

**California Department of Food and Agriculture's
A-Rated Weed Program
*Succeeding and Evolving***



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Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch**

This talk will...

- ❑ Start with some definitions, an overview
- ❑ Dive into Exciting A-rated Weed Successes
- ❑ What's NEW on the CDFA weed front
- ❑ Conclude with an amazing statistic you will want to share with friends and neighbors!

Mission of the California

Department of Food and Agriculture:

To Promote and Protect California Agriculture .

To prevent the introduction and spread of injurious insects or animal pests, plant diseases, & noxious weeds.

Emphasis on: *croplands, rangeland, orchards, vineyards, nurseries, and production forests*

✓ *Overlap with more traditional wildland weeds*

*Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture:
Not alone and Not just control...*

- Partners with: USDA & County Ag Offices**
- Quarantine Laws and Noxious Weed Policy**
- Shipping Ports and Border Stations**
- Nursery, Pet Stores, Mail Inspections**
- Interior Detection Program**
- Pest Diagnostic Labs**

Integrated Pest Control Branch

Pest Prevention System:

- Education
- Prevention and Early Detection
- Control
- Containment
- Eradication
- Revegetation/Restoration



Taurian thistle

The Calif. Dept. of Food and Ag Integrated Pest Control Branch

- **Noxious Weed List**

legal authority

- **Pest Rating System**

policy



Plumeless thistle

The Calif. Dept. of Food and Ag Pest Rating System:

- A-** Incipient populations- mandatory eradication, containment, rejection, or other holding action at the State-County level
- B-** Regional, action at discretion of Agricultural Commissioner's Office ; mandatory in nursery
- C-** Widespread, action at discretion of Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- D-** All other weeds.
- Q-** New Pest, no official A,B,C rating yet, "holding pattern"; treated like an "A"



Yellowspine thistle

A-Rated Noxious Weed =

- **Limited distribution; NOT widespread**
- **Difficult to control; Limited tools**
- **What the weed has done elsewhere**
- *Several other factors*

A-Rated: *mandatory eradication, containment, rejection, or other holding action at the State-County level*

California's Unique System for Noxious Weed Eradication

❖ **County Agricultural Commissioner's Offices**

***A UNIQUE "SYSTEM"**

❖ **Integrated Pest Control Branch,
Noxious Weed Program**

***CDFA BACKBONE = District Biologists**

*The Role of a
California Dept. of Food and Ag
District Weed Biologist*



☐ Detection and survey

roadside, major corridors, on land and on water

☐ Implementation of control methods

digging, herbicides, grazing, biocontrol, revegetation, etc.

☐ Tracking populations to eradication

☐ Mapping

☐ Education outreach and training

*California Department of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch*

North

East- *Carri Pirosko*

West- *Ed Finley*

North-Central

East- Rod Kerr

West- Robin Breckenridge

**Ross O'Connell*

Central

**Tyson Porter*

South

Daud Senzai

*District
Noxious Weed
Biologists*

**Program
Managers:**

*Larry Bezark
Robert Leavitt*

A-Rated Weed Status Check

- 15 A-rated weeds eradicated to date
- 6 A-rated weeds approaching eradication
- Currently 27 A-rated weeds in California



Perennial sowthistle



Hydrilla



Tanglehead

Statewide Eradication is Possible!

- As evidence, 15 A-rated weed species have been eradicated statewide.

Examples include:

- *wild marigold
- *smooth groundcherry
- *Syrian beancaper
- *dudaim melon
- *serrate spurge
- *blue weed



blue weed

- Not to mention **MANY** county/regional eradications.

* From Nine Counties for Hydrilla alone...

- **You Say Big Deal...** you have never even heard of any of these “Ag” weeds. MY POINT EXACTLY.

Six More Weeds Close to Eradication!

➤ These A-rated weeds have already been eradicated from most counties in the State...

*golden thistle (only 1 site left in Alameda County!)

*perennial sowthistle

*plumeless thistle

*yellowspine thistle

*wavyleaf thistle

*Taurian thistle



golden thistle

➤ Again, weeds that YOU likely would be contending with right now if the County Ag Commissioner's and California Dept. of Food and Ag had not implemented an eradication program for A-rated weeds.

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So...What Are Some of California's Top A-Rated Weeds Currently Under Eradication, Anyway?



