# A Phenological Detectability Calendar for Invasive Plant Species

Eric Wrubel\*, Robert Steers, Joseph Aquila

National Park Service, San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program (SFAN I&M). \*eric\_wrubel@nps.gov

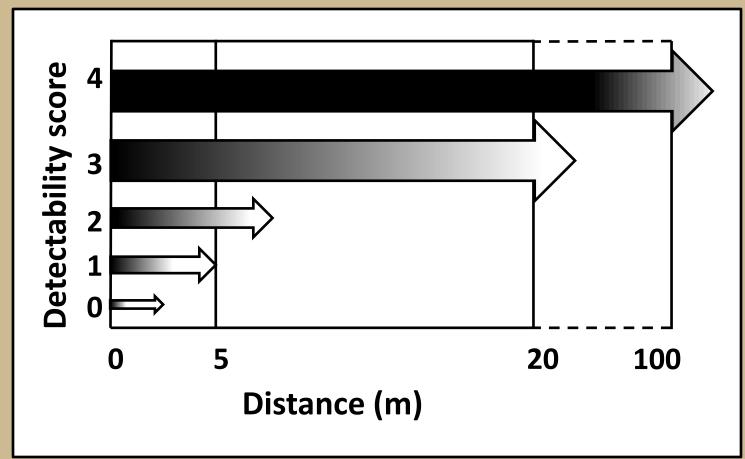


### INTRODUCTION

The SFAN I&M Invasive Species Early Detection Program (ISED) conducts protocol surveys to map recent invasions in network parks. The detectability of target species varies throughout the year with changes in the phenological phases of the species – morphological changes corresponding to life cycle events. Annual changes in plant phenology are strongly tied to seasonal changes in daylight hours and temperature, and thereby can be plotted on a calendar. Since 2012, ISED has been gathering data on phenology and detectability to train field staff on seasonal survey targets. We present here a phenology and detectability calendar based on the results of surveys in Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

#### METHODS

For each species encountered during surveys, detectability and phenology were estimated for the majority of individuals observed on a given day. Detectability was defined as the ability to distinguish a plant from the surrounding vegetation at a distance of 5, 20, or 100 meters, and was ranked on a scale of 0-4 (Figure 1). We recorded all phenological stages present on the majority of individuals observed. Phenological stages included: new growth, flowering, fruiting, senescence, and dead (leaves/stems). For trees, shrubs and perennial herbs, scores were based only on reproductively mature individuals. For short-statured annuals and bulbs, detectability was estimated for a dense  $1 \, \text{m}^2$  patch, and phenology was scored for all life cycle stages. Correlations between monthly detectability scores and occurrence data from ISED surveys were used to calibrate the final detectability scores in the calendar. (Figure 2).



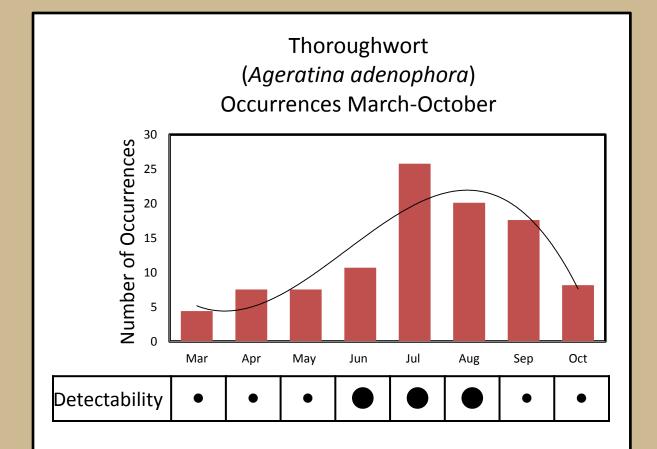


Figure 1. Detectability diagram

Figure 2. Detectability scores calibrated by monthly frequency of observations

#### RESULTS

The calendar symbolizes phenology by month using color codes, and the detectability by month using dots of increasing size (Figures 3 and 4). For annuals and biennials we present the phenological stages of one generation, followed by the initial germination of the next generation. Where data gaps existed for species that were rarely encountered during surveys, or for the winter months, when few ISED surveys were conducted survey data were supplemented by personal knowledge of the SFAN I&M Botanist, based on extensive year-round field experience in GGNRA. Information from the Calfora and Calphotos databases was also utilized for verification purposes.

