



## **APPENDIX D**

### **Profiles of King County's Top Four Noxious Weeds**

**Tansy Ragwort**

**Giant Hogweed**

**Spotted Knapweed**

**Purple Loosestrife**

Floating Primrose  
Class A Noxious Weed



# PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)



## Class B Noxious Weed

- A hearty perennial up to 9 feet in height, topped by showy, magenta flower spikes. Flowers appear from June to early October. Highly invasive and spreads by seed, runners, and stem cuttings.

- Purple loosestrife aggressively spreads in wetland and shoreline areas, crowding out native plants and reducing habitat for wildlife.

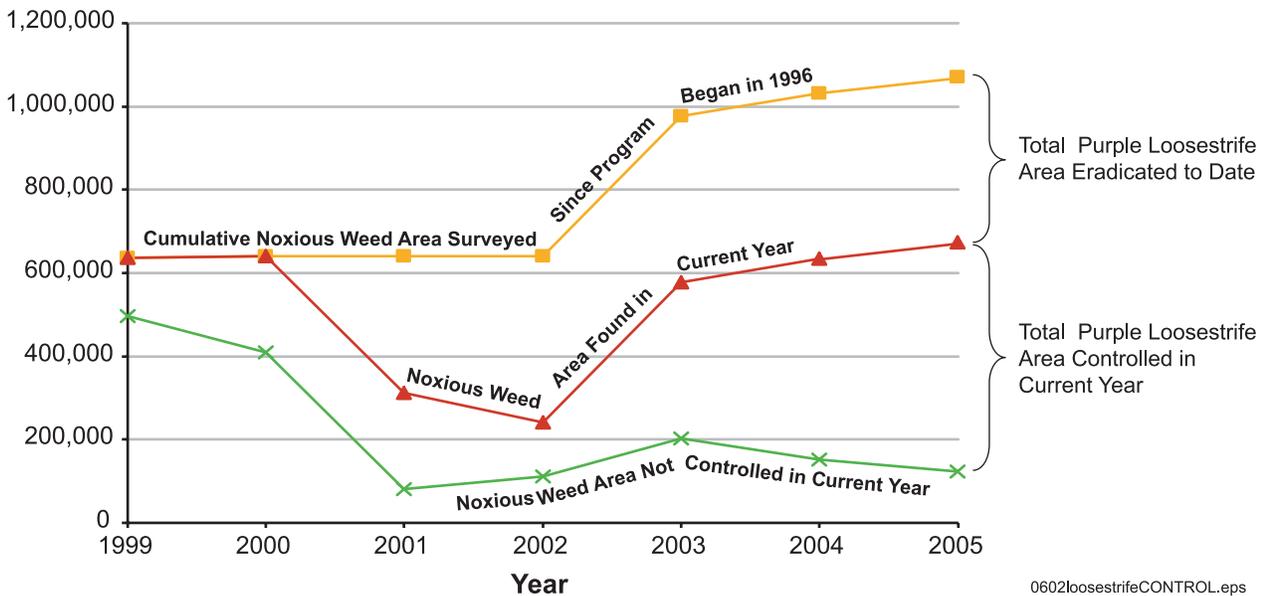
- Found on lakes and waterways throughout King County. Most prevalent in Council District 1 (49 sites), District 3 (174 sites), District 7 (96 sites), District 8 (81 sites).

The goals for this damaging wetland weed in King County are to contain further spread, to focus our control effort where it can be most beneficial

and cost-effective, and to work cooperatively with land managers to develop long-term integrated weed management plans for the large, established infestations.

