Ricefield Bulrush

Scientific Name:	*Schoenoplectus mucronatus*
Year Listed:	2008
Weed Class:	A
Requirement:	Eradication
Other Names:	Bog Bulrush
Native To:	Africa, Europe and Asia
Toxicity:	Not known to be

Why is it a noxious weed?

Ricefield bulrush is a problematic weed in 43 countries, especially in rice fields. Ricefield Bulrush has documented resistance to herbicides, making it difficult to control. Since it is currently only known in one area of Washington State, eradication in this State is possible.

How would I identify it?

General Description

Ricefield bulrush is a wetland, perennial bulrush species. It has triangular stems that reach a height around 2 to 3 feet at maturity.

Flower Description

Inflorescences head-like with 4 to 20 spikelet's (clusters of flowers), rust colored to straw colored with a greenish center. Uppermost bract under inflorescence spreading to reflexed, 0.4 inches to 3.9 inches long.

Leaf Description

There are 1 to 2 leaves per culm (stem) that are reduced to a few bladeless sheaths. Ligules are absent.

Stem Description

Stems (culms) are triangular in cross-section and between 15 and 39 inches tall.

Fruit/Seed Description

Fruits develop summer through fall. They are dorso-laterally compressed and blackish brown when ripe.

Where does it grow?

Ricefield bulrush can be found in rice fields as well as emergent zones and wet soils of ponds and ditches.

How does it reproduce?

Ricefield bulrush reproduces through seed, rhizomes and stolon's.

Description used with permission from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, www.nwcb.wa.gov

How do I control Ricefield Bulrush?

The most effective way to manage weed infestations is to research, plan for, and use a combination of prevention and control methods specific to the problem weed. This approach is called **I**ntegrated **W**eed **M**anagement (IWM), which uses mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical control methods that effectively treat the problem weed yet protect human health, habitat, water, and other natural resources.

IWM Control Method		Effectiveness of Control Method			Timing and Notes **
		Good	Fair	Poor	
Digging		G			Effective for small infestations. Remove entire root system.
Hand–Pulling			F		Effective for small infestations. Remove entire root system.
Mowing				P	Not practical in aquatic environments.
Tilling			F		Cultivate as soon as the field is workable.
Bark Mulch				-	Not practical in aquatic environments.
Black Plastic				-	Not practical in aquatic environments.
Cover Crop				-	Not Effective.
Native Plant Restoration				-	Not Effective.
Water Management				P	If found in an agricultural setting, allowing the soil to completely dry out between crops can be effective.
Managed Grazing				-	Not Effective.
Weed-Feeding Insects				-	None.
Herbicides - (Examples*)		***Timing is Important! For most effective control, apply herbicides before plants bloom.***			
Glyphosate	Roundup, Aqua-Neat		F		Spray actively growing plants with aquatic-approved glyphosate mid-to-late summer. Use a quality surfactant. Seeds may ripen any time after June. If seeds are present, cut and bag; do not compost.

*Brand names are listed as examples only. Other products may contain the listed chemical. Clark County does not endorse any product or brand name. *Always read and follow the herbicide label.*

****Timing of control is critical!** Herbicide treatments are often not effective or appropriate when plants are in flower. If the weeds have produced seed, bag the plants and place in garbage, not compost. Regardless of control method chosen, multiple treatments may be needed each year. For more information on IWM, specific herbicides, and timing of control, please contact Vegetation Management:

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