

# Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

## *Schoenoplectus mucronatus* (Ricefield Bulrush)

Assessed by

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3 January 2024 (WIRS Version 1.5)

Ecological Impact Rank: Low (41)

Confidence: **Low** (8)

Management Difficulty Rank: High (72)

Confidence: Low (20)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Low (47)

Confidence: Moderate (50)



**Photo Credit:** Peter Zika 2021, used under Creative Commons license (iNaturalist Community, 2024).

### Ranking Notes

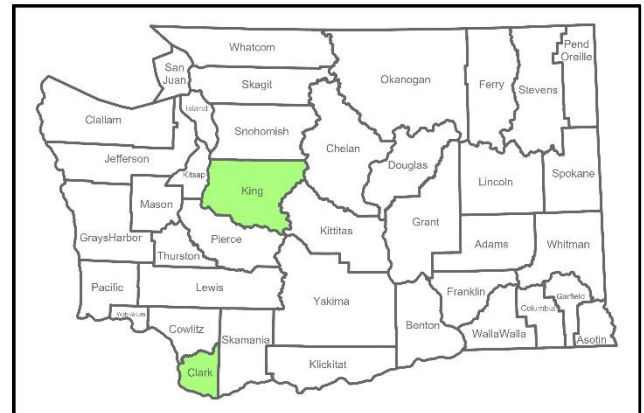
Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

### Legal Listings

[Washington State Weed Board](#): List A, Washington State quarantine List

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): No

### Section 1: Distribution and Abundance



**Figure 1.** Distribution of counties where *Schoenoplectus mucronatus* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

### Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

The Flora of North America notes that *Schoenoplectus mucronatus* is cultivated for wildlife in Clark County, Washington, but has yet to establish elsewhere in that area (NWCB, 2007; Smith, 2020). This species is currently documented from 5% of the counties in Washington State (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023)

Source: Herbarium records and other observations

**Q2: Current Trend in Total Range**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

Spread to King County may have occurred within the past 5 years (iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

Source: iNaturalist observations

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

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

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

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded**

Ecosystem types: Emergent Open Wetland

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

**Section 2: Biological Characteristics**

**Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

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

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

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

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q9: Allelopathy**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q11: Growth Form**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q12: Germination Requirements**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

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

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q14: Shade Tolerance**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q15: Disturbance Tolerance**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q16: Propagule Persistence**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q17: Palatability**

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Section 3: Ecological Impact**

**Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes**

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure**

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition**

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Low

Washington populations are actively managed. If left unchecked, impacts may be higher.

Source: Professional Expertise

**Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species**

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

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

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

At this time, this plant is primarily a weed in agricultural settings and highly disturbed wetlands (Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, 2010).

Source: Informal publication

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

Rating: No

Confidence: Low

Currently only documented from anthropogenically disturbed wetlands in Washington.

Source: Professional expertise

**Section 4: Management Difficulty**

**Q24: General Management Difficulty**

Rating: High

Confidence: Moderate

Initial control efforts in Washington have been difficult.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q25: Minimum Time Commitment**

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

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

Rating: Low

Confidence: Low

Source: Professional expertise

**Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas**

Rating: High

Confidence: Moderate

In at least one Washington site, this species either grows in areas relatively deep water or in mucky soils that are difficult to maneuver through.

Source: Professional expertise

**Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management**

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

**Additional Comments**

None

**References**

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