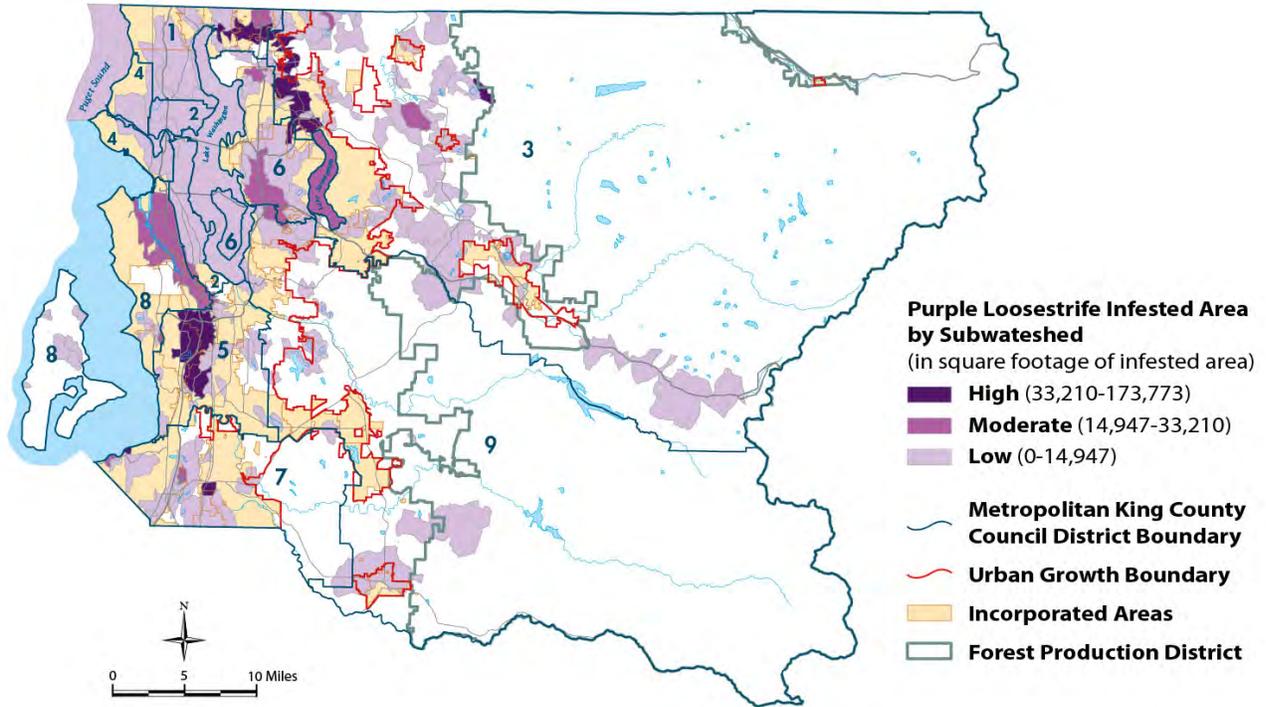
Since 1996, of the 909 sites found, 7% have shown no re-occurrence of purple loosestrife for three or more years. In 2005, 81% of the area infested with purple loosestrife was controlled and 80% of all purple loosestrife sites found were controlled.

### Control of Purple Loosestrife in King County 1999 to 2005

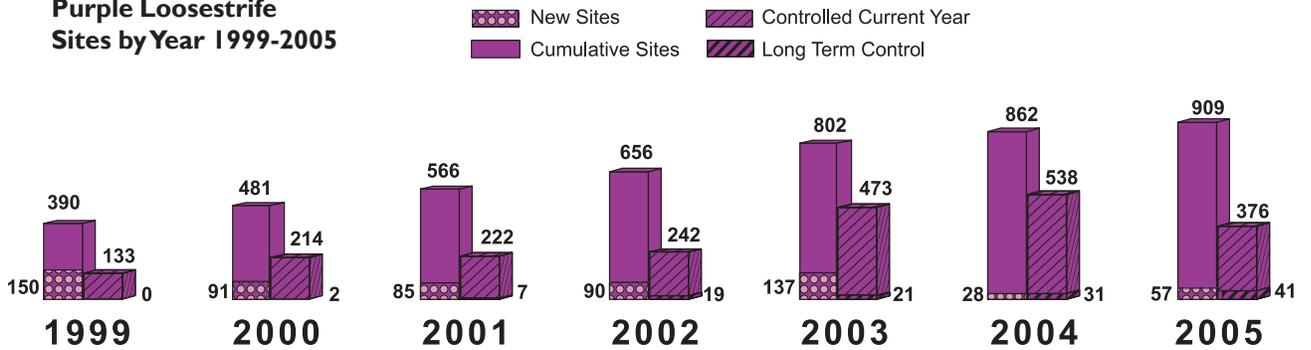


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## Known Purple Loosestrife Distribution in 2005



