

# Attack of the Killer Invasives!

Larry King

Certified OSU Extension Service  
Master Gardener™

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**Oregon State University**  
Extension Service  
Master Gardener™



English Ivy  
(*Hedera helix*)

# OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners™

- Volunteers who are trained in science-based, sustainable gardening practices.
- Connected to Oregon State University and use both science and local knowledge to inform our educational outreach.
- We strive to make the resources of Oregon State University accessible to all members of our community.
- These resources include horticultural research findings and publications, as well as hands-on plant clinics.

# Invasive Plants

“An invasive species is an organism that is not native to the local ecosystem and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

Between 30-80% of invasive plants were introduced on purpose by gardeners.

source: OSU Extension Catalog



Example: Scotch Broom (*Cytis scoparius*)

# Invasive Species

In 2024, the State of Oregon identified 139 non-native plant species that it considers invasive.

The current Lincoln County watch list has 19.

1. Armenian blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)
2. Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*/*B. variabilis*)
3. Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
4. English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
5. False Brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)
6. French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)
7. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)
8. Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)
9. Knotweeds (*Fallopia* & *Polygonum* sp.)
10. Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)
11. Policeman's Helmet (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
12. Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
13. Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
14. Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*)
15. Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
16. English laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)
17. Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
18. Western Water Hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*)
19. Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

# Why It Matters

In the US, invasive plants cost \$143 billion per year to control.

The 21 species on Oregon's watch list cost us about \$125 million annually.

Invasive plants have contributed to listing 500 plants and animals under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

source: OSU Extension Catalog



Example: Herb Robert  
(*Geranium robertianum*)

# Weeds

“A weed is a *plant considered undesirable in a particular situation, growing where it conflicts with human preferences, needs, or goals.*”

Source: Wikipedia



Example: Crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.)

# Common Weeds

Some non-natives have been “naturalized” over the years, and if they do not cause much harm to the natural environment, we treat them as weeds.

1. Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)
2. Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* and others)
3. Field Bindweed/Morning Glory (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
4. Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*)
5. English Daisy (*Bellis perennis*)

6. Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*, *E. telmateia* and *E. hyemale*)
7. Quack Grass (*Elytrigia repens*)
8. Shiny Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*)
9. Vetch (*Vicia sativa*)



# Identification Exercise

See if you can match the picture to the name and indicate if it's a non-native invasive plant or "just a weed."



*Another Invasive: European Beach Grass  
(Ammophila arenaria)*



# Eradication

OSU has developed best practice methods for weed and invasive removal. Dedicated web pages have been developed for each plant.

<https://solvepestproblems.oregonstate.edu/index.php/weeds/>

## Basic Methods:

- Cut (properly dispose)
- Dig/Pull (properly dispose)
- Overplant
- Apply Herbicide (Round Up, etc.)
- Apply Weed Preventer (Preen, etc.)
- Follow up at least annually

# Tools of the Trade

Saws (large shrubs)

Pruners (smaller shrubs, vines)

Weed Puller (dandelions)

Crack Weeder

Claw Weeder

Row/Seedling Weeder

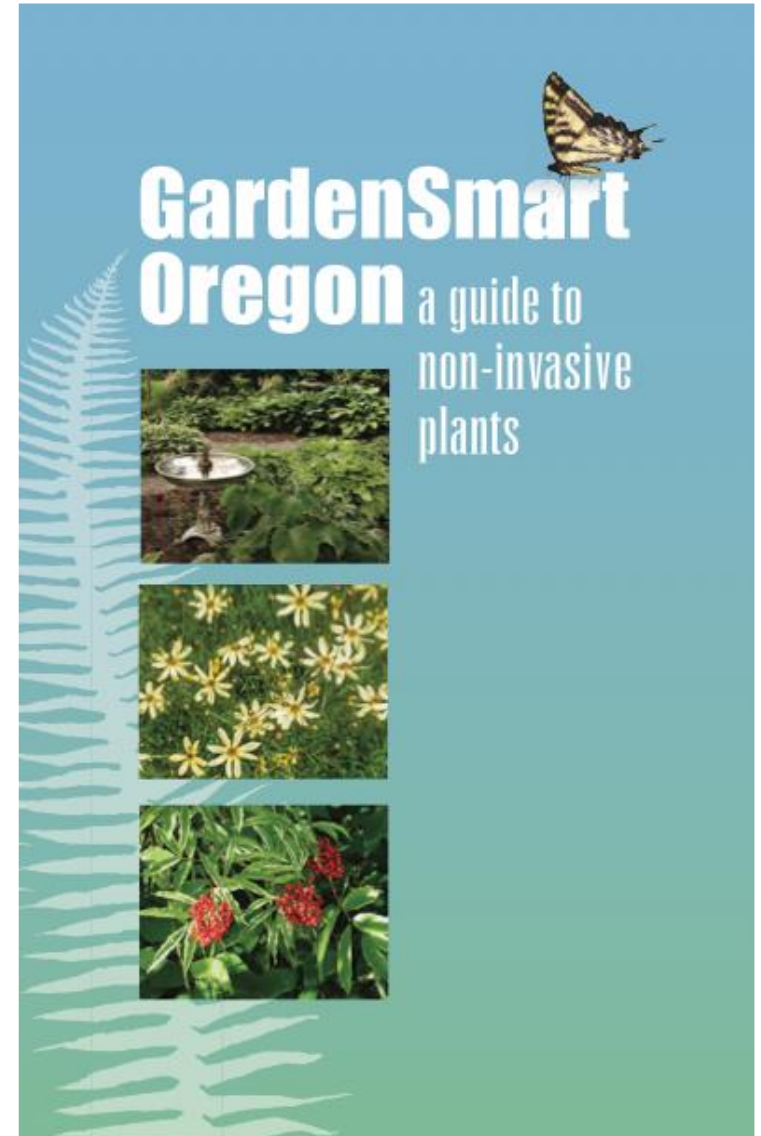


# What Should I Plant?

You may like aspects of the invasives.  
What can I plant that is similar, but non-invasive?

GardenSmart Oregon has created a wonderful guide of plants that can replace your invasives.

<https://www.nature.org/media/oregon/gardensmart-rev-2010.pdf>



# Q&A

What Weeds or Invasives are you having trouble with?

Remember, you can always call the Master Gardener Plant Clinic

541-574-6534 x57414

or email: [lincolnmg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:lincolnmg@oregonstate.edu)

In Spring, Summer, and Fall we have an in-person plant clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-noon at the OSU Extension Office

1211 SE Bay Blvd., Newport, OR 97365

# In Closing

- Invasives are a threat to our native vegetation, to food production, and to the habitat of many birds and animals.
- In addition to weeding, scan your property for invasives.
- Consider organizing to rid your neighborhood of invasives.
- Use the best practices and tools for plant removal.
- These resources include horticultural research findings and publications, as well as hands-on plant clinics.

Thank You!

Lincoln County Master Gardener™  
Association

[lincolnmg@oregonstate.edu](mailto:lincolnmg@oregonstate.edu)

[www.orcoastmga.org](http://www.orcoastmga.org)

