

# **Weed Alerts! 2007**

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**Plants that are already  
weedy or invasive to some  
extent, but appear to on the  
increase**



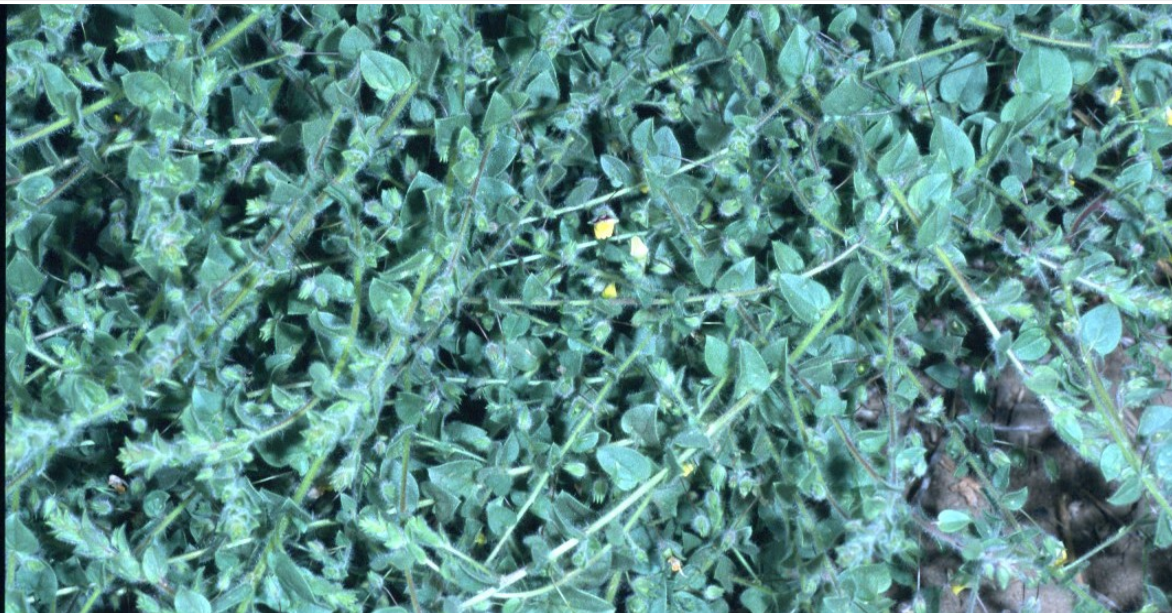
**Field bindweed  
(*Convolvulus arvensis*)  
Convolvulaceae**

# Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

- Reported by Susan Schwartz, Friends of Five Creeks
- CDFA Noxious Weed C List
- Finding an expansion of this major agricultural and urban weed into riparian areas (creeks) in the Bay Area
- Deep rooted, expansive perennial that is difficult to control
- Native to Europe



**Sharppoint fluvellin**  
**(*Kickxia elatine*)**  
**Scrophulariaceae**



# Sharppoint fluvellin (*Kickxia elatine*)

- Reported by Stan Hooper, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Fairly widespread weed of agriculture and urban areas throughout the state
- Moving into Santa Cruz Mountains in undisturbed areas
- Low-growing winter annual
- Native to Europe



**Musk thistle**  
**(*Carduus nutans*)**  
**Asteraceae**

# Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

- Reported by CJ Fotheringham
- CDFA Noxious Weed A list, rarely found in Southern California
- Also a Moderate on the Cal-IPC list
- Found at Big Bear Lake for first time
- Biennial or winter annual
- Very invasive in other western states
- Native to Europe



**Oops!**



**Narrowleaved crimson clover  
(*Trifolium angustifolium*)  
Fabaceae**

# Narrowleaved crimson clover (*Trifolium angustifolium*)

- Reported by Andy Sanders and Fred Hrusa
- Has previously been present in California, but is spreading rapidly along the Central Coast
- Annual with very narrow leaflets
- Native to Europe

**Cultivated plants going  
wild!**



**Cyclops acacia**  
**(*Acacia cyclops*)**  
**Fabaceae**

# Cyclops acacia (*Acacia cyclops*)

- Reported by Carolyn Martus, CNPS
- Misidentified as *Acacia longifolia*
- The worst of all the *Acacia* species in San Diego
- Widely planted by CalTrans
- Native to Australia



**Sydney golden wattle**  
**(*Acacia longifolia*)**





**Dwarf statice or sea lavender**  
**(*Limonium ramosissimum*)**  
**Plumbaginaceae**



# Dwarf statice or sea lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*)

- Reported by Mark Page, Katharyn Boyer, and Peter Baye
- Spreading in Bay Area, particularly in the salt marsh areas (Mill Valley/Tiburon), also in southern California salt marshes
- Acts as a groundcover, spreads rapidly and produces a lot of seed
- Escaped perennial ornamental, not listed in Jepson Manual
- Native to Europe



# **New introduction in California**



**Tagasaste or tree lucerne**  
**(*Chamaecytisus palmensis*)**  
**Fabaceae**



# Tagasaste or tree lucerne (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*)

- Reported by Tara Athan, Mendocino Coop WMA
- Promoted as a fodder in the 1980s in Australia and was widely planted
- Escaped cultivation there along the coast
- Being cultivated in Mendocino Co and sold as a fodder plant
- Rare escape in California, called *C. proliferus* in the Weeds of California and Jepson Manual
- Spreading evergreen broom-like species
- Native to Canary Islands



