

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the intent of the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board to promote noxious weed control through public education and personal and/or written contact with landowners. The Weed Board recognizes the control of noxious weeds is a *community* effort, requiring all landowners to control the growth and spread of noxious weeds on their land and to prevent infestations from occurring on adjacent properties. Landowners are encouraged to report to this Board all known infestations of noxious weeds.

The Weed Board Coordinator is available, on request, to assist in the identification of noxious weeds and to help develop an integrated and comprehensive plan for weed control which is specific to site characteristics. The plan may include varied cultural practices, land management, use of herbicides or biological agents, or other means as desired by the landowner and/or indicated by site conditions. For those landowners who have a severe infestation of weeds, an approved plan with a schedule indicating a reasonable, continuous effort towards control will be in compliance with our goals. This plan may be extended over a period of years.

Minimal control standards for Class "A" weeds shall be prevention of seed production with the goal being eradication. Minimal control standards for Class "B" and "B-Designate" weeds shall be prevention of seed production with the goal being the decrease in number and density of infestations. The Board may choose to adopt a Class "C" weed for the purposes of suppression.

In the case of selected noxious weeds being cultivated for a known commercial value, the Weed Board will notify individuals on an informative level that this is in violation of State Quarantine Law WAC 16-752. The case(s) may then be referred to the regional Horticultural Inspector if any regulatory action is to be taken.

The Weed Board personnel have the authority to enter all property for the purpose of enforcing the Weed Law provided that a reasonable attempt to notify landowners of the purpose of entry is made. If the landowner fails to take action to control the weeds, the Board reserves the right to pursue enforcement procedures as outlined in RCW 17.10.