



English ivy.

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hedera. Fortunately, there are both public and private efforts to free tree stands from the threat.

Purple loosestrife – *Lythrum salicaria*
Purple loosestrife is an emergent, aquatic plant that can reach 10 feet in height. It is an aggressive competitor. Once introduced, it can take over a large area in a matter of a few years. The lower Columbia River area, with its maze of islands, waterways and wetlands is a prime environment. Many uninhabited lower Columbia islands are overrun with this plant.



Purple loosestrife.

Yellow flag iris – *Iris pseudocorus*
Commonly called yellow flag, iris pseudocorus grows on the shoreline margins of lakes, sloughs and rivers. In late spring and early summer the bright-yellow flowers rim many of the shallow water areas on the North Coast. Collecting these flowers for a bouquet is not advised since resins and oils in them are skin irritants.



Yellow flag iris.

Tansy ragwort – *Senecio jacobaea*
Tansy contains alkaloid compounds that are toxic to horses and cattle. It's a European native but has become ubiquitous worldwide. In pastures it's characterized by bright yellow flowers on a 3- to 6-foot-tall, grey-green plant with a hairy structure on the leaves and a strong, distinctive aroma.



Tansy ragwort.

Orange hawkweed – *Hieracium aurantiacum*

This European import, with its handsome little red/orange flower, is now one of the top targets for weed control efforts in the region. Many lawns in Astoria are infested and anywhere there is a sunny area of pasture or lawn is susceptible. It's armed with three methods of reproduction that contribute to the invasive nature: windborne seeds, fibrous rhizomes and stolons.



Orange hawkweed.

Gorse – *Ulex europaeus*

As its botanical name implies, gorse is a European native that has been used in northern Europe for centuries as hedgerows to contain cattle. A legume related to peas and beans, it can survive in nearly infertile soils. Seeds can remain viable for over 70 years and each plant produces thousands of pods. Lord George Bandon, the founder of Bandon, likely didn't realize that the plant he imported from Ireland would become such a scourge. In the dry September of 1936, a fire broke out in the dense stands of

oil-laden gorse in the surrounding dunes. Bandon was nearly destroyed, killing 10 people.



Gorse.

Garlic mustard – *Alliaria petiolata*
Garlic mustard is known as Jack-By-The-Hedge in Britain, from where this herb likely originated in the Northwest. One likely place to find it here is at the margin edges of Himalayan Blackberry brambles. This is an extremely nasty, tenacious invader that invades not only disturbed ground like most of the other invasives but colonizes forest understructure, crowding out other forest plants. The biggest concern is the toxins that this edible invader leaches from its roots that kill native mitochondria which native trees need to process nutrients.



Garlic mustard.

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