



# PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Over 70 Years of Conservation

308 West Stewart Avenue  
P.O. Box 1057  
Puyallup, WA 98371  
[www.piercecd.org](http://www.piercecd.org)  
253.845.9770  
Toll Free: 866.845.9485

## Common weeds found in GSI projects

Bittercress – <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Annual appearing in early spring White flowers occur in clusters Seeds are in a long narrow capsule that pops explosively as soon as touched Pull or till all seedlings from early spring through late fall or mulch	
Common bedstraw – <i>Galium aparine</i>	Annual creeping vine Flowers white to greenish Plant and seeds cling to clothes and fur Keep pulling them and brush all seeds off into a trash bag before moving around the garden	
Common vetch – <i>Vicia sativa</i>	Annual vine, flowers are usually purple in color but may be white sometimes Older leaves develop tendrils that help in climbing Pull plants out prior to going to seed and place in compost. Sheet mulching is insufficient for long term control	



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English ivy – <i>Hedera helix</i>	Woody evergreen perennial Flowers are small white in umbrella-like clusters Seedlings may be effectively pulled. Large areas may be cut or pulled. Place stems and roots in to trash. Do NOT compost any part of the plant	
Bindweed – <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Perennial aggressive vine Flowers are approximately one inch in diameter and are white or pink Rhizomes climbing spreading Extensive root system of more than 10 feet Seeds can remain viable for up to 50 years! Very difficult to eradicate, but repeated pulling and digging will keep the weed under control	
Creeping buttercup – <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Perennial, bright yellow flowers with 5 petals, dark green leaves often with white spots Sometimes confused with tall buttercup which has a more upright growth Seedlings can be pulled, but make sure that the entire root is removed Do NOT compost any part of the plant	



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False dandelion – <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Perennial that resembles dandelion with bright yellow flowers Leaves are arranged in a basal rosette and are densely hairy Pull plant throughout summer and winter. Do not compost flowers seeds or roots	
Foxglove – <i>Digitalis</i>	Biennial, form rosette of leaves the first year followed by the flower spike the next year The flowers are numerous on a spike, and range from a deep purple to a lilac Plants should be pulled and placed in the trash or compost Do not compost seeds or roots	
Herb Robert – <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Perennial, plants that have a strongly aromatic unpleasant aroma Flowers are pink or purple 5 petals Plants can be effectively pulled, but care must be taken to ensure that the entire root is removed	
Bull thistle – <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Biennial with a deep tap root Flowers are a rose to reddish purple, and surrounded by spiny-tipped bracts Stems and leaves have very sharp spines along the edges Pull/dig plant out by the roots, prior to going to seed Do not just pull and drop the plant, it will re root	