Det	ectability		Phenol	ogy
	≥ 5 m away	Not detectable		New growth
	≥ 5 m away	Difficult to detect		Flowering
•	≥ 5 m away	Easily detectable		Fruiting
	≥ 20 m away	Easily detectable		Senescence
	≥ 100 m away	Easily detectable		Dead leaves or stems

Figure 3. Detectability and phenology symbology.

## DISCUSSION

Most species had the highest detectability at peak flowering, as is typically assumed. However, some species and life forms were more detectable in fruit, or were equally detectable in senescence. Phenophases often overlap temporally, e.g. fruiting and senescence often occur simultaneously. This calendar necessarily generalizes the predominant phenological stages by month. More detailed phenology charts can be constructed for each species, showing overlapping temporal ranges for each phenophase (Figure 5). Some species have a very small window of detectability before senescing and going dormant (e.g. *Oxalis pes-caprae, Rytidosperma* spp., *Sparaxis tricolor*). This calendar can be used to plan survey and control efforts efficiently, especially for those species with compressed phenological stages. For example, *Rytidosperma* spp. have a very narrow window of detectability before fruiting and senescing. However, the most effective treatment time is during active growth, before the plants set seed. This calendar allows managers to see that June is the best time to plan *Rytidosperma* treatments, for both detectability and phenology.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
New growth	า											
Flowering												
Fruiting												
Senescence												
Dead												

Figure 5. Annual phenological stages of thoroughwort. Because it is an evergreen perennial, some degree of new growth is present throughout the year.

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Andrea Williams (Marin Municipal Water District) for the detectability index concept, and to the many interns and volunteers who made this project possible. Thanks also to Calflora (Calflora.org) and Calphotos (calphotos.berkeley.edu).

