

	<h3>GIANT HOGWEED</h3> <p><i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, also known as giant cow parsnip • Can reach 2-5 m. in height • Stout, dark reddish-purple hollow stems and spotted leaf stalks with sturdy bristles. • Stems vary from 3-8 cm in diameter; deeply incised leaves can grow up to 1.7 meter in width • Flowers from late spring to mid-summer, with numerous white flowers clustered in an umbrella-shaped head up to 80 cm (2.5 ft) in diameter • Produces 1,500 to 100,000 seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forms a dense canopy that out-competes native species. • Giant hogweed is often found along streams and rivers, but may colonize a wide variety of habitats (roadsides, vacant lots, etc). • → Its sap can cause severe skin inflammation and the presence of minute amounts of sap in the eyes can lead to temporary or even permanent blindness • Protective clothing, including eye protection, should be worn when handling or digging it. If skin is exposed, the affected area should be washed thoroughly with soap and water and the exposed skin protected from the sun for several days.
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<h3>DAPHNE</h3> <p><i>Daphne laureola</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial shrub with a strong preference for alkaline soils • Can reach a height between 0.5-1.5 meters • May grow upright or arched at the base and then spreading upward • Bark is thin and yellow-grey when mature; immature stems are green • Smooth, dark green and glossy leaves are 2-13 cm long and 1-3 cm wide • Inconspicuous yellow-green flowers, usually hidden among the leaf bases, are borne very early in the spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black berries - which are poisonous to humans but not to birds - are present from late summer to fall • → All parts of the plant are poisonous. The sap is known to cause skin rashes on contact. • Growing in sun or shade, it is well-suited to the temperate forest understory and can rapidly colonize areas to form monotypic stands and out-compete native vegetation. • Hand-pulling is effective against small infestations (gloves must be worn to protect against the caustic sap); shrubs too large or too small to pull must be dug out, or cut just below the surface. 	
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	<h3>SCOTCH BROOM</h3> <p><i>Cytisus scoparius</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, upright, tap-rooted evergreen shrub • Can grow from 1.0 to 3.0 meters tall • Stems are ridged, woody, green, and prominently five-angled • Upper leaves are stalked, lower leaves stalkless with 3 oval leaflets; yellow pea-like flowers • Escaped garden ornamental; found on BC's south coast with infestations in the Interior • Can produce impenetrable thickets that limit the movement of wild or domestic animals • Cut broom when it's in bloom at or just below ground level for best control results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invades rangeland, replacing forage plants and can be a serious competitor with conifer seedlings. Infestations along roadways can obstruct sight lines resulting in high maintenance costs for removal. • Interesting trivia about how a 'harmless pretty plant' can become a huge invasive headache: <i>"In 1851, Captain Walter Grant brought along 3 broom seeds from his home backyard and planted them in his new yard in Sooke, BC - to remind him of home."</i> And 160 years later, all the millions of broom plants in BC derive from those 3 seeds....
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HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

Rubus discolor

- Biennial blackberry; forms large, dense, impenetrable thickets that can take over stream channels and stream banks, reduce sight lines along rights-of-ways, and limit movement of wildlife
- Robust stems (canes) that support large, flattened and hooked or straight prickles
- Petite, white or faint pink flowers with 5 petals, arranged in clusters of 5-20

- Canes grow up to 3m in height and 12m in length at maturity
- Fruits are up to 2 cm in diameter, oblong to spherical, black, shiny and hairless; they form on second year canes and ripen from mid-summer to fall
- Spreads by root and stem fragments, and birds and mammals that consume berries and disperse seeds
- Thickets can produce 7,000-13,000 seeds per m², and seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years
- Grows along roadsides, in pastures, along river and stream banks, freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, forest edges, and wooded ravines



Thickets increase flooding and erosion potential by out-competing deep-rooted native shrubs that would otherwise provide bank stability. Found on the Lower Mainland, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Valley, Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, the Okanagan, and West Kootenays.



BUTTERFLY BUSH

Buddleja Davidii

- Perennial woody shrub; spreads by seeds produced in great abundance
- Purple, white, pink or red flower clusters
- Often planted as ornamental to attract butterflies, birds and bees
- Still widely sold in stores and Internet catalogues!
- Escaped from gardens it can quickly become invasive in a wide variety of habitats
- Takes over entire streambanks for miles; can block fragile dune vegetation

- Likes well-drained, average soil and can thrive in fairly dry conditions
- There are many species of butterfly bush; the most invasive is 'Buddleja Davidii'



JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Fallopia japonica

- Perennial, with hollow stems with distinct nodes (looks like bamboo)
- Stems may reach a height of 3-4 m
- Leaves up to 15cm long, flat at the base with pointed tips and 5-12 cm broad
- Small, creamy white flowers appear in late summer and early autumn
- Prefers temperate riparian ecosystems, roadsides and waste places, where it forms thick, dense colonies that completely crowd out *any* other herbaceous species.
- It tolerates a wide range of soil types, pH and salinity

- Creeping rhizomes can penetrate asphalt
- The rhizomes can survive to -35 °C and can extend 7m horizontally and 3m deep, making removal by excavation extremely difficult.
- The plant is resilient to cutting, vigorously re-sprouting from the roots. It requires many years of treatment to control the extensive root system. Pouring vinegar into individual stems cut just below the 4th or 5th node has had positive results
- Occurs throughout Coastal BC and wetter regions of the Interior. Infestations along rivers and streams spread quickly



Two other varieties in BC are Giant (GK) and Bohemian (BK) knotweeds. GK can grow well over 4 m in height. Leaves are heart-shaped, and can exceed 30cm in length - twice the size of JK. Giant knotweed has heart shaped leaves more than 30 cm across.

→GK hybridizes with JK, producing the fertile BK.

For information on how to report invasive plants in your area, go to: www.reportaweed.ca

For more information on the online Invasive Plant Map Display application, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/application.htm