

Spurge Laurel

Daphne laureola

1. Chris Aldassy, EMSWCD
2. Whatcom county Noxious Weed Control Board
3. Whatcom county Noxious Weed Control Board
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5. Chris Aldassy, EMSWCD
6. Whatcom county Noxious Weed Control Board



Spurge Laurel

Daphne laureola



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General: Evergreen, shade tolerant shrub growing to 4 feet tall. Mature plants have many shoots originating near base. Branches green, turning grey with age. Spread by root or seed.

Leaves: Glossy, oblong, dark green, thick with smooth edges. Spirally arranged; crowded at branch tips. 2-7 inches long, ½ -2 inches wide. Leaves lighter underneath. Leathery.

Flowers: Small and inconspicuous, yellow-green with orange stamens, unpleasantly fragrant. Bloom from late January to May. Grow in clusters of 5-20 between leaves near the tops of stems.

Fruit: Egg shaped fleshy berries start out green and ripen to black in early summer.

Notes: **All parts of this plant are toxic.** Do not handle without protection.

Impacts: Grows in the understory of our native forests where it can rapidly colonize areas to form dense stands and out-compete native vegetation. Once established, spurge laurel is difficult to manage. Birds spread seeds randomly making detection very difficult and allowing spurge laurel to spread throughout natural areas unchecked. Alters soil chemistry.

Gorse

Ulex europaeus

1. Forest and Kim Starr, U.S.G.S
2. Forest and Kim Starr, U.S.G.S
3. © Bruce Newhouse
4. Forest and Kim Starr, U.S.G.S
5. Norman E. Rees, U.S.D.A Ag. Research Service
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Gorse

Ulex europaeus



General: Spiny, evergreen shrub up to 15 feet tall and 30 feet wide. Grows in dense thickets. Branches ridged and hairy; green when young, turning brown with age.

Leaves: When young, leaves alternate and three parted, becoming spine-like, green, ½ to 2 inches long, occurring in whorled clusters.

Flowers: Produces a profusion of yellow pea blossom shaped flowers very similar to Scotch broom in early spring to late summer. Shiny flowers are solitary and often clustered at the ends of branches.

Fruit: Hairy, oblong pods, ½ to 1 inch long, containing two to six seeds. Smooth, shiny, hard, heart-shaped, tiny seeds green to olive in color, turning brown or black when mature. Ejected when seed pods mature.

Notes: Gorse is highly flammable. The spiny leaves are the best way to differentiate gorse from Scotch broom which at all times has non-spiny and typically three-parted leaves.

Impacts: Gorse will grow in dense, impenetrable thickets that exclude native plants and animals and render land useless. It can also increase erosion on steep slopes. Gorse becomes extremely difficult to eradicate once it is established due to its long-lived seed.

Indigo Bush

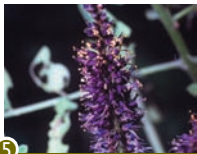
Amorpha fruticosa

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Indigo Bush

Amorpha fruticosa



General: Perennial shrub. Mature plants 3 to 10 feet tall. Branches are firm and woody while twigs are green and hairy. Spreads by seed.

Leaves: Each 4 to 8 inch long leaf is composed of 13 to 25 smaller leaflets. Leaflets are teardrop- to paddle-shaped, 1 to 2 inches long, hairy, resinous, and dotted. Leaf shape is highly variable.

Flowers: Showy purplish-blue with orange anthers, forming 3 to 6 inch clusters on the ends of erect branches. Fragrant vanilla scent. Flowers in early summer.

Fruit: Seeds are around ¼ inch long, brown, curved and either smooth or hairy.

Notes: Extensive root system forms nitrogen-fixing nodules.

Impacts: Indigo bush thrives in wet soils along rivers, streams, ponds, and in moist forests but has adapted to infertile, dry, and sandy soils. Riparian corridors in the Pacific Northwest are especially at risk.

Control may not be available in all locations.