**Ward's weed**  
**(*Carrichtera annua*)**  
**Brassicaceae**

# Ward's weed (*Carrichtera annua*)

- Reported by Jessica Vinje, The Center for Natural Lands Management
- Has become a widespread rangeland invasive in southern Australia
- New species to California, not reported in the Weeds of California or the Jepson Manual
- First established in San Diego County
- Population is moderate sized and appears to be difficult to control
- Annual mustard, very similar to wild radish
- Native to Europe

# Rate of spread in southern Australia

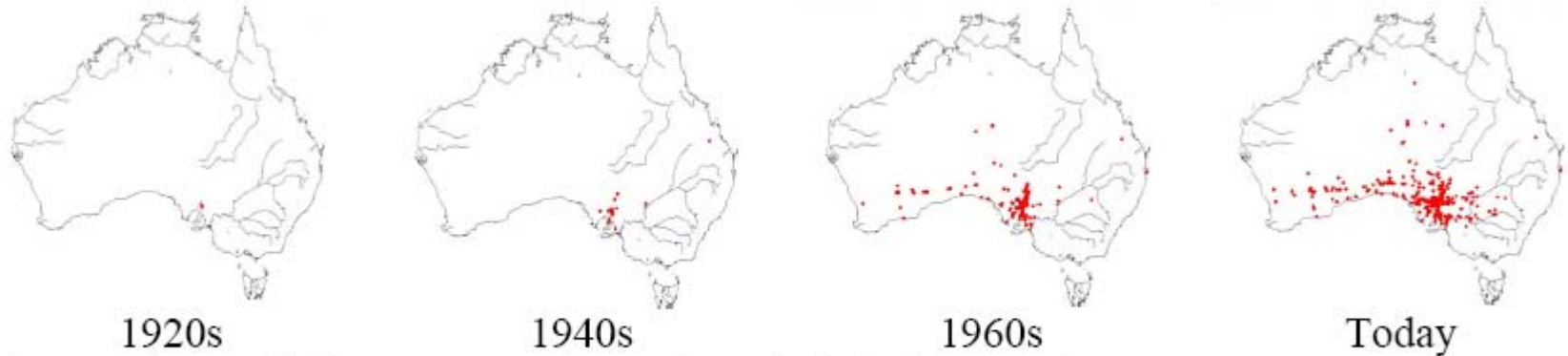


Figure 1. The spread of *C. annua* over time as shown by herbarium records.

Climate analysis using BIOCLIM showed that Ward's Weed appears to be restricted to areas with winter-dominated rainfall and mild winter temperatures (Figure 2) and preliminary studies suggested a link with calcareous soils (Figure 3).

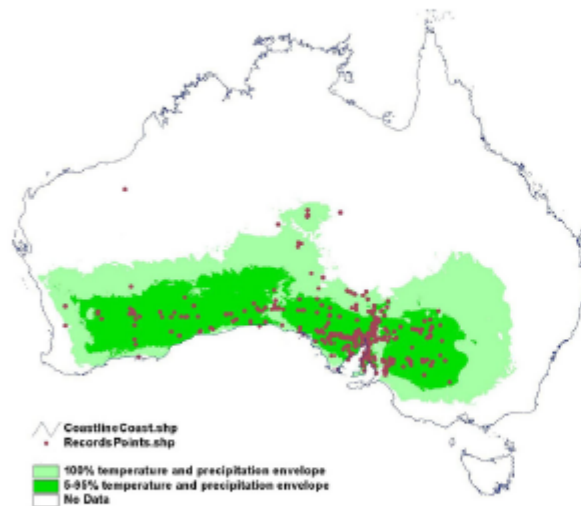


Figure 2. Current (red dots) and predicted (green) distribution of *C. annua* using the temperature and precipitation of the hottest and coolest quarters.

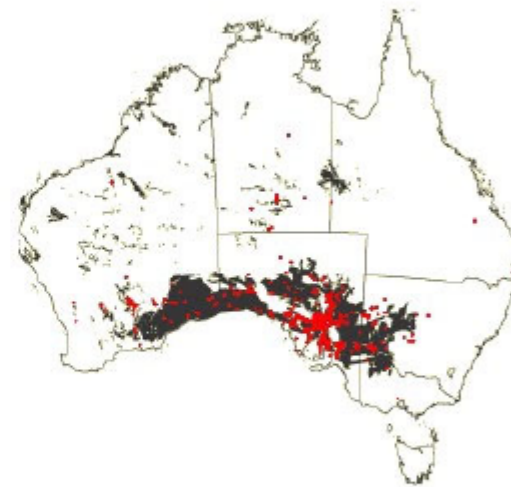


Figure 3. Overlay of *C. annua* location points (red) on a map of calcareous soils (Australian Audit Atlas).



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*Agrostemma githago*  
Photo by Joe DiTomaso



# Some pertinent manuscripts to come out in the first issue

- Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) response to postemergence herbicides
- Integrated Management of Perennial Pepperweed
- The Invasive Species Assessment Protocol: A Tool for Creating Regional and National Lists of Invasive Non-Native Plants that Negatively Impact Biodiversity
- Jubatagrass (*Cortaderia jubata*) Control Using Chemical and Mechanical Methods
- Effective Fennel Control with Herbicides in Natural Habitats in California