

# Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*)

Also known as summer lilac and orange-eyed butterfly bush.  
Listed as a noxious weed in Oregon and Washington.

**Threat:** Escapes from gardens and overwhelms native plants in forest edges, roadsides, abandoned railroads, stream-banks and some disturbed habitats.

**Description:** Deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub

- Bears long flower spikes with clusters of flowers up to 19 inches long
- Blooms can be purple, pink, blue, white, or red and emerge during summer
- Leaves are opposite, lance-shaped and gray-green
- Can get 6'-12' tall and have a spread of 4'-15' in warm climates.

**History:** Native to China, Japan and South America

- Genus includes over 100 species and cultivars
- Easy to grow and attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

**Spread:** Common in disturbed areas including road cuts and development sites

- Becoming invasive along riparian corridors and roadsides
- Spreads by seed and is dispersed by wind.

**Control:** Remove seedlings by digging out roots

- On isolated ornamental shrubs, cut off fading flowers before seeds form
- To achieve total removal, plant a native ground cover which will prevent butterfly bush from re-establishing
- Herbicide is an effective removal technique, but should be used with caution, especially near rivers and other waterways
- Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture for advice on using herbicides.

**Alternatives:** Tall native shrubs with pretty flowers include flowering red currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and elderberry (*Sambucus* species)

- Horticultural shrubs include Rose of Sharon, and mock orange.



courtesy of Tom Forney, OR Dept of Agriculture



courtesy of Glen Miller, OR Dept of Agriculture

For more information:

National Park Service- [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/budd.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/budd.htm)

King County Noxious Weeds- <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/weeds/weedlist.cfm?class=N>

Oregon Department of Agriculture- [www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/docs/weed\\_policy.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/docs/weed_policy.pdf)



**4 COUNTY**  
Cooperative Weed  
Management Area

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