

**Cal-IPC 2004 – Ventura  
TREES & SHRUBS WORKING GROUP**

Notes: S.Grove

Facilitator/Leader: M. Heath

Dealing with community opposition to weed removal projects

- Start w/removing sapplings and young/small populations
- To avoid public upset, drilling around into tree buttress roots and injecting 25% glyphosate. Drill into roots every 2 or more inches if cambium layer is thick. Trees die slow and branches fall slowly, so won't pose an immediate hazard. Not appropriate method for near trails as limbs may fall unpredictably and become a human hazard.
- GGNRA example: inform public ahead of time; use threats of fire danger to help build support for invasive plant removal projects.

Specific Treatments for invasive tree/shrub species

- Garlon<sup>TM</sup> on Eucalyptus? Works comparably if not better than glyphosate.
- Tree of Heaven always come back with mechanical methods, can make it works because of enhanced seed dispersal. Girdling may be more appropriate.
- Imazapyr<sup>TM</sup> effective but may leach from roots and travel in soil.
- What tool can inject herbicides into Eucalyptus?
- Garlon4<sup>TM</sup> in the form of Pathfinder<sup>TM</sup> effective on broom applied basally on plants 3-4" in diameter.
- Weed Wrenches<sup>TM</sup> are great for volunteers but seems to disturb soil so greatly. Any ideas?
  - 1) Might as well keep flushing the seed bank up if you can follow up post germination.
  - 2) Leave the plants in place one killed - it will help limit germination.
  - 3) Cut and peel the stump like a banana.
  - 4) Flush out seed bank and mulch
  - 5) Seed won't remain viable when passed through chickens.
- Castor bean, any advise?
  - 1) Garlon<sup>TM</sup> is better than Roundup<sup>TM</sup>
  - 2) If using Roundup<sup>TM</sup>, need greater than 5% or it will take to long to die.
- Has anyone tried cutting and spraying boom with Garlon<sup>TM</sup>?
  - 1) Cutting can backfire. If it rains or if the plants are really robust (4-5 years old), you could make the problem worse.
- Encourage cutting and peeling broom bark back on rocky slopes. This method is also effective on Acacia species.
- Use an old can of Kiwi shoe polish w/dobber-type of applicator to dispense triclopyr. VineX<sup>TM</sup> is a more legal alternative sold by pesticide companies to accomplish the same thing.
- Rubus discolor hand removal:
  - cut stumps back and use sharp shovel
  - cut and cut and recut 3-5 times during a season

—cut leaves and stems 12" high with Roundup™

-Does native blackberry ever hybridize with exotics? Jake Sigg has found evidence this may occur.

### Community Support

- Are there any efforts in using revegetation after invasive tree removal projects and if so, how does the public react?

*Response:* yes - public insists on revegetation with native trees but often they wish to see them grow faster.

- Public input: Eucalyptus being replaced by native trees that probably won't survive because they do not belong.
- Native grasslands are not always a realistic restoration goal.

### How to start Outreach

- Stewardship first, very small number of people can build trust or even halt a project  
Education must be done ahead of time. Obstructionists are fearful of change. They sometimes advocate for less aesthetically pleasing work. People must be convinced of native restoration alternatives to invasive forests. Restorationists should consider better, graphic descriptions (visualizations) of what the predicted outcome should look like. Must be honest and describe that projects may look unsatisfying for quite some time.
- Education public on adverse effects on songbirds: i.e. Sticky Eucalyptus gum clogs native songbird bills.
- Don't be shady, be honest, especially if working for the government. Have informal meetings, negotiate.
- Imaging can be done in Photoshop™ fairly easily to help prepare visualizations to help people see what a project will look like before it ever begins.
- Use any supporters to juxtapose the opposition within the supporters. Show the opposition that the public also supports your weed removal plans.
- Language is important. July/Aug issue of Sierra magazine has an article on language use to please or irritate the public.
- Monitoring. Use the bird angle. People love birds.

### Fire and Invasive Trees and Shrubs

- People are afraid of fire. Help them understand Eucalyptus trees and other invasive plants are very fire hazardous.
- Is there any solid research about Eucalyptus and fire?
- Are Eucalyptus and brooms any greater fire danger than native chaparral?
- Try and get funding for long term maintenance. Push for long term funding. Otherwise you may exasperate the problem and henceforth the public.
- Brooms typically have 50 year seed bank. How does one get funding for the 49 years after the initial removal effort?

### Monitoring

- Photomonitoring
- Percent cover - transects/point intercept
- define goals clearly