

Invasive Species

Invasive species have been identified by the UN Environment Program as one of the four greatest threats to biodiversity and ecosystems globally. Washington State law defines invasive species as non-native organisms that cause economic or environmental harm and which could spread to new areas.

Invasive species pose a significant threat to lands and waters on Bainbridge Island. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust is committed to responsible and effective invasive species control as an integral part of our mission.

Our Approach

Our strategy to address invasive species involves a tiered approach that encompasses prevention, early detection and rapid response, and control. We rely on scientifically supported methods to guide our decision-making in advancing our conservation goals.

- ▶ **Expert Guidance:** Our practices are informed by the recommendations of the King County Noxious Weed Control, PNW Weed Management Handbook, and our land stewardship peers.
- ▶ **Control Techniques:** Our priority is to utilize non-chemical control methods, employing manual, mechanical, and cultural techniques to effectively manage invasive species. Herbicides are considered a last resort, employed only when non-chemical methods are impractical, costly, likely to cause significant environmental damage, or proven ineffective, but where action is imperative. We carefully assess the risks and benefits, with a strong emphasis on human and ecosystem health. In cases where herbicides are necessary, they are applied by state licensed and trained Land Trust staff or contractors who strictly adhere to guidelines and regulations. We ensure the use of approved and safe herbicides do more conservation good than harm.
- ▶ **Public Awareness:** We believe in transparency and community education. Educating the community is key to controlling and preventing new species introductions. Whenever herbicide applications occur on properties with public access, we prominently display signs to inform visitors about the application, the specific products used, targeted pests, recommended precautions, and contact information for additional information.



Our Commitment

- ▶ We are dedicated to preserving, maintaining, restoring, and improving the Conservation Values on our protected lands.
- ▶ We regularly review our practices and policies to incorporate the latest research and recommendations.
- ▶ We encourage open communication with the community, welcoming questions and concerns.

Over 90% of our invasive species management is done without herbicides.

At the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, we take our role as responsible land stewards seriously. Our judicious use of herbicides reflects our commitment to the long-term health and preservation of our conservation properties.

For further information, please visit our website or contact us directly. Together, let's conserve and care for the natural lands and waters of Bainbridge Island.