



The Passing of the Noxious Torch

As many of you have seen, the potted weeds display is an integral part of the NWIPC display booth. The potted weeds are there as living proof to what people might have seen in their back yards. It's a great tool that takes lots of care to maintain. This year the care of these plants is changing hands from one very talented student to another: from Sarrin Mueller to Lyndsey Bodgener. With her nose deep in the invasive plant field guide, Lyndsey studies her new passion. She first found out about the project from attending

the Prince George home-school project fair. Sarrin had made a noxious weeds display with a poster and potted plants, and a sign asking "Are you interested in this Project?" When Lyndsey read this she was excited and wanted to get involved. Lyndsey's mother May says, "Lyndsey is very interested in the environment. As we are driving she points out all the invasive plants she sees." Lyndsey says, "This program is really cool, and a good learning experience." Come see Lyndsey's potted weeds at any of the public events below.



Sarrin passing the torch to Lyndsey

Weed of the Month



Himalayan Blackberries

Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus ulmifolius*). This biennial plant has small, white, five-petaled flowers growing in clusters of 5-20, and produces fruit with seeds in mid to late summer. The stalks are woolly and prickly, and stems are stiff and 5-angled with large, flattened, hooked or straight prickles. Leaves are generally grouped together. Himalayan Blackberry grows from 3m to 12m tall. The fruits are black, shiny and hairless, and each berry produces seeds. It grows in disturbed sites, roadsides and rights-of-way, pastures, along river and stream banks, fresh-water wetlands, and forest edges. Its range

is mostly coastal areas, including the Queen Charlotte Islands. It prefers rich, well-drained soil and sunlight. Seeds are spread by animals and humans. It out-competes native plants through shading and build-up of leaf litter, and forms large, dense, impenetrable thickets that can limit the movement of large animals. Taking over stream channels and stream banks, it can destroy bank stability. To get rid of this plant, mowing can be effective if you mow several times a year over several years. Persistent cutting and follow-up with herbicides, or hand-digging to remove entire root system can also work.

NWIPC Events in June & July:

June	12th - 15th:	-Seafest - Prince Rupert
	14th:	-Farmers Market - Terrace
	15th:	-A Walk in the Garden - Prince George
	21st:	-Aboriginal Days - Kispiox
	27th:	-Farmers Market - McBride
July	5th:	-Farmers Market - Prince George
	11th -13th:	-Atlin Music Festival - Atlin

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PG Community Gardens



The Prince George Community Gardens had a plant sale on May 31st. Gardeners from all around came in a frenzy to get the best plants. While purchasing petunias, people are also supporting this non-profit organization. The society's vision is to strengthen community bonds by bridging social, economic, cultural, and environmental boundaries. You can obtain an organic garden plot for \$10 plus 10 hours of volunteer time. It's not too late to start a

flourishing garden. The society provides lots of help and useful information sessions. The latest one was on lunar gardening. Did you know it's best to pull weeds in the moon's last quarter? The moon's gravitational forces affect when it is best to plant or harvest. Community gardens are great places to meet people. Join a community garden in your area and make your smile grow. In Prince George, contact Community Gardens Prince George Society at 564-3859.

Be Garden Aware

(This information is adapted from the Invasive Plant Council of BC's brochure Beautiful In Your Garden, But Be Aware.) Everyone loves beautiful plants, flowers and shrubs. Gardeners have a long tradition of moving plants to new regions. Some plants that are sown or planted in gardens with ideal conditions, but without the plant's natural pests and predators, are able to easily spread through their fruits, seeds or roots. Aggressive species spread from garden beds, hanging bas-

kets and improperly disposed garden waists to invade adjacent parks and nearby natural areas. Four questions to ask about a new plant: 1) will the plant be invasive outside my garden? 2) If it is imported, could it be invasive in my environment? 3) What do I need to know from my local nursery or garden centre? 4) Is there an alternative plant I can use instead of one with the potential to become invasive? Nurseries, garden clubs and websites can provide more info about alternative species. Ten

things you can do about invasive plants: 1) learn about potential invasive plants; 2) don't purchase or grow invasive or legislated noxious weeds; 3) remove any identified invasive plants; 4) avoid letting invasives fruit or set seed; 5) properly dispose of garden waists; 6) avoid using wildflower seed mixes; 7) avoid picking plants from roadsides and gravel pits; 8) grow regional native plants; 9) discourage propagation of invasives; and 10) contribute to local efforts to manage invasive plants.

Two yards - which one is worse?



Yard #1



Yard #2

#2 is worse because it's infested with really bad noxious weeds. The yellow bushes are broom, and the orange flowers are hawkweed. Even though #1 is a dilapidated old house, all it has is dandelions. Remember that dandelions are not noxious; they have been naturalized and are sold at fancy health food stores. (I tried telling that to my neighbor once; we don't talk any more.) Dandelions also bring nutrients from the subsoil into the upper soil layers with their long taproots.

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council
Report Invasive Plants
1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)
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Kindly teach
people about
noxious weeds