

# Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

## *Sasa palmata* (Broadleaf Bamboo)

Assessed by

Regina Johnson (Assistant Natural Areas Ecologist, Westside, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources)  
16 October 2024 (WIRS Version 1.5)

Ecological Impact Rank: **Moderate (65)**

Confidence: **High (75)**

Management Difficulty Rank: Moderate (58)

Confidence: High (80)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: Moderate (59)

Confidence: High (84)

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Moderate (56)

Confidence: High (100)



**Photo Credit:** Regina Johnson 2014, used with permission (Burke Herbarium, University of Washington, 2024).

### Ranking Notes

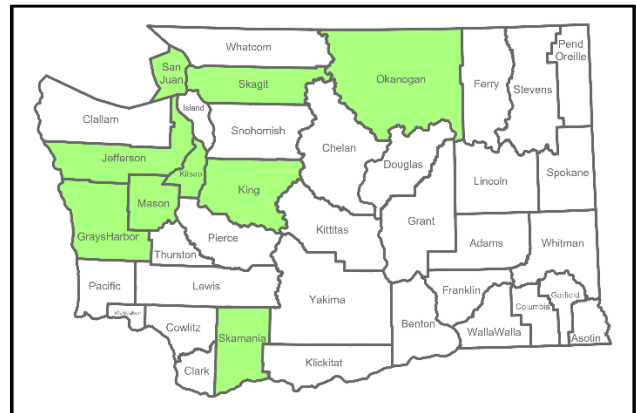
Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

### Legal Listings

[Washington State Weed Board](#): No

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): No

### Section 1: Distribution and Abundance



**Figure 1.** Distribution of counties where *Sasa palmata* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

### Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

**Rating:** Low

**Confidence:** High

*Sasa palmata* is present in 23% of Washington counties (CPNWH, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Herbarium records and other observations

**Q2: Current Trend in Total Range**

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied**

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance**

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded**

Ecosystem types: Forest & Woodland, Emergent Open Wetland

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Section 2: Biological Characteristics**

**Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction**

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal**

Rating: No

Confidence: High

This species may be spread by flooding or erosion in riparian systems or on slopes subject to erosion—anything that breaks off and carries bits of the crown. However, natural spread appears to be rare.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This species spreads by human disturbance, either by planting or disposing of yard debris. Once established the plants persist long-term.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q9: Allelopathy**

Rating: No

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q11: Growth Form**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q12: Germination Requirements**

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Does not spread by seed in Washington.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q14: Shade Tolerance**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q15: Disturbance Tolerance**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q16: Propagule Persistence**

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q17: Palatability**

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

### Section 3: Ecological Impact

**Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes**

Abiotic Processes: Geomorphology, Hydrology,  
Light availability

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition**

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems**

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

This plant may establish and persist in undisturbed natural ecosystems, but only when spreading from adjacent cultivation or dumped vegetative fragments.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems**

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This plant will establish and spread in naturally disturbed ecosystems when introduced.

Source: Professional expertise

### Section 4: Management Difficulty

**Q24: General Management Difficulty**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q25: Minimum Time Commitment**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Some occurrences have been controlled in less than 5 years, while others are ongoing more than 5 years later.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas**

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

This species only occurs where it has been planted or dumped.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management**

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

**Additional Comments**

None

**References**

Burke Herbarium, University of Washington. 2024.  
Burke Herbarium Image Collection.  
<https://burkeherbarium.org/imagecollection>.  
Accessed: December 17, 2024.

Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria  
(CPNWH). 2024. Consortium of Pacific  
Northwest Herbaria Specimen Database.  
[https://www.pnwherbaria.org/data/search.ph](https://www.pnwherbaria.org/data/search.php)  
p. Accessed: December 20, 2024.

iNaturalist Community. 2024. Research grade  
observations from Washington State.  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/>. Accessed:  
December 24, 2024.

