

Hello,

I am reaching out to share the survey results for Phillips Lake. The species list is attached. We found no noxious weeds to be present growing in the lake. However, there are two noxious weeds that we documented growing in backyards and along the shoreline of the lake, knotweed (*Fallopia* sp.) and yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). The yellow flag iris is widespread along the shoreline, and the knotweed was scattered around the lake, but not widespread. Neither of these noxious weeds requires control, but we do always encourage landowners to control them when feasible. I have attached our factsheet about these species if you wish to share them with landowners. We had a beautiful day out on the lake. It is a very nice clean lake.

I spoke with some members of the lake community about working with environmental health to do some education about shoreline stewardship and healthy lake management. You should reach out to them to see what services they can offer. https://masoncountywa.gov/departments/public_health/environmental_health/index.php They may be able to come out and educate the community about topics such as septic system maintenance, fertilizer run off and other topics related to water quality.

I will update you if we learn any more information from department of ecology.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



Heidi Steinbach

Noxious Weed Program Coordinator

Email: hsteinbach@masoncountywa.gov

Phone: (360) 427-9670 ext. 592

extension.wsu.edu/mason/

masoncountywa.gov

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3 attachments



Copy of Phillips Lake Species List 5-26-2026.xlsx

12K



Yellow flag Iris Weed Alert 2025.pdf

4338K



Knotweed Weed Alert 2025_reduced.pdf
973K

Lake	County	Date	Taxa name	Common name	Growth form	Native status	Comments
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	large-leaf pondweed	submersed	native	Small patches throughout lake. Identified as the nuisance species by lake residents.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Nitella</i> spp.	Nitella	submersed	native	Multiple species present. Most common species encountered.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Chara</i> sp.	muskgrass	submersed	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow-flag iris	emergent	invasive	Common along the shoreline. Flowering.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.	bulrush	emergent	native	A few patches around the lake.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Fallopia</i> sp.	knotweed	emergent	invasive	On shore in yards. A few small patches
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Isoetes</i> sp.	quillwort	submersed	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	forget-me-not	emergent	native	Sample collected and ID'd by Mason County.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Utricularia</i> sp.	bladderwort	submersed	native	Small species. Likely our native <i>U. gibba</i> .
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Carex</i> sp. 1	sedge	emergent	native	Ecology collected sample for ID
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Carex</i> sp. 2	sedge	emergent	native	Ecology collected sample for ID
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Juncus</i> sp. 1	rush	emergent		Ecology collected sample for ID. Dense along shore in a few areas. Possibly an introduced species.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Juncus</i> spp.	rush	emergent		Includes all other rush species found. Non appear to be invasive.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Equisetum</i> sp.	horsetail	emergent	native	growing on shore
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Callitriche</i> sp.	water starwort	submersed		No fruits available to confirm ID. Only one species is introduced (<i>C. stagnalis</i>), but it is not a noxious weed.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canarygrass	emergent	invasive	Only a few plants observed.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Mentha canadensis</i>	mint	emergent	native	Collected and ID'd by Mason County.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Comarum palustre</i>	marsh cinquefoil	emergent	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	spike rush	emergent	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	three-way sedge	emergent	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Galium</i> sp.	bedstraw	submersed		Unknown species, but likely one of our natives. Saw a few stems growing submersed in shallow areas.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Brasenia scheberi</i>	watershield	submersed/floating-leaf	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canada waterweed	submersed	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Ludwigia palustris</i>	water primrose	submersed/emergent	native	
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Persicaria</i> sp.	smartweed	emergent		One patch growing in shallows in SE lobe of lake. Unknown if native or introduced species.
Phillips	Mason	5/26/2026	<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	pondweed	submersed	native	Small floating fragment. One of our native thin-leaved species. Likely <i>P. pusillus</i> or <i>P. foliosus</i> .

Mason County Noxious Weed Alert

Iris Family

Yellow Flag Iris

Iris pseudacorus

Identification Tips

- Herbaceous perennial, fresh water emergent growing 3 to 4 ft tall.
- Leaves erect and flattened with raised midrib. Leaves overlap to create fan-like shape.
- Showy pale to deep yellow flowers growing from erect stems, bloom May to July. One stem can produce multiple flowers.
- Large (to 4 in.), three-sided, glossy green seed capsule with flattened, brown seeds.
- Has thick rhizomes that can form dense mats.



Non-Regulated Class C Noxious Weed: Control Recommended

Biology

- Can spread by both seed and vegetatively (rhizomes).
- Rhizomes form extensive mats and can break and form new plants.
- Can remain green all winter in mild years.
- One seed pod contains 20 to 30 seeds. Both seeds and pods can float, infesting new areas.
- Plants bloom at three years of age.
- Rhizomes can grow after three months of no water.



If ignored, yellow flag iris can quickly infest wetlands, displacing beneficial plants. Control is easiest when initiated on early infestations.