### Purple Loosestrife Sites by Year 1999-2005



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# SPOTTED KNAPWEED (*Centaurea biebersteinii*)



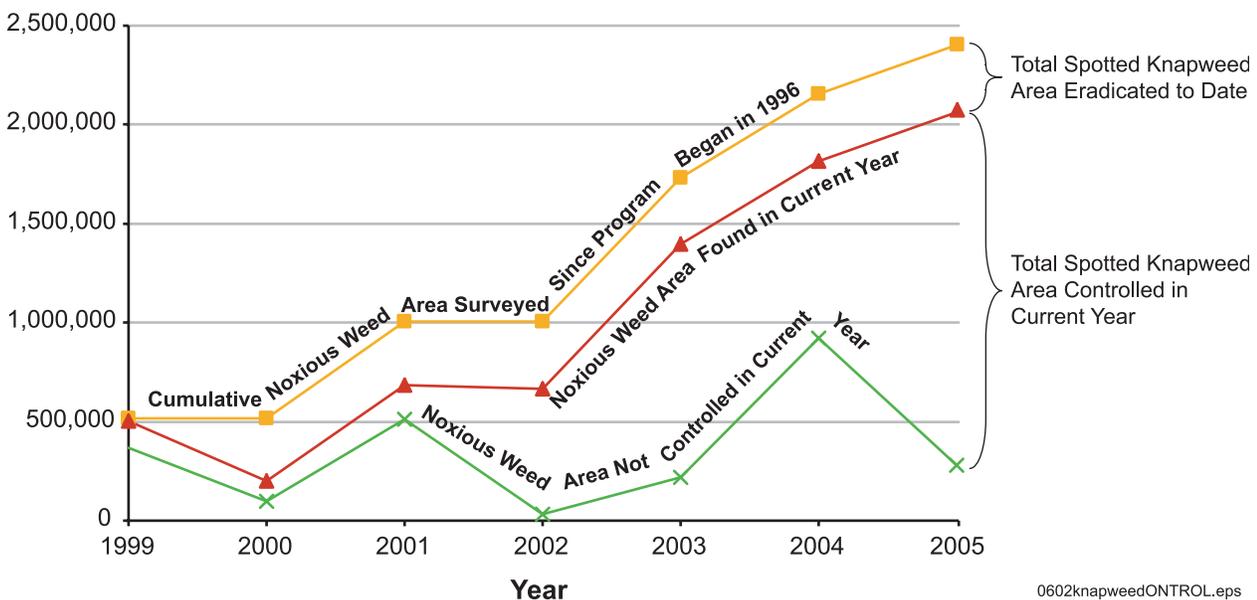
## Class B Noxious Weed

- A perennial, native to Eurasia, highly competitive, that readily invades and dominates range lands, pastures, disturbed sites and transportation corridors. Flowers May to September.
- Crowds out native plants and degrades habitat resulting in reduced wildlife and livestock forage and increased erosion, which can degrade surface water quality.
- The goal in King County is to reduce the impact of this weed by preventing further spread, monitoring for new sites and eradicating isolated infestations where feasible.

Spotted knapweed is most common along state highways and railroads. It is also found in abandoned fields and pastures. Most prevalent in Council District 3 (93 sites), District 7 (234 sites), District 8 (100 sites) and District 9 (86 sites).

