### Defining Traits:
Mature seed capsules explode when touched. Most species have horn-shaped spur flowers.

### Impacts:
At least three Impatiens species (policeman’s helmet, jewelweed and Kashmir balsam) are known to be invasive, and readily escape gardens to infest woodlands. If left alone, they will quickly dominate the forest understory.

### Control Methods:
Avoid the purchase or cultivation of Impatiens species. These annual plants have fairly shallow roots and can be hand-pulled easily during all life stages. Check for new growth for 3-5 years after removal.

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### Defining Traits:
Perennial plant with feathery small white to green flowers in drooping clusters. Hollow stems, up to 10 feet tall.

### Look Alikes:
Bamboo

### Impacts:
Displaces native riparian vegetation; causes bank erosion; decreases habitat quality for wildlife and fish.

### Control Methods:
- Knotweed can be manually controlled by completely digging up the entire plant and root system. Bag knotweed plant material and throw in the trash. Be sure not to leave any pieces of the plant behind, because even the smallest segment can regrow.
- Or, cut down the knotweed and cover the area with heavy duty black plastic. Stomp down regrowth under covering every 2-4 weeks and replace covering as needed.
- If you decide to control knotweed using chemicals, please consult a professional who is certified in their use. Contact Benton SWCD for a list of local weed control professionals.

### Defining Traits:
Perennial, woody, deciduous vine grows up to 30 yards long. Has clusters of greenish white flowers. The hairy looking seed heads are present through winter.

### Look Alikes:
Western White Clematis

### Impacts:
Has the ability to cover shrubs and trees over 60 feet tall. Prevents regeneration of native plants. Destroys food sources for native wildlife and spreads quickly along stream banks and forest edges.

### Control Methods:
- If you remove it manually, be sure not to leave any remnants, because they can grow new plants.
- Cut upward growing vines at waist height and allow tops to die back.
- Dig up low growing vines at any time of year. If you decide to use herbicide, apply it when the plant is actively growing.
- Consult a weed control professional for assistance with herbicide use. Benton SWCD can give you a list of certified weed control practitioners.

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Youth involved in this program learn how to identify, map and remove invasive weed species. They provide education and outreach to local residents to heighten awareness about invasive weed species.
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We all enjoy many native and non-native plant species in our gardens and around our community.

However, a small percentage of these plants may become invasive. These plants are usually non-native and can spread aggressively because they have certain traits that give them a competitive advantage over native plants. Invasive plants typically produce a large number of seeds and often get a jump on natives because they leaf out earlier in the growing season.

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Prevent the Spread!

- Be careful what you plant! More than half of all weeds are escapees from gardens, so ask questions before you buy or plant anything new.
- Be careful when you travel! Seeds attach to everything. Always be sure to clean off your clothes, shoes, pets and vehicle.
- Remove invasive plants from your own property. When spraying ALWAYS follow label directions, or hire someone who is certified to use herbicides.
- If you come across something that you think may be an invasive species, contact Benton SWCD to find out what to do. 541-753-7208.

Defining Traits: Meadow Knapweed has lance-shaped basal leaves (~6 inches long) and upright stems (20-40 inches tall). It is a perennial that grows from a woody crown. The head of the flower is nickel sized with purple petals. Bracts surrounding flower heads have comb-like fringes.

Look Alikes: Bachelor Buttons, other knapweeds

Impacts: Meadow Knapweed has low palatability and reduces forage production. This plant invades moist sites, like irrigated pastures, meadows, river banks, streams, irrigation ditches, and forest clearings.

Control Methods:
- If it’s a small patch, pull weeds and make sure to not spread seeds.
- Repeated roto-tilling or plowing will eventually eliminate knapweed, but mowing will not.
- Be careful not to spread seeds on equipment.
- Cutting and bagging flower heads can buy time for more effective control.
- Dig out plants and as much of roots as possible before they flower.
- Contact Benton SWCD for advice on controlling large infestations. 541-753-7208.

Defining Traits: Yellow flowers, silver/white pattern on oval, toothed leaves. It is a fast growing perennial ground cover. Small yellow flowers grow in pairs close to stems between leaves.

Look Alikes: Creeping Charlie

Impacts: Forms dense patches and outcompetes native plants. Not useful for wildlife as food or shelter. Found in ravines, greenbelts and forested parks as well as residential settings such as flower gardens, rockeries, and ornamental boarders.

Control Methods:
- For small patches or in areas where Archangel is mixed in with desirable plants, hand remove between fall and spring.
- For large patches, sheet mulch with cardboard and wood chips or cover with weed cloth.
- For questions about control with chemicals, contact Benton SWCD. 541-753-7208.

Defining Traits: This perennial bunchgrass grows in short (about 2 ft) clumps. Leaves are flat and floppy with hairs on the edges. The flower spikelets are not stalked. It prefers a shaded canopy and well-drained soils.

Look Alikes: Columbia Brome

Impacts: False Brome takes over the understory in forests and can prevent tree seedlings from establishing. By outcompeting natives, it also reduces available forage in forests.

Control Methods:
- Hand pull small patches in the spring.
- Mow in early summer to eliminate seed production.
- Mulching can be used to suppress growth.
- For larger areas, both broad-spectrum and grass-specific vegetative herbicides have been found effective if used for a few consecutive years.
- Contact Benton SWCD if you have questions about using chemicals. 541-753-7208.

Info from King County Meadow Knapweed Fact Sheet.

Info from King County Yellow Archangel Fact Sheet.

Info from King County False Browm Fact Sheet.

Contact Benton SWCD if you have questions about using chemicals. 541-753-7208.

Info from King County False Browm Fact Sheet and http://appliedeco.org/invasive-species-