Impacts

- Plant is toxic to livestock and people. Sap causes skin irritation to people and animals.
- Outcompetes and displaces beneficial native wetland plants.
- Reduces habitat for wildlife, including waterfowl and salmon.
- Traps sediment and inhibits flow of rivers and streams, negatively impacting salmon habitat.
- Can clog streams, ditches and irrigation systems.

Distribution

- Native to Europe, Great Britain, North Africa and the Mediterranean region. It has been introduced in temperate areas nearly world wide. It is found throughout Mason County.
- Will grow in freshwater wetlands, ponds, slow-moving rivers, streams, and in wet ditches.

QUESTIONS? Contact Mason County Noxious Weed Control at:
(360) 427-9670 ext. 592 or weeds@masoncountywa.gov
<https://extension.wsu.edu/mason/natural-resources/noxious-weed-program/>

What You Can Do

While there is no legal requirement for controlling yellow flag iris in Mason County, the Board recognizes this plant as invasive and is collecting information and providing education on control. The Board encourages and recommends control of existing populations especially in natural areas.

Control Methods

Survey area to identify extent of infestation. The best time of year to survey for yellow flag iris is while it is in bloom. Permits are generally required for work done in natural water bodies, including the removal of invasive vegetation. Control should be carried out over several growing seasons to ensure area is not being re-infested. **Contact Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board for more information.**

Prevention

Sale and distribution of yellow flag iris is prohibited in Washington State. Do not plant yellow flag iris in your yard or in natural areas. Survey wet areas for plants and dig up small isolated patches when found. Look for yellow flag iris germinating in late winter. Clean gear used in infested areas before moving to other sites.

Manual Control

Small and isolated patches can easily be dug using small hand tools. Tough rhizomes may require heavier tools, like a pickax or saw. All rhizomes must be removed to avoid re-sprouting. Composting is not recommended, as rhizomes may regrow. Avoid disruption of soil to reduce number of germinates. Deadhead plants with flowers or seed pods. **Wear gloves while pulling plants. The sap is a skin irritant for some people.** Revisit location regularly to check for regrowth.



Deadhead and dispose of seed pods. Composting is not recommended as rhizomes may regrow. Be a weed warrior by deadheading blooming plants!

Can be confused with native cattails



Inflorescence
brown cylindrical
spike

Rounded leaf
base on
broadleaf
cattail



When not in bloom, yellow flag iris can be confused with broad-leaf cattail, *Typha latifolia*. Both are emergent wetland plants and can sometimes be found growing intermixed. Native cattails have a rounded leaf base and can grow 3-9 feet tall. They have a distinct brown cylindrical spike and provide food and habitat for wildlife.

Mechanical

Mowing and cutting yellow flag iris may work to control the infestation, but must be repeated regularly for several years. Small patches can be covered with a heavy tarp. You must cover the entire extent of infestation for several years and check regularly to ensure plants are not growing around the sides of the covering. Using this method for large areas of shoreline may require a permit.

Chemical

Choose a formulation that is appropriate for your site. Follow the label exactly as written and use only at rate prescribed. Do not apply herbicide over or near water bodies.

Upland infestations can be treated with a non-selective herbicide such as glyphosate or imazapyr. However, these products will affect all neighboring vegetation, including grasses, so extreme care must be taken. Follow up with manual control on isolated patches.

All aquatic applications require a licensed applicator and appropriate permits.

Contact the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board with questions about herbicide application.



Mason County Noxious Weed Control

Buckwheat Family

Knotweed

Fallopia spp. &
Persicaria wallichii

Identification Tips

- Herbaceous perennials that grow up to 12 ft tall.
- Stems are smooth, somewhat waxy, and hollow; similar to bamboo. Japanese and hybrid knotweed stems often have reddish-purple spots.
- Flowers are white and each bear 3 to 5 petals produced along an elongated inflorescence called a raceme that emerges from where leaves meet the stem.
- Leaf shape and size vary by species, and can be hard to tell apart. Knotweed leaves are generally heart-shaped on **all but Himalayan, which has an elongated, tapered shape**; giant knotweed leaves often exceed 12 inches across, twice the size of Japanese knotweed leaves.

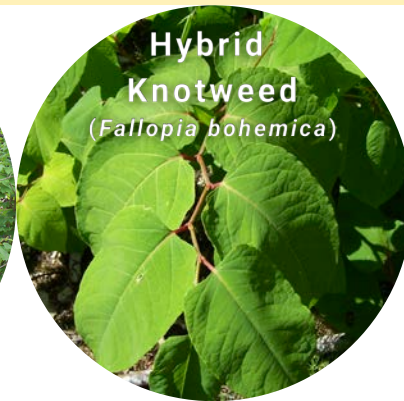
Biology

- All species spread primarily by their woody rhizomes (underground stems), which when fragmented can move long distances in flowing waterways.
- Male and female flowers are on separate plants in Japanese knotweed, whereas Himalayan and giant knotweed have perfect (male/female combined) flowers. Hybrid knotweed more frequently has perfect flowers. Female and perfect flowers produce teardrop-shaped fruit with reddish brown seeds.

