

# “B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

## Butterfly bush

*Buddleja davidii* (*B. variabilis*)

**Other common names:** summer lilac

**USDA symbol:** BUDA2

**ODA rating:** B



**Introduction:** Butterfly bush is native to northwestern China and Japan. In Oregon, infestations are established on auto and railroad rights-of-way, in industrial yards, forest clear cuts and in disturbed riparian areas. It has been identified in forested areas of the Cascades and in commercial timberland on Oregon's south coast.

**Distribution in Oregon:** Coos, Lane and Multnomah Counties have the most reported escaped butterfly bush populations. Generally all western Oregon counties have some escaped populations. In eastern Oregon, only Wasco and Umatilla County has reported feral butterfly bush populations.

**Description:** Butterfly bush is a perennial shrub growing up to 10" high. Leaves are narrow, opposite, green to blue-gray. Flowers are small, purple and heavily bunched in 8-10 inch flower spikes. Butterfly bush appears similar to lilac but blooms much later (late summer) than lilac. Its popularity arises from its beauty and ability to draw in lots of nectar feeders.

**Impacts:** Butterflybush is a pioneering species that can dominate open habitats. It poses an ecological threat to dry-land meadows and open slopes, dominating these sites similarly to Scotch broom. It also invades reforested sites and right-of-ways, resulting in increased vegetation control costs

**Biological controls:** No approved biological control agent is available. Though sterile varieties have been bred and are now marketed as replacements to the original varieties.

