



WHAT ARE INVASIVE WEEDS?

Most of us know weeds when we see them. They are fast growing, aggressive plants that take over and can dominate our gardens. They are successful because they reproduce rapidly, are adapted to heavy disturbance, and find climatic conditions similar to their home territory.

When they arrive here, they do not come with their own predators. Some invasive plants were brought here deliberately for gardens, erosion control, or windbreaks; others arrived by accident, on a cow's hoof or in a ship's ballast. Visit www.cal-ipc.org for more information.

SFWMA MISSION

1. To employ an integrated strategy for exclusion, detection, eradication, and suppression of designated invasive weeds
2. To educate the public, media, policy-makers, and public and private landowners about the impacts and management of invasive weeds

GOALS

- Prevention, early detection, and rapid response
- Inventory and mapping
- Management (physical/mechanical, chemical, biological, cultural)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Habitat Restoration
- Cooperative action
- Education

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Avoid planting known invasive weeds in your yard and remove weeds that have become established. **Please visit www.plantright.org**
- Ask local nurseries to stop selling invasive plants.
- Learn to identify invasive plants and inform land management agencies when you see them.
- Volunteer with habitat restoration efforts in your area. You'll get to pull weeds, plant habitat enriching native plants, and meet new friends.

For a list of habitat restoration and stewardship opportunities in San Francisco visit:

www.cnps-yerbabuena.org
and
www.natureinthecity.org



San Francisco Weed Management Area Members Include:
National Park Service - GGNRA, Presidio Trust, California State Parks, California Department of Food and Agriculture, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Department of Environment, San Francisco Water Department (SFPUC), California Native Plant Society, Nature in the City, California Invasive Plant Council, Daar/IPM, SF Agricultural Commissioner, San Francisco Fire Department

The San Francisco

“SIX”

THE CITY'S WORST WILDLAND WEEDS



SAN FRANCISCO WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

www.sfwma.org

2008

For more information, resources and a *priority weed list*, visit www.sfwma.org.

Invasive Weeds Affect our home & community

Whether we want to maintain beautiful gardens, conserve our local water resources, use parks for recreation, or reduce erosion or fire danger, controlling invasive plants is in all of our best interests.

RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND FIRE DANGER

Invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry and French broom can form thorny brambles and dense thickets that obstruct acres of parkland from recreational use. When thickets of these and other woody weeds become overgrown near fences and buildings, they can create a serious fire hazard. In addition, blackberry and English and Algerian ivy are notorious rats' nests.

WEEDS, WILDLIFE AND OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Of the thousands of introduced non-native plants, only some are highly invasive. But that subset can be very destructive to San Francisco's natural heritage, biodiversity and ecological communities, displacing our indigenous plants and animals.

Just like us, wildlife depends on many different plant species—not just one or two. As invasive weeds crowd out native plants they drastically reduce the habitat value of our parks and natural areas. When we lose native habitat, we lose wildlife.

ECONOMIC THREAT

It is conservatively estimated that \$34 billion is spent annually on invasive weed control in the United States. Financial losses are in the realm of water supply, agriculture, and tourism.

EHRHARTA ERECTA

A bunching perennial grass with semi-erect stems that usually grow to 6 inches tall. Broad, flat, green leaf blades range from 2 to 5 inches in length. Ehrharta reproduces by dispersing many tiny seeds.



Removal: This weed can be removed by hand, especially in patchy or lightly infested areas. Mature plants may require a hand tool for removal. For areas with denser infestation, a weed fabric, mulch or herbicide may be needed.

OXALIS PES-CAPRAE - BERMUDA BUTTERCUP

Stemming from a main root, this weed has trumpet-like yellow flowers and clover-like leaves, comprised of three heart-shaped leaflets.



Removal: Since oxalis reproduces through underground roots and persistent, abundant bulbs, removal is difficult and requires extra diligence. On a small scale, removal can be done by hand. For larger oxalis control projects, weed professionals spray an herbicide solution on the plant's leaves. Given careful follow up, this method has proven successful.

RAPHANUS SATIVA - WILD RADISH

A wild form of the common vegetable, R. sativa can grow to four feet tall and shade out wildflowers and other grassland species.



Removal: Pull or dig out by root.

Special Note:

Some weeds can provide wildlife habitat. Please respect insects, birds and other critters who may be using weed species.

RUBUS ARMENIACUS - HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY

With its thick stems and large sharp thorns, blackberry brambles form impenetrable walls in moist areas they prefer.



Removal: This plant must be thoroughly dug out by the roots, as small pieces of root left behind will resprout. Since this large vine can leave many roots, follow up is key.

DELAIREA ODORATA - CAPE IVY

Cape ivy has tender, fleshy, light-green leaves. The vine quickly climbs and smothers native trees and shrubs.



Removal: Be sure to dig out all remaining parts, including the purple underground stems or "roots." Even a one-inch piece left in the ground will quickly resprout. The purple stems often form a knotted bundle. Finding and removing the bundles will greatly reduce the plant's ability to resprout.

GENISTA MONSPESSULANA - FRENCH BROOM

This woody shrub grows to ten feet tall, quickly shades out other plants, and creates a monoculture with a *long lasting seed bank*. Although this shrub has beautiful yellow flowers in spring, it dries out in the summer and becomes a fire hazard.



Removal: Small broom can be pulled easily by hand. Large broom may be cut at the base and the stump stripped of all remaining bark.