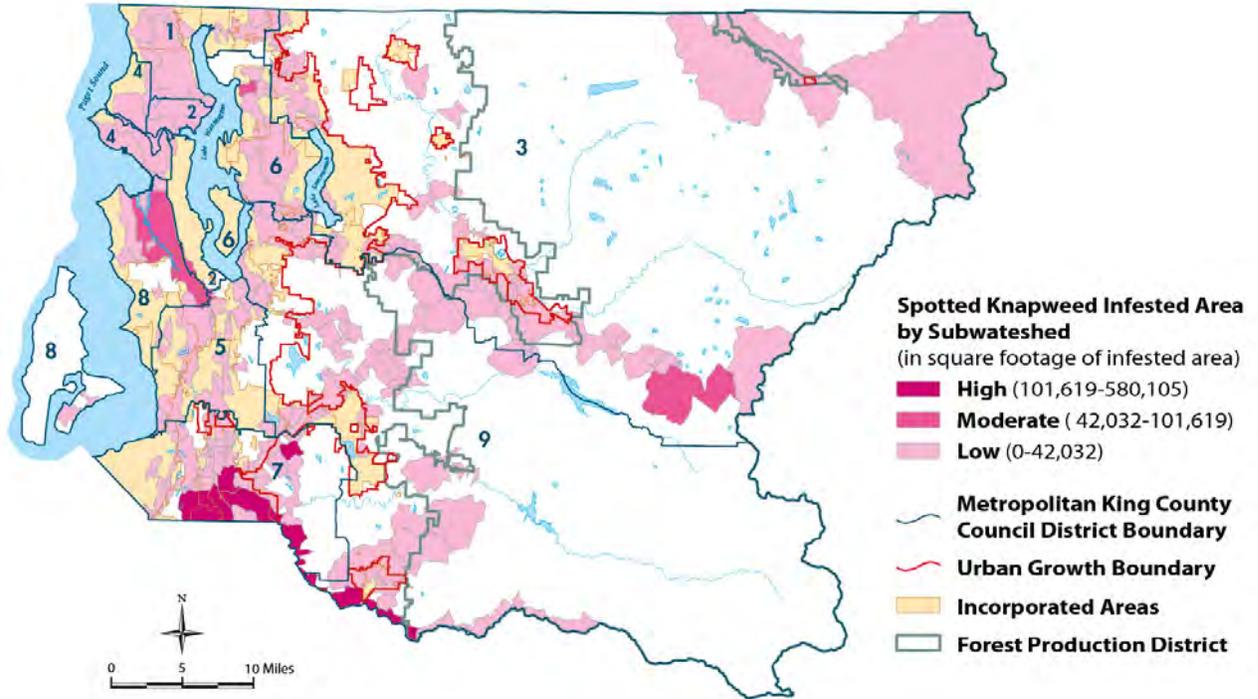
Since 1996, of the 858 sites found, 19%, have shown no re-occurrence of knapweed for three or more years. In 2005, 82% of the area infested with spotted knapweed was controlled and 86 of all spotted knapweed sites found were controlled.

### Control of Spotted Knapweed in King County 1999 to 2005

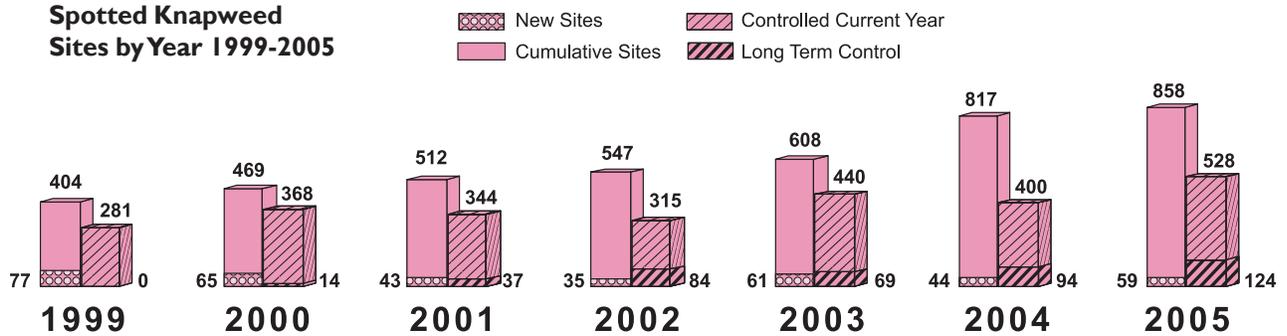


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## Known Spotted Knapweed Distribution in 2005



### Spotted Knapweed Sites by Year 1999-2005



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# GIANT HOGWEED (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