Pile of dead Scotch thistle, Dixie Valley (Lassen County)

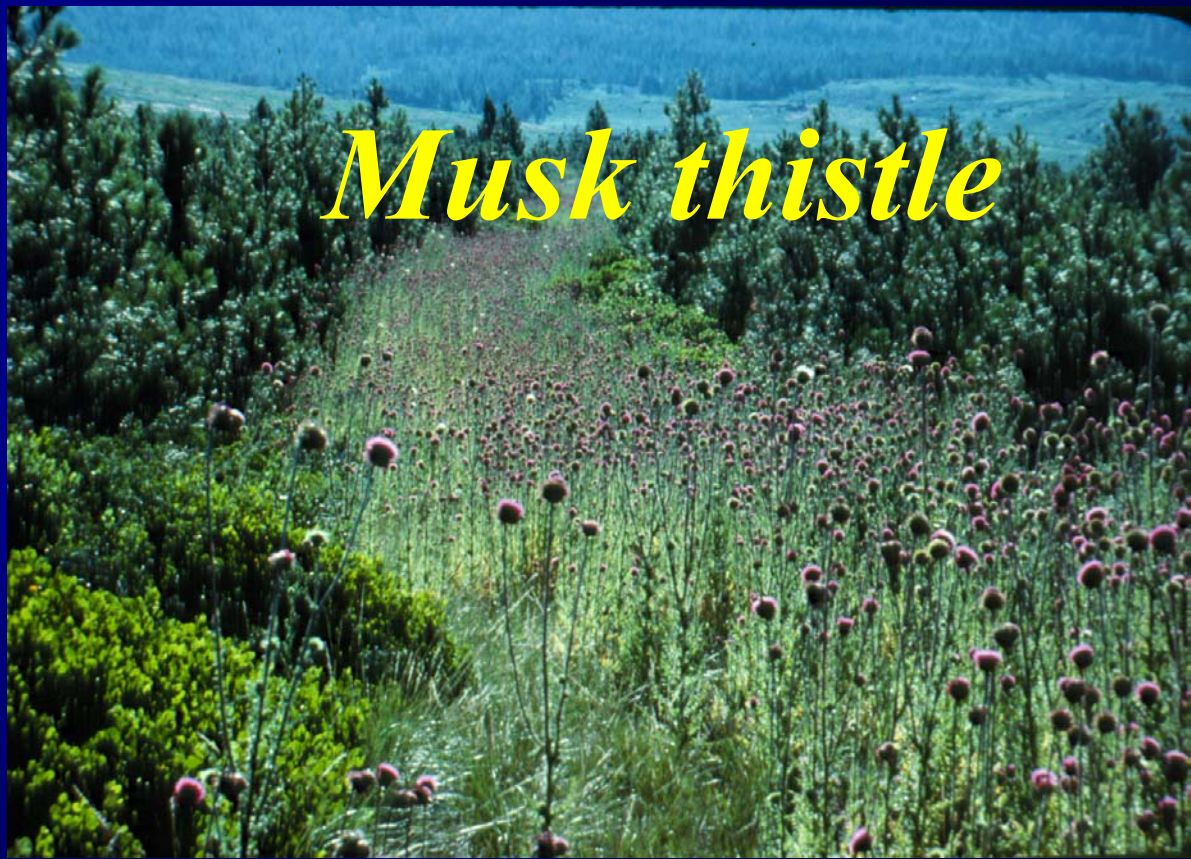
Scotch thistle



Scotch Thistle 7/08
CDFA/IPC- J.P. Clark



Onopordum acanthium



Musk thistle



Carduus nutans

Knapweeds



Centaurea squarrosa



Centaurea diffusa



Centaurea maculosa



Squarrose knapweed



Centaurea squarrosa

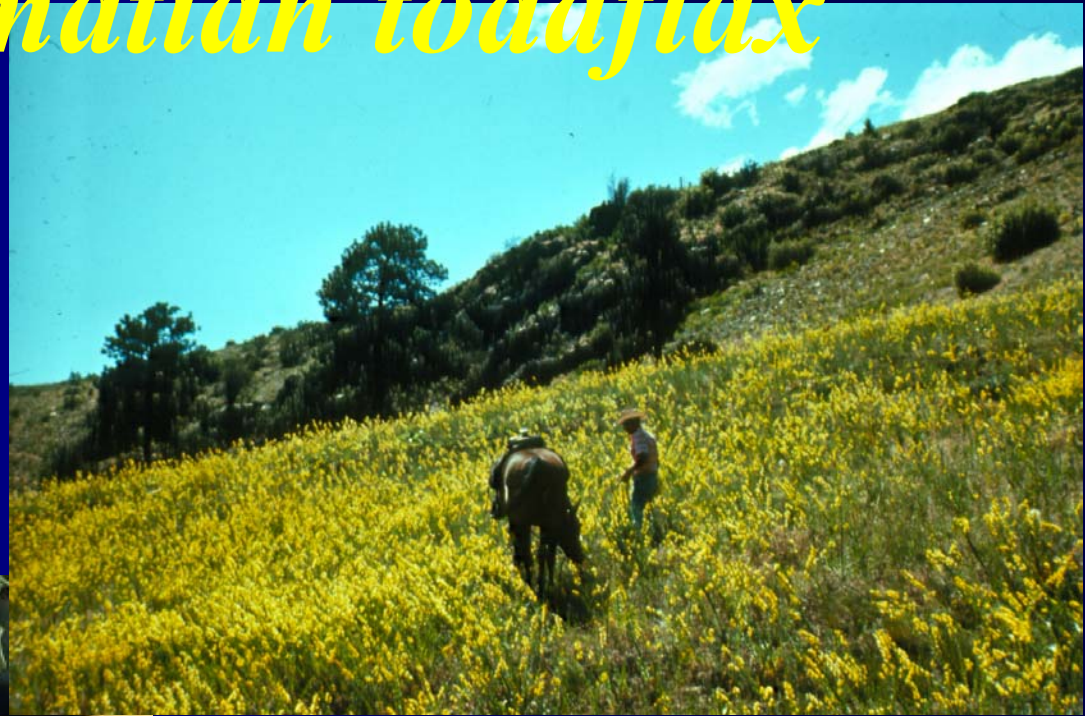
Spotted knapweed



Spotted Knapweed 11588
CDFW/IPC - R.M. Breckenridge

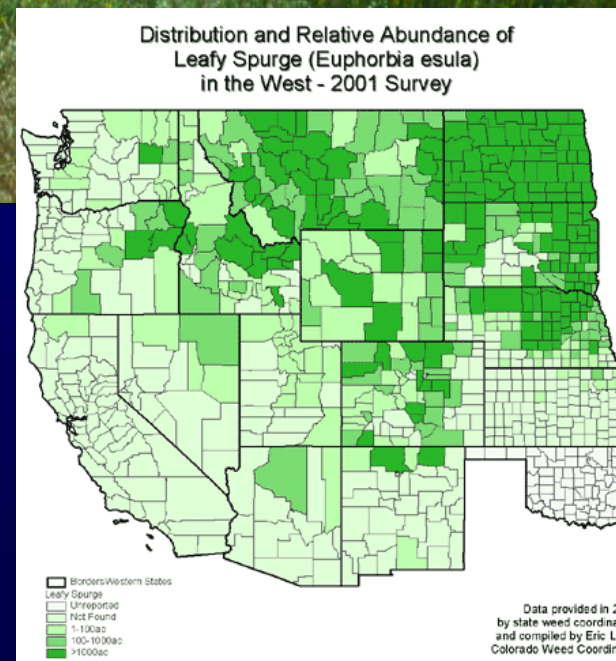
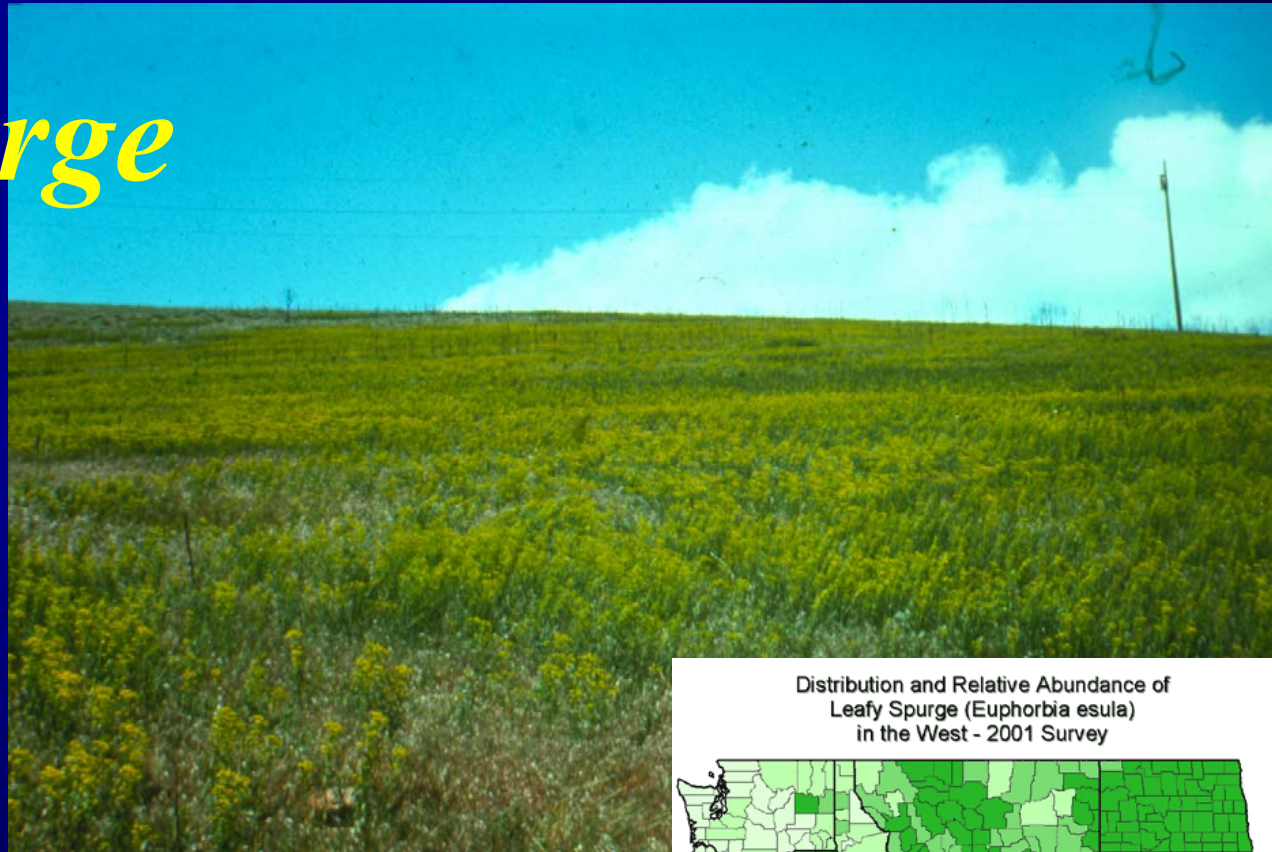
Centaurea maculosa

Dalmatian toadflax



Linaria genistifolia
subsp. dalmatica

Leafy spurge



Euphorbia esula

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What's New on the CDFA Noxious Weed Front?

- Additions to Noxious Weed List;
Review of Ratings Process**
