

Continued from Page 6

Washington state are not supposed to be there! Native Pacific beach grasses like *Leymus mollis* grow in clumps with plenty of room for other native plants to grow and animals to nest. Widespread removal of non-native species usually involves using bulldozers, but small patches of beach grass can be removed by frequent mowing, covering with tarps or cardboard or digging up individual plants.

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

A popular ground cover plant with its dark green heart shaped leaves, ivy easily escapes garden confines and can smother wildflowers, shrubs and even entire trees. On the bright side, large areas of ivy can be removed by rolling like a piece of carpet! Just make sure to pull up any roots left behind, as the plant can easily regrow from root fragments.

English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Planting holly was once encouraged by the Washington State Conservation Society to try to make Washington “the Christmas state.” Nearly a century later, residents continue to cut down these aggressive trees that shade out native competitors. Some birds also eat the holly’s red berries and spread its seeds, making resident control even more difficult. Young seedlings can be pulled up with gloves (the leaves are sharp!), and older trees should be cut as close to the ground as possible. Monitor for regrowth and remove stumps entirely whenever possible.

Himalayan and cut leaf blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus* and *laciniatus*)

While native trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) grows on slender brambles that trail along ground cover and over logs, these invasive species of blackberries produce thick, gnarly canes covered in sharp thorns, and spread into massive thickets that choke out all other plant life, sometimes for acres.

Aggressive mowing and digging can be used to control them, as can controlled burns with permits. Both goats and sheep are also happy to chow down on its leaves and young stems. On the bright side, these berries are ripe for picking in late summer and are delicious!

Tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*)

In addition to competing for space and other resources, tansy ragwort is also toxic to livestock. The plant’s yellow, daisy-like flowers have a very high concentration of poisonous alkaloids. Many people are allergic to its pollen. Tansy ragwort grows on straight stems that can grow to be more than



Photos by Rebecca Lexa

LEFT: In addition to competing with native species for space and other resources, tansy ragwort is also toxic to livestock. **MIDDLE:** Planting holly was once encouraged by the Washington State Conservation Society. Now, it is widely considered invasive. **RIGHT:** Invasive blackberries produce thick, gnarly canes covered in sharp thorns, and spread into massive thickets that choke out all other plant life, sometimes for acres.

6 feet tall. It’s a good idea to remove these plants whenever possible.

Bull and Canada thistle (*Cirsium vulgare* and *arvense*)

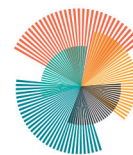
Typical thistles with a rosette of spiky leaves at ground level and stems with tufted purple flowers, these are best replaced in your garden with native thistles like *Cirsium occidentale*. Thistles can be dug up with a shovel.

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

Although this plant is popular as a decorative grass, it easily escapes and competes with native grasses and other plants. The leaf edges of this grass are sharp so be sure to use protective gear while cutting down foliage and digging up roots.

Rebecca Lexa is an Oregon Master Naturalist, nature educator, tour guide, and writer living on the Long Beach Peninsula. More about her work may be found at RebeccaLexa.com.

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- June 15 – Russian Romantics
- June 16 – Schubertiade (Franz Schubert)
- June 17 – AICMC, Semifinals
- June 18 – Together as One (chamber music)
- June 19 – AICMC, Finals
- June 21 – Red Hot Fireworks (virtuosic sparks)
- June 22 – Recital (piano and cello)
- June 23 – Mendelssohn's 180
- June 24 – One on One with Ilya Kazantsev
- June 25 – The “Siege of Leningrad”
- June 26 – Closing Night (Brahms and Dvořák)

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