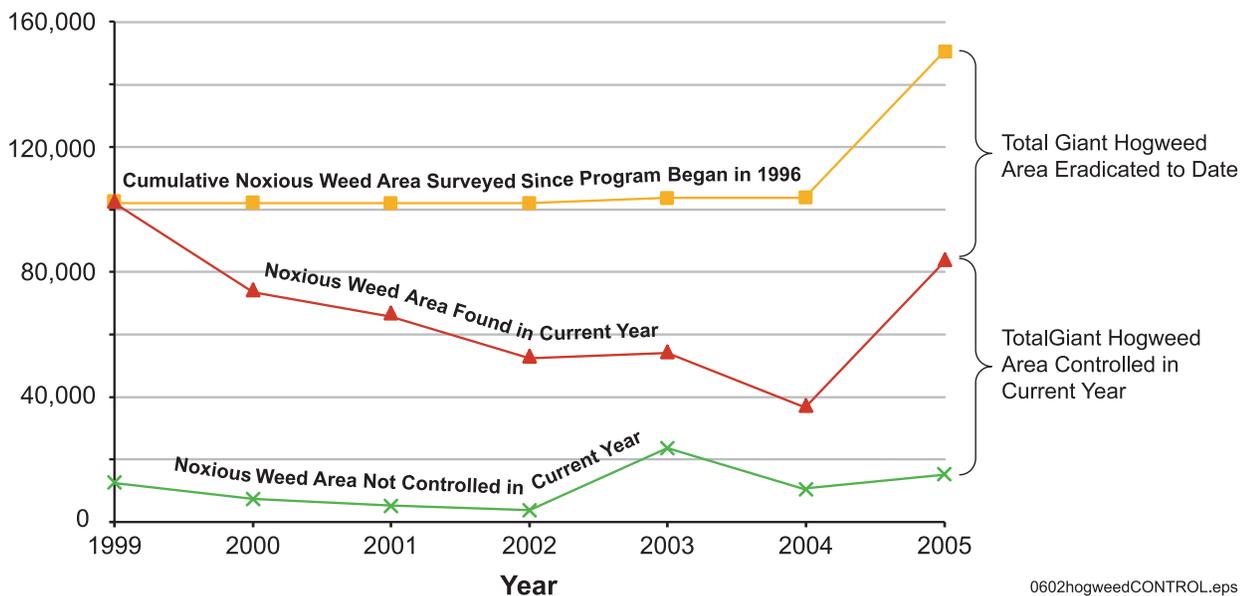
## Class A Noxious Weed

- Robust perennial from Eurasia with large, flat-topped, umbrella-shaped white flower clusters on stout, ridged, hollow stems, grows to 15 feet when in flower. Flowers May to July.
- A public health hazard, the sap can cause severe blistering and scarring of the skin. Scarring can be permanent. Also invades native forests and degrades habitat.
- Typically found in vacant urban properties, ornamental gardens, along streambanks and in ravines. Most prevalent in Council District 2 (322 sites), District 8 (251 sites), District 4 (186 sites), and District 1 (93 sites).

The goal for this weed in King County is to alert the public to its health hazards and to eradicate the weed wherever infestations are found.

