Invasive plants threaten the integrity of California’s native ecosystems by displacing native plants and reducing natural resources for wildlife, increasing the frequency and duration of wildfires, and decreasing water availability. Invasive plants are plants that have been moved from their native habitats to non-native habitats. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) is a member-supported group that works with land managers, researchers, private landowners, and others to facilitate information and resource sharing in our common fight against invasive plant species.

Example: One section of the Plant Assessment Form for Cynara cardunculus (Artichoke thistle)

**Definition of Plant Scores**

High
- Serves ecological functions on ecosystems, plant and animal communities, and agricultural systems
- Reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment
- Clearly weakly distributed ecologically, both locally and worldwide

Moderate
- Disruptive and apt to, already can suffer ecological impacts on ecosystems, plant and animal communities, and agricultural systems
- Reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate rates of dispersal and establishment
- Usually weakly distributed ecologically, both locally and worldwide

Low
- Generally not a threat to native biotic communities
- Reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to low rates of dispersal and establishment
- Usually strongly distributed ecologically, both locally and worldwide

None
- Not a threat to native biotic communities
- Reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to no rates of dispersal and establishment
- Usually strongly distributed ecologically, both locally and worldwide

**Applications**

- Assist land managers in prioritizing control efforts
- Alert restoration workers to potential problem species
- Educate the public about impacts of invasive plants
- Assist with state and federal permitting
- Provide information on species for which we need more information (and provide ideas for future research)
- Work with the horticultural industry to remove invasive plants from the market
- Improve distribution information by surveying knowledgeable people around the state
- Prepare report on research gaps and research priorities for invasive plants in California
- Improve distribution information by surveying knowledgeable people around the state
- Conduct workshops to educate gardeners and landscapers about invasive plants

**The Problem**

Invasive plants threaten the integrity of California’s native ecosystems by displacing native plants and reducing natural resources for wildlife, increasing the frequency and duration of wildfires, and decreasing water availability. Invasive plants are plants that have been moved from their native habitats to non-native habitats. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) is a member-supported group that works with land managers, researchers, private landowners, and others to facilitate information and resource sharing in our common fight against invasive plant species.

**The Preventive List**

- Approximately 180 species ranked A, B, C. Considered But Not Listed: Red Alert or Red Warning
- Based on a combination of impacts and records of habitats invaded
- Extends evaluation to approximately 240 species

**The Update**

- Based on a categorical system using ecological impacts, invasiveness, and distribution, and additional criteria
- Provides a transparent rating system with rationale and documentation for each question

**The Previous List**

- Native habitats. Cal-IPC, then called the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, published the previous version of “Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California” in 1999.

**Applications**

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- Educate the public about impacts of invasive plants
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