



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham WA 98226
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ARROW ARUM

Peltandra virginica

THREAT: Arrow arum, also known as tuckahoe, is a native of the southeastern and eastern United States. It has recently been found growing in Lake Terrell, in Whatcom County, which is the first time that this plant has been found in Washington State. It is unknown how it was introduced to this area. Arrow arum is a wetland plant, growing in still or slow moving shallow water and along banks of wetlands. It will grow in full sun to shade, and fresh to slightly brackish water. Arrow arum reproduces by seeds, which are water dispersed, and vegetatively, through root fragments. The fruits and seeds are eaten (and possibly spread) by waterfowl. However, it is toxic to livestock and humans (unless dried or well cooked), and can cause skin irritation.

DESCRIPTION: Arrow arum is a perennial grows 1 to 2 feet high. The arrow-shaped leaves are 8-20 inches long and up to 6-12 inches wide, and grow on stalks that can be up to 3 feet in length. The shiny green leaves have whitish undersides, with 3 prominent veins. These prominent veins are useful in distinguishing arrow arum from other arrow-leaved species. The tiny flowers are white, light yellow or green, and are borne in a spike, surrounded by a yellowish green, hooded sheath, which is 4 to 7 inches in length. Depending on its location, arrow arum flowers between April and July. After flowering, the sheath surrounding the flowers slowly decays, exposing a pod of greenish or blackish berry-like fruit. Arrow arum has rhizomatous roots.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Little is known about the control of arrow arum. Contact the weed board for site-specific recommendations.