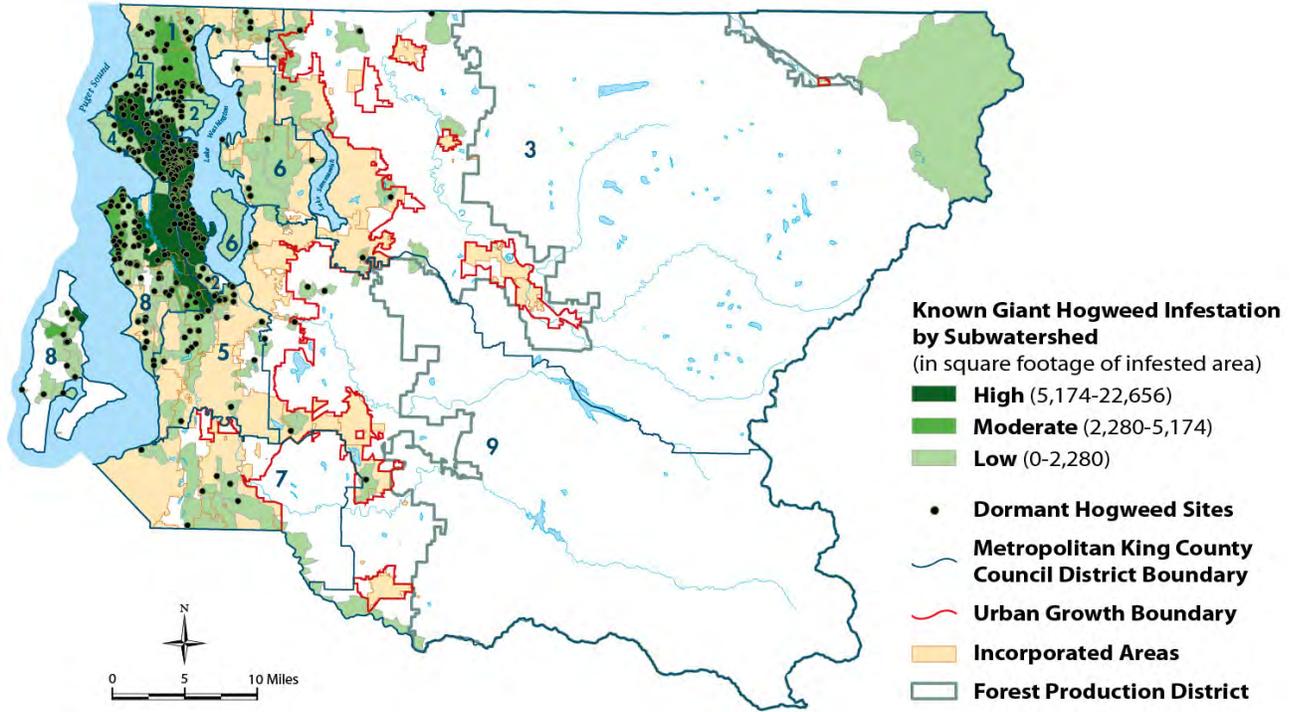
Since 1996, the program has found over 1425 infestations of hogweed. Of these, 45% have shown no re-occurrence of hogweed for three or more years. In 2005, 83% of the area infested with hogweed was controlled and 93% of all hogweed sites found were controlled.

### Control of Giant Hogweed in King County 1999 to 2005

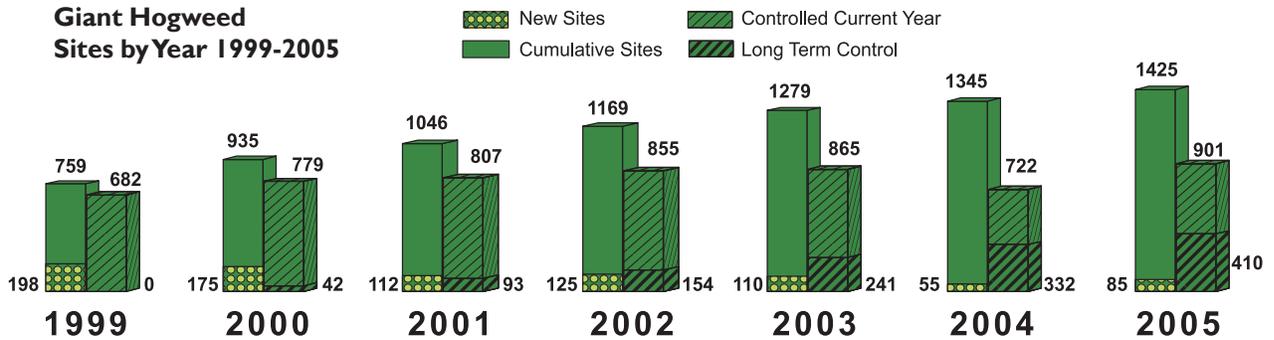


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## Known Giant Hogweed Distribution in 2005



### Giant Hogweed Sites by Year 1999-2005



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# TANSY RAGWORT (*Senecio jacobaea*)