- Technology- Mapping/Database**
- Monitoring- in Water and on Land**

The Calif. Dept. of Food and Ag

Newly listed Noxious Weeds (almost):

- Tree of heaven
- Jubata grass
- Bull thistle
- Arundo
- Tocalote
- Tamarisk
- Cape ivy
- Spanish broom



Bull thistle

- Entire Pest Rating System Slated for Review
- Select Group of A-rated Weeds to be Re-evaluated

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Mapping and Database System

- ❖ **Mapping Goal = to have every A-rated weed population documented and tracked in a database and on a statewide map.**
- ❖ **The California Dept. of Food and Ag's, GIS Lab is working diligently with our District Biologists, counties, and cooperating agencies to make this happen.**

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❖ **Water Quality Monitoring**

❖ **Monitoring of Terrestrial A-rated
Weed Eradication Efforts**



Some Final Thoughts...

- ❖ California has a unique and coordinated noxious weed program/system. District Biologist and County Ag Offices are out there 365 days a year forcing A-rated Noxious Weed populations to eradication.*
- ❖ Eradication of incipient populations of A-rated Noxious Weeds is possible. Continued successes are tallied each year.*
- ❖ Future eradication successes will take the energies of the California Dept. of Food and Ag, County Ag Offices, Weed Management Area groups, Resource Agencies, and most certainly the CONTINUED efforts of Cal EPPC!*

So, you think...

One weed, not a problem.

Think AGAIN.

Year 1: 1 plant → 2,400 seed

Year 4: 1 plant and progeny → 2 million seed

Year 10: 5 trillion seed; 36,000 acres infested!