

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):	Phytolacca americana L.
Synonyms:	Phytolacca decandra L. in part.
Common names:	common pokeweed, American cancer, American pokeweed, cancer jalap, coakum, garget, inkberry, pigeonberry, poke, poke sallet, pokeberry, pokeweed, red-ink plant, redweed, scoke, Virginia poke
Evaluation date (mm/dd/yy):	1/3/07
Evaluator #1 Name/Title:	Elizabeth Brusati, project manager
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Evaluator #2 Name/Title:	Joseph M. DiTomaso
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Section below for list committee use—please leave blank

List committee members:	Joe DiTomaso, Peter Warner, Joanna Clines
Committee review date:	2/14/2007e
List date:	enter text here
Re-evaluation date(s):	enter text here

General comments on this assessment:

enter text here

Table 2. Criteria, Section, and Overall Scores

1.1	Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes	U	No Information
1.2	Impact on plant community	C	Observational
1.3	Impact on higher trophic levels	C	Other Pub. Mat'l
1.4	Impact on genetic integrity	D	Rev'd, Sci. Pub'n

Impact

Enter four characters from Q1.1-1.4 below:

UCCD

Using matrix, determine score and enter below:

C

2.1	Role of anthropogenic and natural disturbance	∩ (1 pt)	Rev'd, Sci. Pub'n
2.2	Local rate of spread with no management	∩ (2 pts)	Observational
2.3	Recent trend in total area infested within state	∩ (1 pt)	Observational
2.4	Innate reproductive potential Wksht A	∩ (3 pts)	Rev'd, Sci. Pub'n
2.5	Potential for human-caused dispersal	∩ (1 pt)	Other Pub. Mat'l
2.6	Potential for natural long-distance dispersal	∩ (3 pts)	Other Pub. Mat'l
2.7	Other regions invaded	∩ (1 pt)	Other Pub. Mat'l

Invasiveness

Enter the sum total of all points for Q2.1-2.7 below:

12

Use matrix to determine score and enter below:

B

Plant Score

Using matrix, determine Overall Score and Alert Status from the three section scores and enter below:

Low

No Alert

3.1	Ecological amplitude/Range	C	Other Pub. Mat'l
3.2	Distribution/Peak frequency Wksht C	D	Other Pub. Mat'l

Distribution

Using matrix, determine score and enter below:

C

Table 3. Documentation

Question 1.1 Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes	U No Information back
Identify ecosystem processes impacted: Unknown	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: enter text here	
Question 1.2 Impact on plant community composition, structure, and interactions	C Observational back
Identify type of impact or alteration: Can form dense stands in some locations, but this is relatively rare statewide.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: Tanya Meyer, Yolo County RCD, e-mail 2/23/05. DiTomaso, observational	
Question 1.3 Impact on higher trophic levels	C Other Pub. Mat'l back
Identify type of impact or alteration: All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and livestock. Birds can become intoxicated from eating the berries. Toxicity unknown in other wildlife. Widespread infestations in Britain have disrupted bird migration patterns by producing large amounts of food during the migration period.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3488. Oakland, CA. text here	
Question 1.4 Impact on genetic integrity	D Rev'd, Sci. Pub'n back
Identify impacts: None.	
Rationale: No native Phytolacca in California.	
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 Rev'd, Sci. Pub'n back
Describe role of disturbance: Primarily inhabits roadsides and other disturbed places (1)	

Disturbing the soil underneath a large plant produces many seedlings (2).	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: 1. DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 2488. Oakland, CA. 2. Tanya Meyer, Yolo County RCD, e-mail 2/23/05 text here	
Question 2.2 Local rate of spread with no management	B Observational back
Describe rate of spread: Populations are expanding, but only locally.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: Tanya Meyer, Yolo County RCD, e-mail 2/23/05 text here	
Question 2.3 Recent trend in total area infested within state	C Observational back
Describe trend: Appear to be no more widespread statewide than it was years ago, except for spread in local regions where they are attempting to control it.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, observational	
Question 2.4 Innate reproductive potential	A Rev'd, Sci. Pub'n back
Describe key reproductive characteristics: Perennial. Reproduces by seeds that can live for 40 years in the soil.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3488. Oakland, CA. Mitich, L.W. 1994. Common pokeweed. Weed Technology. 8:887-890.	
Question 2.5 Potential for human-caused dispersal	C Other Pub. Mat'l back
Identify dispersal mechanisms: Occasionally cultivated as an ornamental or garden vegetable.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States.	

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 2488. Oakland, CA. text here	
Question 2.6 Potential for natural long-distance dispersal	A Other Pub. Mat'l back
Identify dispersal mechanisms: Seeds primarily dispersed by birds.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3488. Oakland, CA. text here	
Question 2.7 Other regions invaded	C Other Pub. Mat'l back
Identify other regions: Native to the Eastern U.S.	
Listed as invasive in Belgium (habitats unknown) (1). Also invasive in much of Europe and China, as well as Africa and other parts of eastern Asia.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: (1) Belgian Biodiversity Platform. List of Invasive Species. http://www.biodiversity.be/thematic-forums/invasive-alien-species/species . Accessed 1/3/07	
Question 3.1 Ecological amplitude/Range	C Other Pub. Mat'l back
Describe ecological amplitude, identifying date of source information and approximate date of introduction to the state, if known: Throughout California, except deserts and Great Basin to about 1000m. (1)	
Invades northern Central Valley riparian areas (2), particularly in the Chico region.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: 1. DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3488. Oakland, CA.	
2. Tanya Meyer, Yolo County RCD, e-mail 2/23/05 text here	
Question 3.2 Distribution/Peak frequency	D Other Pub. Mat'l back
Describe distribution: Only occasionally a weed in California. Large stands rarely occur.	
Rationale: enter text here	
Sources of information: 1. DiTomaso, J. M., and E. A. Healy. 2007. Weeds of California and Other Western States. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3488. Oakland, CA	



Worksheet A[back](#)

Reaches reproductive maturity in 2 years or less	Yes: 1 pt
Dense infestations produce >1,000 viable seed per square meter	No: 0 pts
Populations of this species produce seeds every year.	Yes: 1 pt
Seed production sustained over 3 or more months within a population annually	Yes: 1 pt
Seeds remain viable in soil for three or more years	Yes: 2 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	Yes: 1 pt
Fragments easily and fragments can become established elsewhere	No: 0 pts
Resprouts readily when cut, grazed, or burned	Yes: 1 pt
	7 pts 1 unknown
	A (6+ pts)
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	score
	desert	score
	interior	score
Scrub and Chaparral	coastal bluff scrub	score
	coastal scrub	score
	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	score
	valley and foothill grassland	score
	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	D. present
	riparian woodland	D. present
	riparian scrub (incl. desert washes)	score
Woodland	cismontane woodland	score
	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).