Impacts

- Can permanently displace native vegetation, in turn destroying fish and wildlife habitat; increasing the risk of erosion and damaging floods; and reducing recreational opportunities.
- Research indicates knotweed pulls nitrogen out of our already nitrogen depleted soils without returning it with leaf fall due to the plants reabsorption of nitrogen *before* leaf fall. This leads to disruptions of nutrient cycling in rivers and forests.
- Can invade man-made structures such as foundations and roads, causing expensive damage.

Class B Noxious Weed: Control Recommended or Required (see below)



Control Required

Distribution

- Japanese and giant knotweed are native to northeastern Asia. Hybrid knotweed is a hybrid of these two. Himalayan knotweed is native to south and central Asia.
- All species were introduced into the U.S. as ornamentals and for erosion control in the late 1800s.
- Knotweed can be found along riparian areas and floodplains; forest edges and open meadows; and rights-of-way and parks.
- Knotweed is found throughout Mason County, with large populations along rivers and creeks. Mason County Noxious Weed Control prioritizes these areas for control.

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(360) 427-9670 ext. 592 or weeds@masoncountywa.gov

<https://extension.wsu.edu/mason/natural-resources/noxious-weed-program/>

What You Can Do

There is no legal requirement for controlling Giant, Japanese, or hybrid knotweed in Mason County.

Himalayan knotweed is legally required for control. The Board recognizes all knotweed as highly invasive and is collecting information, providing education on control, and facilitating control along infested waterways. The Board encourages and recommends control of all existing populations of knotweed.

Control Methods

Considering knotweed is extremely difficult to control, prevention is a key method in reducing impact. Survey your yard and surrounding areas for knotweed. Once a knotweed patch is established, control efforts will typically require a combination of treatments for multiple years. Sites must be actively monitored for resprouting from knotweeds' extensive rhizomes. The best time to look for new knotweed growth is in May through June.

Manual/Mechanical Control

Knotweed is nearly impossible to control with manual control alone due to its extensive rhizomes.

Any manual or mechanical control method will initially stimulate new shoot growth. If a small and isolated population has less than 50 stems, you will need to commit to an intensive control regimen using one or more of the following control methods:

- **Cutting/Mowing:** Cut stems at or below soil surface twice a month or more from April to August, and then once a month or more until the first frost for **3 to 5 consecutive years**. Pile cut stems where they will dry out, such as on a tarp or pallet. Once *fully* dry, stems can be composted. Note that repeated cutting tends to result in numerous small stems that will make herbicide injection difficult in the future.
- **Pulling/Digging:** Remove as much of the root as possible in late summer for **at least 3 consecutive years**. Always dispose of roots in the garbage as they can remain viable for a long time. Monitor the site regularly after initial removal and uproot any regrowth.
- **Covering:** Use a heavy duty black plastic or geotextile fabric on patches that can remain covered for **at least 5 growing seasons**. Cut stems at the soil surface and cover to 7 feet beyond the outside stems with preferred material, weighing it down with heavy rocks or cement blocks. Monitor for holes in the material and growth along the perimeter. Regularly stomp down regrowth under material.

Prevention

It is illegal to transport or buy knotweed. Check recently purchased soil and gravel for seedlings or sprouting root fragments and pull when found. **Never** dump debris containing knotweed in natural areas or waterways.



New knotweed growth emerges in early spring at the base of old stems. This bulbous and pink growth will become new knotweed stems over the course of the summer.

Cultural/Biological

Knotweed can be grazed by livestock to provide some growth reduction, but cannot eliminate populations. Maintain intensive grazing pressure for **at least 5 consecutive years** and follow up with a manual/mechanical or chemical control method.

The Japanese knotweed psyllid *Aphalara itadori* has been approved for use as a biological control and is currently being tested in our area.

Chemical

Choose a formulation that is appropriate for your site. Follow the label exactly as written and use only at rate prescribed. Do not apply herbicide over or near water bodies.

Knotweed can be injected or spot sprayed with glyphosate when actively growing at bud to early flowering growth stage, in mid-summer to autumn. Glyphosate is nonselective and can injure or kill any vegetation it contacts, so take caution and avoid when knotweed is growing amidst desirable vegetation. Imazapyr, another nonselective herbicide, can also be used for spot spray treatment and is considered an effective treatment method for the control of knotweed. Aminopyralid can also be effectively used to spot spray knotweed. Results will vary depending on timing, rate, and method of application.

Contact the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board with questions about herbicide application.