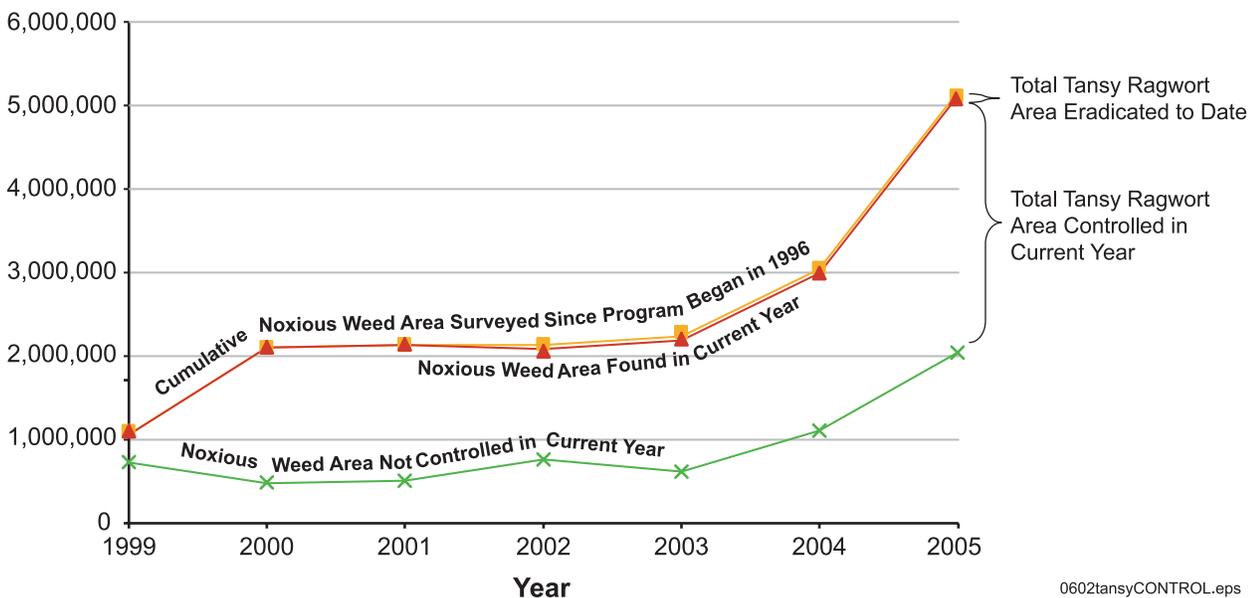
## Class B Noxious Weed

- Tap-rooted biennial or short-lived perennial to 4 feet tall with erect stems, branched near the top, with clusters of bright yellow, daisy-like flower heads. Flowers June through September.
- Toxic to horses, cattle, sheep, livestock and people. The toxin is cumulative over the life of an animal, causes decreased liver function, and can cause death. Reduces productivity of agricultural land.
- The goal for this weed in King County is to reduce its impacts on livestock and pasture quality by containing its spread, educating land managers about control methods and eliminating new infestations where feasible.

Tansy ragwort is a widespread problem in King County. It is found in pasturelands, roadsides and other open areas especially in the south end of the county. Most prevalent in Council District 9 (888 sites), District 7 (782 sites), District 8 (465 sites), District 3 (372) and District 5 (302 sites).

