seeds from garden plantings into natural areas, where hawthorn displaces native vegetation and forms impenetrable thickets that can change the understory ecosystem of forests. European mountain ash can establish in both wetland and upland areas. Native versions of both these beautiful plants exist. More demand will create supply in nurseries.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Lavalle Hawthorn
Crataegus x lavalleei

A superb ornamental tree in all seasons for sunny to partly sunny, well-drained sites—one of the very best hawthorns for the garden.

- Showy white flower clusters appearing between May and June are more ornamental than the invasive Hawthorn and Ash
- Bright orange-red crabapple fruits contrast with autumn leaves and dark bark
- Glossy, dark green and boldly textured leaves develop a beautiful bronze tinge in the fall
- This tree is eminently suited to urban and suburban gardens, reaching 25-30 feet tall and 20-25 feet wide

Douglas Hawthorn
Crataegus douglasii

Native to western North America, this small tree can easily be confused with the invasive Crataegus monogyna.

- Similar in appearance to the single-seeded invasive hawthorn, Douglas hawthorn can be distinguished by the three to five nutlets found in the fruit and less-highly lobed leaves
- Showy white flowers open in late spring
- Provides erosion control in moist soil conditions and riparian areas

ADDITIONAL TREE & SHRUB RECOMMENDATIONS
Amelanchier alnifolia, Crataegus columbiana, Crataegus phaenopyrum, Malus ‘Everest’, Sophora japonica, Sorbus commixta, Sorbus hupehensis

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Western Crabapple
Malus fusca

A Pacific Coast native for moist soils in a sunny to partly shady site.

- Edible but tart red crabapple fruits are visible in late summer to fall
- Red or yellow-orange leaf color highlights your garden in fall
- Pretty white to pink flowers appear in mid-April
- A small shrub or accent tree that grows to 35 feet in height

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Pat Breen, Oregon State University
Pat Breen, Oregon State University
California Invasive Plant Council
James Manhart, Texas A&M
Alan Dodson, Courtesy of Great Plant Picks
Invasive & Alternative Plants, by Scientific Name

- Lythrum salicaria
- Lysimachia vulgaris
- Lamiastrum galeobdolon
- Koelreuteria paniculata
- Impatiens glandulifera
- Ilex aquifolium & I. x meserveae
- Hedera helix & H. hibernica
- Gaultheria shallon
- Fraxinus latifolia
- Fothergilla major
- Foeniculum vulgare
- Delphinium parishii and cultivars
- Crataegus x lavalleei
- Crataegus douglasii & C. monogyna
- Clematis vitalba, c. spp., and cultivars
- Ceanothus spp. and cultivars
- Campanula lactiflora
- Buddleja davidii
- Brasenia schreberi
- Aruncus dioicus
- Vitex agnus-castus
- Verbena bonariensis & V. cultivar.
- Thalictrum aquilegiifolium
- Rubus pentilobus
- Robinia pseudoacacia
- Osmanthus heterophyllus
- Nymphaea odorata
- Malus fusca
- Mahonia aquifolium
- Malus floribunda
- Nepeta pumila
- Nymphea odorata
- Omoranthus catharinae
- Duschandra terminalis
- Pterospermum acerifolium
- Physocarpus capitatus and cultivars
- Polygonum albergii
- Polygonum spp.
- Rubus pentilobus
- Scabiosa caucasica
- Thalictrum aquilegiifolium
- Verbena bonariensis & V. cultivar.
- Vitex agnus-castus

Invasive Plants, by Common Name

- Ash, European mountain
- Butterfly bush
- Fennel, common
- Hawthorn, common European
- Holly, English
- Iris, yellow flag
- Ivy: Atlantic or Irish & English cultivars
- Knotweeds
- Laurel, spurge
- Locust, black
- Loosestrife, garden & purple
- Old man’s beard
- Policeman’s helmet
- Silverlace vine
- Verbena tall or purple
- Water lily, fragrant
- Yellow archangel

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INVASIVE & ALTERNATIVE PLANTS, BY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Aster amellus
Artemisia absinthium
Artemisia dracunculus
Baccharis salicifolia
Buddleja davidii
Campanula lactiflora
Carmenia divisa
Centaurea cyanus
Centaurea cyanus var. alba
Centaurea cyanus var. rubra
Centaurea cyanus var. alba
Centaurea cyanus var. rubra
Centaurea cyanus var. alba
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Centaurea cyanus var. alba

NOXIOUS WEED LIST

To help protect our state’s resources and economy, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board creates an annual Noxious Weed List of the most serious invasive plants (WAC 16-70). This list separates weeds into three major classes:

CLASS A WEEDS
Species whose distribution in Washington is limited. State law requires eradication of these Noxious Weeds.

CLASS B WEEDS
Species whose distribution is limited to portions of Washington. The goals are to contain the plants where they already occur and prevent spread into new areas.

CLASS C WEEDS
Noxious Weeds that are already widespread in Washington State. Counties can opt to enforce control.

Because half of the plants on the weed list are garden escapees, making wise garden choices is an excellent step in controlling invasive plants.

For information on weed laws or weed removal, contact your county’s noxious weed control board. The state weed board can direct you to your county weed board: www.nwcb.wa.gov noxiousweeds

INVASIVES

According to the American Nursery and Landscape Association, “invasive, non-native species are those that can or have spread into native wilderness or managed ecosystems, develop self-sustaining populations, and become dominant or disruptive to those systems.”

Invasive plants are causing serious environmental and economical damage worldwide. These plants hurt Washington’s economy and prized natural resources by reducing crop yields, displacing our native plants, destroying fish and wildlife habitat, decreasing land values, choking waterways, and by diminishing recreational opportunities such as fishing, hiking, and hunting.

Preventative weed control is one of the least expensive and most effective ways to combat invasive plants, and this practice can start right at home in your own garden.

For more information go to:
www.invasivespeciescoalition.org