

Invasive Species Awareness Week

Sample for Ways to Help

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To Prevent and Stop Invasive Species We Need Your Help.

You can take simple actions to help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive species:

- Clean your hiking boots, bikes, waders, boats and trailers, off-road vehicles, and other gear before you venture outdoors to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location. Visit the council's Washington Invasive Species Web site to [learn more about preventing spread](#).
- On your next walk, watch for noxious weeds. Visit the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board's Web site to [learn about noxious weeds](#) and if you spot some in your yard or while walking in your neighborhood, notify your [county noxious weed control board](#).
- [Download the WA Invasives mobile app](#) so you are ready to report sightings of invasive species. Check out the [Washington Invasive Species Council's top priorities](#).
- Dispose of unwanted pets, aquarium plants or water, science kits, or live bait the proper way and NOT by dumping them into waterways. Released pets often suffer a slow death in winter, or may become invasive and damage our wildlife and agriculture. When it comes to unwanted pets or live bait, letting it loose is never the right thing to do. Visit the council's Don't Let It Loose Web page to [learn the proper ways to dispose of unwanted pets and plants and to find help rehoming your pet](#).
- Buy firewood where you'll burn it, or gather it on site when permitted. Remember not to move firewood from the local area where harvested. Visit the Washington Invasive Species Council Web site to learn about the [potential dangers of moving firewood](#) or the [council's education campaign](#).



- Do you enjoy catching salmon and steelhead? Protect them by not moving any fish from one water body into another. This will prevent spread of fish diseases, and also protect salmon and steelhead fisheries from non-native predatory fish. Visit the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife fish stocking and transport permit Web page](#) to learn more about moving fish.
- Use forage, hay, or mulch that is certified as weed free. Visit the Washington Department of Agriculture Web site [to see details of its certification program](#).
- Plant only [non-invasive plants in your garden](#), and remove any known invasive plants. Volunteer to survey public lands and trails as a Citizen Science Invasive Plant Monitor with the [Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council](#).
- Become a [Washington State University Master Gardener](#) and help your community identify, report, and properly manage exotic and invasive pests.
- Volunteer to help remove invasive species from public lands and natural areas. Contact your local state, county, or city parks and recreation department, [land trust](#), [conservation district](#), or [county WSU Extension office](#) to learn more.
- Don't pack a pest. Certain items obtained abroad may contain invasive insects, pathogens, or weed seeds. When traveling abroad, review travel guidelines on items that should not be brought back to the United States. Learn more about what you can bring home by visiting [dontpackapest.com](#).

