

Part IV. Plant Assessment Form

For use with "Criteria for Categorizing Invasive Non-Native Plants that Threaten Wildlands"
by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Southwest Vegetation Management Association

Electronic version, February 28, 2003

Table 1. Species and Evaluator Information

Species name (Latin binomial):	Briza maxima L
Synonyms:	large quakinggrass, rattlesnake grass
Common names:	Big quakinggrass
Evaluation date (mm/dd/yy):	6/30/05
Evaluator #1 Name/Title:	Joseph M. DiTomaso
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Evaluator #2 Name/Title:	enter text here
Affiliation:	enter text here
Phone numbers:	enter text here
Email address:	enter text here
Address:	enter text here

Section below for list committee use—please leave blank

List committee members:	Jake Sigg, Peter Warner, Bob Case, John Knapp, Elizabeth Brusati
Committee review date:	7/8/05
List date:	enter text here
Re-evaluation date(s):	enter text here

<p>General comments on this assessment: enter text here</p>
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Table 2. Criteria, Section, and Overall Scores

1.1	Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes	C	Observational
1.2	Impact on plant community	B	Other Pub. Mat'l
1.3	Impact on higher trophic levels	D	Observational
1.4	Impact on genetic integrity	D	Other Pub. Mat'l

<p>Impact</p> <p><i>Enter four characters from Q1.1-1.4 below:</i></p> <p>CBDD</p> <p><i>Using matrix, determine score and enter below:</i></p> <p>B</p>

2.1	Role of anthropogenic and natural disturbance	C (1 pt)	Observational
2.2	Local rate of spread with no management	B (2pts)	Observational
2.3	Recent trend in total area infested within state	C (1 pt)	Observational
2.4	Innate reproductive potential Wksht A	C (1 pt)	Other Pub. Mat'l
2.5	Potential for human-caused dispersal	B (2pts)	Observational
2.6	Potential for natural long-distance dispersal	D (0 pts)	Observational
2.7	Other regions invaded	C (1 pt)	Observational

<p>Invasiveness</p> <p><i>Enter the sum total of all points for Q2.1-2.7 below:</i></p> <p>8</p> <p><i>Use matrix to determine score and enter below:</i></p> <p>C</p>

<p>Plant Score</p> <p><i>Using matrix, determine Overall Score and Alert Status from the three section scores and enter below:</i></p> <p>Low</p> <p>No Alert</p>
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3.1	Ecological amplitude/Range	A	Other Pub. Mat'l
3.2	Distribution/Peak frequency Wksht C	C	Observational

<p>Distribution</p> <p><i>Using matrix, determine score and enter below:</i></p> <p>B</p>

Table 3. Documentation

Question 1.1 Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes	C Observational back
Identify ecosystem processes impacted: Can increase fire frequency like most other annual grasses. Generally does not form very dense stands.	
Rationale:	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational	
Question 1.2 Impact on plant community composition, structure, and interactions	B Other Pub. Mat'l back
Identify type of impact or alteration: In some sites it can form dense, nearly pure stands, that displace other species, but this is unusual. Typically it is in a mixed community with other annual grasses and forbs. Can be locally dominant and has a negative impact on <i>Chorizanthe howelli</i> , a rare plant in Mendocino County.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: 1. DiTomaso and Healy. 2006. Weeds of California. UC DANR Publ. #3488. 2. Peter Warner, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino, pers. obs.	
Question 1.3 Impact on higher trophic levels	D Observational back
Identify type of impact or alteration: A good forage for livestock and wildlife although yields are low. No known negative impacts.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational	
Question 1.4 Impact on genetic integrity	D Other Pub. Mat'l back
Identify impacts: No native <i>Briza</i> species in California.	
Rationale:	
Sources of information: Hickman, J. C. (ed.) 1993. The Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA enter text here	
Question 2.1 Role of anthropogenic and natural disturbance in establishment	C Observational back
Describe role of disturbance: Roadsides, fields, grassland, pastures, ditches, open woodland, coastal terraces and bluffs. Both species tolerate some shade. Also old vineyards, stabilized dunes. Typically prefers disturbance.	
Needs initial disturbance for colonization, but then persists for years.	

Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso and Healy. 2006. Weeds of California. UC DANR Publ. #3488. 2. Peter Warner, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino, pers. obs.	
Question 2.2 Local rate of spread with no management	B Observational back
Describe rate of spread: Populations oscillate, but in general it does not expand much when in an area. Seems to be in most habitats that it can occupy. In the Bay Area, is locally spreading and is more abundant than it was years ago.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational. Jake Sigg, California Native Plant Society, San Francisco, pers. obs.	
Question 2.3 Recent trend in total area infested within state	C Observational back
Describe trend: Does not appear to be expanding range in the state.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational.	
Question 2.4 Innate reproductive potential	C Other Pub. Mat'l back
Describe key reproductive characteristics: Annual with large short lived seeds.	
Rationale: The biology of these species is poorly understood.	
Sources of information: DiTomaso and Healy. 2006. Weeds of California. UC DANR Publ. #3488.	
Question 2.5 Potential for human-caused dispersal	C Observational back
Identify dispersal mechanisms: Perhaps with livestock and with hay, but most seed fall directly to soil below plant. Caltrans might move it during roadside mowing.	
Rationale: enter text here	

Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational.	
2. Peter Warner, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino, pers. obs.	
Question 2.6 Potential for natural long-distance dispersal	D Observational back
Identify dispersal mechanisms: Seed primarily fall to ground below parent plant. No mechanism of long distance dispersal. Can occur close to water and this could move seed long distances on occasion but the plant does not usually grow near water sources.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational.	
Question 2.7 Other regions invaded	C Observational back
Identify other regions: Likely inhabits similar habitat elsewhere. Well distributed in state. Present in Montana, in grasslands and openings in forests.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational.	
Jake Sigg, California Native Plant Society, pers. obs.	
Question 3.1 Ecological amplitude/Range	A Other Pub. Mat'l back
Describe ecological amplitude, identifying date of source information and approximate date of introduction to the state, if known: Roadsides, fields, grassland, pastures, ditches, open woodland, coastal terraces and bluffs. Both species tolerate some shade. Also old vineyards, stabilized dunes.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso and Healy. 2006. Weeds of California. UC DANR Publ. #3488.	
Question 3.2 Distribution/Peak frequency	C Observational back
Describe distribution: Most common on coast and in coastal woodlands and grasslands.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational.	

Worksheet A[back](#)

Reaches reproductive maturity in 2 years or less	Yes: 1 pt
Dense infestations produce >1,000 viable seed per square meter	Yes
Populations of this species produce seeds every year.	Yes: 1 pt
Seed production sustained over 3 or more months within a population annually	No: 0 pt
Seeds remain viable in soil for three or more years	No: 0 pts
Viable seed produced with <i>both</i> self-pollination and cross-pollination	Unknown: 0 pts
Has quickly spreading vegetative structures (rhizomes, roots, etc.) that may root at nodes	No: 0 pt
Fragments easily and fragments can become established elsewhere	No: 0 pts
Resprouts readily when cut, grazed, or burned	No: 0 pt
	3 1 unknown
	C (1-3)

Note any related traits: enter text here

Worksheet C - California Ecological Types

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(*sensu* Holland 1986)

Major Ecological Types	Minor Ecological Types	Code*
Marine Systems	marine systems	score
Freshwater and Estuarine Aquatic Systems	lakes, ponds, reservoirs	score
	rivers, streams, canals	score
	estuaries	score
Dunes	coastal	D. presen
	desert	score
	interior	score
Scrub and Chaparral	coastal bluff scrub	C. 5-20%
	coastal scrub	D. presen
	Sonoran desert scrub	score
	Mojavean desert scrub (incl. Joshua tree woodland)	score
	Great Basin scrub	score
	chenopod scrub	score
	montane dwarf scrub	score
	Upper Sonoran subshrub scrub	score
	chaparral	score
Grasslands, Vernal Pools, Meadows, and other Herb Communities	coastal prairie	C. 5-20%
	valley and foothill grassland	D. presen
	Great Basin grassland	score
	vernal pool	score
	meadow and seep	score
	alkali playa	score
	pebble plain	score
Bog and Marsh	bog and fen	score
	marsh and swamp	score
Riparian and Bottomland	riparian forest	score
	riparian woodland	score
	riparian scrub (incl. desert washes)	score
Woodland	cismontane woodland	D. presen
	piñon and juniper woodland	score
	Sonoran thorn woodland	score
Forest	broadleaved upland forest	score
	North Coast coniferous forest	score
	closed cone coniferous forest	score
	lower montane coniferous forest	score
	upper montane coniferous forest	score
	subalpine coniferous forest	score
Alpine Habitats	alpine boulder and rock field	score
	alpine dwarf scrub	score

* A. means >50% of type occurrences are invaded; B means >20% to 50%; C. means >5% to 20%; D. means present but ≤5%; U. means unknown (unable to estimate percentage of occurrences invaded).