



Pierce County

Noxious Weed Control Board

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Annual Board Meeting 1/8/2020

South American Spongeplant, *Limnobium Laevigatum*, Hydrocharitaceae Family,

Class A noxious weed



Native to South America.

Aquatic perennial herb, generally free-floating, able to root in shallow mud or wet shorelines, adapts easily to changing water levels.

Floating leaves have a spongy, honeycomb like underside which acts

as a floatation mechanism for the plant. Leaves are round, with a shallow basal notch and light green in color. Usually 0.8 – 2" wide and have a rounded tip and base.



Flowers are pale greenish to white, about 1/2" wide. Male flowers have petals, female flowers usually lack petals. Male flowers can pollinate female flowers on the same plant. Flowers are wind pollinated.

Reproduces By seed and daughter plants, water and wind currents, birds, watercraft and the horticulture plant trade.

Detriments: South American spongeplant threatens wetlands, irrigation canals, (inland water bodies etc.) by creating dense mats of vegetation on the water surface.

Outcompetes native species, light and oxygen disruption alter habitability for other species. Dense vegetation mats cause ditch and canal blocking and flooding.

Listed to eliminate known populations and prevent this species from gaining a foothold while its distribution is limited; currently only found in one site in Pacific County, Washington.

Lesser Celandine, *Ficaria Verna*, Class B, Family: Ranunculaceae

Native to: Northern Africa, temperate Asia, Europe. Introduced 1860's, Pennsylvania.

Description: Herbaceous perennial grows up to about 12" tall in a mounded rosette. Plant has Basal and stem leaves, single flowers bloom from stem tips, 3-4 green sepals and 7 – 13 yellow petals. Flowers are approximately 1" wide. Leaves are medium to dark green, hairless and may be oblong, heart or triangular shaped. Has club shaped, tuberous roots with bulbils, stems may also develop bulbils at leaf axis.



Blooms early spring – as early as March in PNW.

Prefers moist sites, shaded woodlands, wetlands, streambanks, lawns, roadsides. Has also been able to adapt to dry woodlands.

Reproduction: Main reproduction mechanism is through bulbils from tuberous, club shaped roots. Bulbils are also produced on leaf axils.



Detriments: Outcompetes native plants, creates monocultures. Early spring emergence of Lesser Celandine causes disadvantages for native understory plants due to loss of light and nutrients.

Reason for listing: It is designated for enforcement in 2020 in all of Washington State except King and Whatcom Counties to better match its current distribution and to prevent further spread. Still shows limited distribution in most of Washington state.

Wand Loosestrife, *Lythrum virgatum*, class B, Family: Lythraceae

Native to: Europe and Asia.

Wand Loosestrife is a perennial herb with smaller, hairless, with smooth and narrower leaves and flowers that are usually paired or clustered in leafy, open flower clusters (racemes). (Compared to Purple Loosestrife).

Flower clusters are 5.1 – 9.8” long to stem ends. Flowers in 1-3 flowered sub groups (sometimes up to 7), that can be single or in sparse whorls. Narrow bracts are throughout flower clusters. Petals are pink to purple.

Seed capsules are cylindrical and up to 5 mm long. They mature and open in late July – August.

Plants have large woody taproot with fibrous rhizomes that form dense mats.

Leaves are hairless; lower leaves are paired; upper leaves are alternately arranged. Shape of leaves is narrow lance to linear lance shaped with tapered bases. Length of leaves is approximately 1.2 to 5.1 inches long and .1 to 1.6” wide.

Stems are upright, 4 angled and up to 3.25 feet in height.



Grows in Gardens, and moist environments such as wetlands. Reproduces by seed and vegetatively through cut plant parts.

Detriments: Quickly adaptive to an environment, creates monotypic stands rapidly, outcompeting native vegetation and causing loss of natural wildlife habitat.



Listed to better match its current distribution and prevent further spread. Still shows limited distribution in most of Washington state. It is difficult to differentiate from Purple Loosestrife and has similar invasive, monotypic behavior.

Purple Loosestrife, Lythrum Salicaria, Class B, Lythraceae Family



Purple Loosestrife: emergent aquatic, grows up to 10 feet tall, with large, showy magenta colored spike flowers. Perennial tap root with annual stalks, crowns can be up to 5 ft in diameter. Blooms July to October.

Short, slender branches and stalkless leaves. Leaf shape is lanceolate to narrowly oblong, sometimes with fine hairs present. Leaf shape and hair presence dependent on level of light available to plants.

Vegetatively spreads through plant parts and floating seedlings. Commonly spread through

animal, human and equipment vectors as well. Quickly adaptive to an environment, creates monotypic stands rapidly, outcompeting native vegetation and causing loss of natural wildlife habitat. It is especially detrimental to wet crops such as rice and cranberries that are grown in bog conditions.

Listed to better match its current distribution and to prevent further spread. Still shows limited distribution in most of Washington state. Designating for enforcement.



Policeman's Helmet, *Impatiens glandulifera*, Class B, Family: Balsaminaceae



Description: Herbaceous annual, smooth and hairless that grows 3 – 10 feet tall, with flowers shaped like a British Policeman's hat (common name).

Has upright, hollow, purplish tinged stems that break easily.

Leaves can be opposite or whorled, oblong, to ovate to elliptic in shape, usually has 3 sharply serrated leaves per node. Each leaf having 20 or more teeth per leaf margin.

Flowers are irregular, with a wide color range from white to pink-purple with 5 petals (2 fused), 3 sepals (2 fused), and 5 stamens.

Flowers form capsules that contain small (3mm) seeds; Plants can eject seeds up to 20 feet away, and seeds can germinate underwater. Seed viability may be 18 months or more.



Plant has shallow roots and pulls up easily.

Detriments: Very invasive to moist, forested areas. Threatens forests and wildlife habitat. It is found in low riparian areas and roadside thickets. Policeman's Helmet is partial-shade tolerant.

Listed to better match its current distribution and to prevent further spread.

Respectfully Submitted by Melody Meyer, Secretary to the Board.

Beki Shoemaker, Area 3

Erick Balstad, Area 4

Janet Azevedo, Area 1

Tom Bertram, Area 5