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Ranking Weeds
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Ranking Weeds

Welcome to Isla Earth.

When is a weed not a weed?

This is the question tackled recently by the California Invasive Plant Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the state from invasive plants – namely weeds that impact wildlands.

Joe DiTomaso of the University of California at Davis, who has had a long-time involvement in the program, said that up until now, there was no quantitative scientific basis for determining what plants should be on the state’s invasive plant list – just expert opinions offered by scientists.

However, this time, the Council analyzed a mountain of scientific literature, technical reports and other observational data into one comprehensive form.

The result was a more transparent and scientifically defensible ranking of nearly two hundred plants based on their impact on the environment, invasive potential, and distribution.

This new groundbreaking method of ranking weeds was developed in collaboration with Arizona and Nevada and is now catching on with other states in the west.

Learn more about invasive plants by visiting Isla Earth on the web – that’s I-S-L-A-earth dot org.

Isla Earth is funded by the Annenberg Foundation through its Blue Planet initiative, and brought to you by the Catalina Island Conservancy, because Earth IS an island.

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“Ranking Weeds”

by Bob Rhein

Discovery Links

To learn more about this new Lost World, explore here:

[California Invasive Plant Council](http://cal-ipc.org/)
cal-ipc.org/

[UC Davis Weed Research and Information Center](http://wric.ucdavis.edu)
wric.ucdavis.edu

[Nature Conservancy](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu)
tncweeds.ucdavis.edu

[Encycloweedia – California Department of Food and Agriculture](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/encycloweedia/encycloweedia_hp.htm)
http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/encycloweedia/encycloweedia_hp.htm