Acacia melanoxylon Ageratina adenophora Ailanthus altissima Albizia lophantha Arctotheca calendula Arctotheca prostrata Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea solstitialis	Common Name  blackwood acacia thoroughwort tree-of-heaven silk tree fertile capeweed creeping capeweed field mustard red brome cheat grass butterfly bush field marigold sea fig iceplant	·	•	•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	May  • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•	Aug	• •	•	•	•
Ageratina adenophora Ailanthus altissima Albizia lophantha Arctotheca calendula Arctotheca prostrata Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	thoroughwort  tree-of-heaven silk tree fertile capeweed creeping capeweed field mustard red brome cheat grass butterfly bush field marigold sea fig	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Ailanthus altissima Albizia lophantha Arctotheca calendula Arctotheca prostrata Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea solstitialis	tree-of-heaven silk tree fertile capeweed creeping capeweed field mustard red brome cheat grass butterfly bush field marigold sea fig	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Albizia lophantha Arctotheca calendula Arctotheca prostrata Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea solstitialis	silk tree  fertile capeweed  creeping capeweed  field mustard  red brome  cheat grass  butterfly bush  field marigold  sea fig	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•
Arctotheca calendula Arctotheca prostrata Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	fertile capeweed creeping capeweed field mustard red brome cheat grass butterfly bush field marigold sea fig	•	•	•	•								
Arctotheca prostrata Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea solstitialis	creeping capeweed  field mustard  red brome  cheat grass  butterfly bush  field marigold  sea fig	•	•		•						•	•	•
Brassica rapa Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	field mustard  red brome  cheat grass  butterfly bush  field marigold  sea fig	•	•	•		•	•	•	•				
Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens Bromus tectorum Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	red brome cheat grass butterfly bush field marigold sea fig	•	•								•	•	•
Bromus tectorum  Buddleja davidii  Calendula arvensis  Carpobrotus chilensis  Carpobrotus edulis  Centaurea calcitrapa  Centaurea melitensis  Centaurea solstitialis	cheat grass butterfly bush field marigold sea fig	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•		
Buddleja davidii Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	butterfly bush field marigold sea fig	•		•	•	•	•	•	•				
Calendula arvensis Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	field marigold sea fig	•		•	•	•	•	•	·	•	•		
Carpobrotus chilensis Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	sea fig		•	•	•	•					•	•	•
Carpobrotus edulis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis		•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis	iceplant	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		
Centaurea melitensis Centaurea solstitialis		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•
Centaurea solstitialis	purple starthistle	•	•	•							•	•	•
	tocalote	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
( 'OO+VIIM DOKO'''	yellow starthistle	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
, ,	orange jessamine	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
7	narrow-leaved iceplant	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
,	jubata grass		•	•	•	•	•	•					
Cortaderia selloana	pampas grass		•	•	•	•	•	•					
	orange cotoneaster		•	•	•								
Cotoneaster lacteus	milkflower cotoneaster		•	•	•								
	silverleaf cotoneaster		•	•	•								
	singleseed hawthorn	•	•	•	•				•		•	•	•
Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	Portuguese broom	•	•						•	•	•	•	•
7 0	orchard grass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	cape ivy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>9</b> 1 1	purple foxglove	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•
Dipsacus fullonum	Fuller's teasel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2 run ren ren gren e eneme	stinkweed	•	•					•	٠	•	•	•	•
	panic veldt grass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Erigeron karvinskianus	Latin American fleabane	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>,</i> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	bluegum eucalyptus												
Euphorbia oblongata	oblong spurge	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•
Festuca arundinacea	tall fescue	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Foeniculum vulgare	sweet fennel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•
	French broom	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Geranium purpureum	herb robert	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Geranium robertianum	Robert geranium	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hedera helix	English ivy	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Helichrysum petiolare	licorice plant					•							
Hypericum grandifolium	largeleaf St. Johnswort	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•
Hypericum perforatum	Klamathweed	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
llex aquifolium	English holly	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Iris pseudacorus	yellow flag iris	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lathyrus latifolius	everlasting pea	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Leptospermum laevigatum	Australian teatree	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•
Leucanthemum vulgare	oxeye daisy			•	•	•			•	•	•		
Maytenus boaria	Chilean mayten	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mentha pulegium	pennyroyal			•	•	•	•	•		•	·		
Myriophyllum aquaticum	parrot's-feather	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda buttercup	•	•			•	•						•
Pennisetum clandestinum	Kikuyu grass	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Phalaris aquatica	Harding grass				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pittosporum crassifolium	stiffleaf cheesewood	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pyracantha angustifolia	narrowleaf firethorn	•	•	•	•	•		•				•	•
Rhamnus alaternus	Italian buckthorn	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Romulea rosea var. australis	rosy sandcrocus		•	•	•	•	•						
Rosa rubiginosa	sweetbriar rose	•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•
Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan blackberry	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rytidosperma caespitosum	common wallaby grass					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Rytidosperma penicillatum	hairy wallaby grass					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Scabiosa atropurpurea	mourningbride			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	٠
Solanum aviculare	New Zealand nightshade	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Sparixis tricolor hybrid	Harlequin flower			•			•						
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stipa purpurata	Stipoid ricegrass				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Stipa manicata	Andean tussockgrass			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Tradescantia fluminensis	small-leaf spiderwort	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Trifolium angustifolium	narrowleaf clover				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Ulex europaeus	gorse	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•
Vinca major	periwinkle	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Xanthium spinosum	spiny cockleburr	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Xanthium strumarium	rough cockleburr	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•