

THE WEED WORKERS' HANDBOOK

**A Guide to
Techniques for
Removing Bay Area
Invasive Plants**



**The Watershed Project
California Invasive Plant Council**

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“It’s an amazing feeling of accomplishment when I visit some of our old sites. What had been a monoculture of an invasive species is being transformed by native plants taking the site back over, making it look like we had never been there.”

Ken Moore, Wildlands Restoration Team, Santa Cruz



“When environmental restoration is most successful, it also improves our hearts, and cultivates an enduring relationship with Nature. . . . Done properly, environmental restoration restores far more than just the land.”

Richard Nilsen, from Helping Nature Heal



“While we bemoan the lack of funding for our restoration work, it has an undeniable positive side: it forces us to rely on volunteers. How many of us have made exciting discoveries, gained insights into the world and into ourselves—learned things we didn’t even know existed until they came into our consciousness? We who work in the difficult environment of fragmented, highly impacted natural systems in urban areas develop insights which may prove invaluable as the human societal and environmental crisis deepens. The knowledge gained from our experience may become in demand as awareness of the connection between human welfare and the natural world increases. Such knowledge cannot be found in our traditional repositories and disciplines. And, most surprising of all, we discover that when we understand how the world works we come to understand ourselves.”

Jake Sigg, California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter

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PREFACE

Welcome! The handbook you're holding contains vital information for restoring Bay Area wildlands. We hope it becomes a valuable tool for guiding your efforts in protecting local natural areas from the impacts of invasive plant species.

Most likely, you know from first-hand experience that invasive weeds are a serious ecological problem in the Bay Area. You may have witnessed grasslands overrun by yellow starthistle, or walked through an ivy-choked woodland. And, like many others, you are working to do something about it.

This handbook distills the collective knowledge of Bay Area individuals and organizations that have been involved in weed control and wildland restoration projects for over a decade. It provides background on the strategic planning that needs to happen before you actually remove any weeds, and offers detailed information on specific weeds and the techniques and tools best suited to working on them. The information in this handbook is intended to help us all conduct our weed control efforts more effectively.

Countless Bay Area volunteers and park managers have helped us learn about invasive plant control over the last decade. Many of them also contributed their time and expertise to this handbook—thanks to all.

If you have comments or suggestions for future editions, please let us know at www.cal-ipc.org.

We look forward to seeing you in the field!

Sharon Farrell, The Watershed Project

Doug Johnson, California Invasive Plant Council