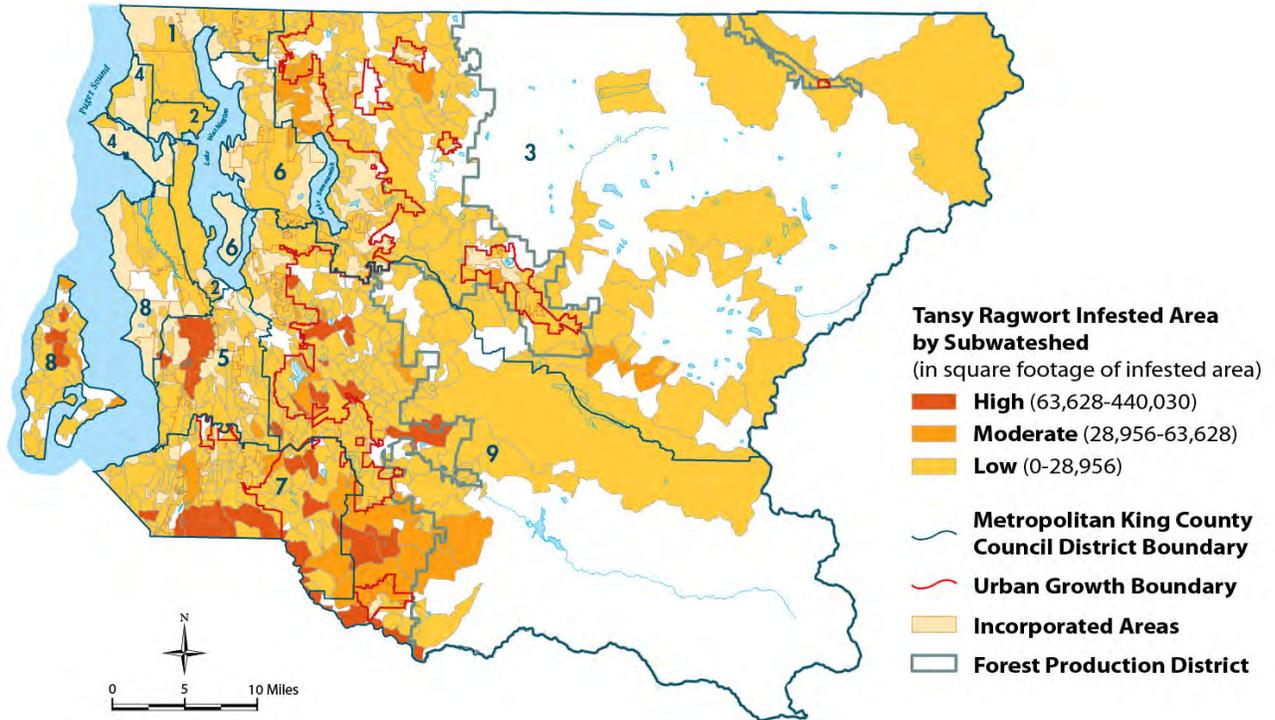
Since 1996, of the 4614 sites found, 17% have shown no re-occurrence of tansy ragwort for three or more years. In 2005, 56% of the area infested with tansy ragwort was controlled and 72% of all tansy ragwort sites found were controlled.

### Control of Tansy Ragwort in King County 1999 to 2005

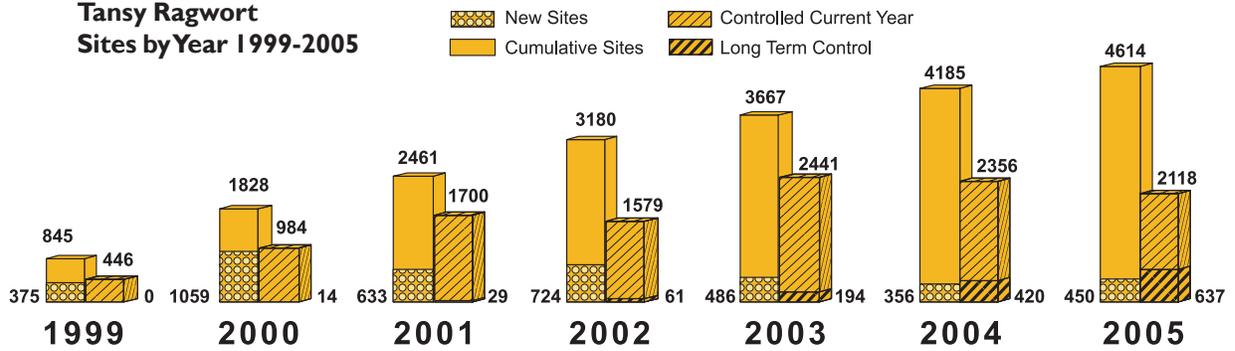


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## Known Tansy Ragwort Distribution in 2005



### Tansy Ragwort Sites by Year 1999-2005



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