

WSR 25-24-077
PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY
NOXIOUS WEED
CONTROL BOARD

[Filed December 1, 2025, 2:58 p.m.]

Subject of Possible Rule Making: Chapter 16-750 WAC.

Statutes Authorizing the Agency to Adopt Rules on this Subject: RCW 17.10.010, 17.10.070, 17.10.080, and 17.10.350.

Reasons Why Rules on this Subject may be Needed and What They Might Accomplish: The state noxious weed control board (board) is charged with updating the state noxious weed list on an annual basis to ensure it accurately reflects the noxious weed control priorities and noxious weed distribution, as well as updating its bylaws that are codified in chapter 16-750 WAC. The board may also consider other updates to chapter 16-750 WAC. Sunflower broomrape was emergency listed and now needs to be permanently considered. It was emergency listed because the first known infestation in North America was identified in Yakima County, Washington. This is a very invasive, parasitic plant that has the potential to be highly destructive and damaging to Washington state crops and agriculture.

Other Federal and State Agencies that Regulate this Subject and the Process Coordinating the Rule with These Agencies: No other state agency regulates this subject. Federal agencies are subject to federal noxious weed laws that require them to coordinate with state regulations. Federal agencies in Washington are invited to participate in all stages of noxious weed rule making.

Process for Developing New Rule: The board annually solicits proposed changes to the noxious weed list from county weed boards, weed districts, state agencies, federal agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The noxious weed committee of the board (which includes representation from the Washington Native Plant Society, county weed boards, nursery industry, and several scientific advisors) meets at least twice to review and research these suggestions. A public hearing is scheduled, and a press release and information regarding the proposed changes are widely distributed to newspapers.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting Mary Fee, 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98501, phone 360-561-4428, fax 360-902-2094, TTY 800-833-6388, email mfee@agr.wa.gov, website www.nwcb.wa.gov.

December 1, 2025
Mary Fee
Executive Secretary