

Spring is here and so are the Weeds

Please be on the look out for the following noxious weeds. "Noxious weed" means a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices. RCW 17.10.10. If you happen to see one, or both, of the following varieties growing in your garden or surrounding common area, please remove using protective clothing, gloves and dispose of in a sealed plastic trash bag roots and all. **DO NOT PLACE TOXIC WEEDS IN YOUR COMPOST OR TRASH.** These are on Jefferson County's hit list of noxious weeds to eliminate.

Poison Hemlock, a toxic, noxious weed

Below is a great blog address that shows , with pictures and description, the difference between Poison Hemlock and Queen Anne's Lace. Some similar features, but there is distinction in appearance. Note the difference in stem, flower and leaf patterns.

<http://www.ravensroots.com/blog/2015/6/26/poison-hemlock-id>

Poison hemlock can be deadly toxic to both people and animals. It contains toxic alkaloids which are found in all plant parts. For information about poison hemlock poisoning and symptoms, contact the Washington Poison Center at: 1-800-222-1222.

Tansy Ragwort, a noxious weed, can be toxic to livestock

Following is the Jefferson County noxious weed site showing Tansy Ragwort. The toxin can be lethal to cattle, horses and to a lesser degree goats and sheep. All parts of the tansy ragwort are toxic in both live and dried plant material. The young rosettes of tansy ragwort can be especially dangerous to grazing animals.

http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/images/weeds/TansyRagwort_Jefferson.pdf

Both Poison Hemlock and Tansy Ragwort are Class B noxious weeds in Washington State.