



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
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ORIENTAL CLEMATIS

Clematis orientalis

THREAT: Oriental clematis is a fast growing vine, native to Eurasia. This plant grows vigorously to produce a mass of climbing stems. These stems can grow over 3 feet in a year, sprawling over the ground and existing vegetation, and crawling up trees and other shrubs. Its dense growth shades out other ground plants and it can kill small trees. Reproduction is by wind-dispersed seed and sprouting from the root crown. Oriental clematis grows in a variety of habitats, including riparian areas, open woods, steep hillsides and rocky areas. It grows in sun and partial shade and prefers well drained soil, but can tolerate a wide range of pH and is drought-tolerant. Oriental clematis is a **Class A** noxious weed in Washington State.

DESCRIPTION: Oriental clematis is a weekly-rooted, deciduous climbing shrub that can grow up to 27 feet in length. The stems are gray to whitish-green, sometimes with a purplish red tinge. Mature stems can grow over 2½ inches in diameter. The pinnately compound leaves have 5 to 7 leaflets. Flowers are about 4 inches long, have 4 petal-like sepals, and are borne singly or in clusters. The outside of the yellow to greenish yellow flowers can be tinged with a purplish hue. Oriental clematis flowers from summer to fall, with the seeds borne in a tassel-like structure.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Oriental clematis can be controlled through manual and chemical methods. Plants can be pulled or dug, especially when soil is moist. Care should be taken to remove all roots, and plants should be bagged if seeds are present. Contact the weed board for site-specific chemical recommendations.



Photos courtesy of Sue Bird, Yakima County Noxious Weed Board