

# Weed Alerts 2004!

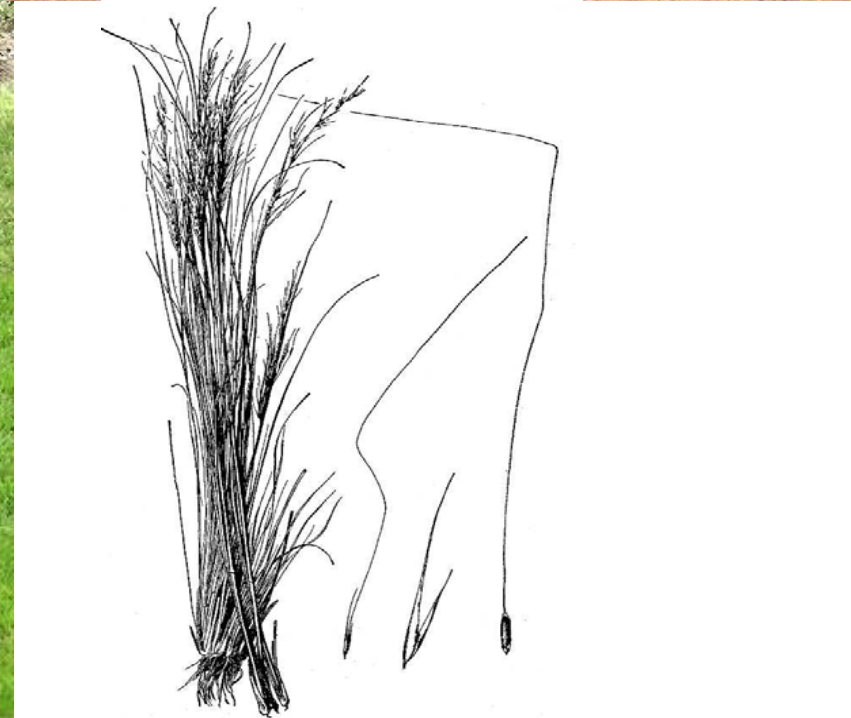
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Needlegrass or Mexican feathergrass  
[*Nassella tenuissima* (= *Stipa tenuissima*)]









*Nassella tenuissima* (= *Stipa tenuissima*)

- A fine textured clumping grass
- Native from Texas to New Mexico south through Central America to Chile.
- Both drought resistant and cold hardy.

# Needlegrass or Mexican feathergrass [*Nassella tenuissima* (= *Stipa tenuissima*)]

- Escaped in Arizona and California
  - Recently added to the CDFA Q-list (Jan. 2004)
- Also escaped in Australia and New Zealand
  - Just as invasive as nassella tussock (*N. trichotoma*), which has destroyed many hectares of good pasture.
  - The Auckland Regional Council asks that gardeners not remove the plants but place large plastic bags over them to prevent seed dispersal. The officer will remove the plant and ensure the seed is incinerated.
  - The sale, propagation or distribution of this plant pest is prohibited.



Banana poka [*Passiflora tarminiana* (= *P. mollissima*)]









# Banana poka [*Passiflora tarminiana* (=*P. mollissima*)]

- Invasive in New Zealand and Hawaii.
- Severely impacts the structure of forests and can overtop and shade out overstory trees.
- Patch found (1 hectare) in 2003 at the parking lot of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park in Monterey County.
- Perhaps another species discovered in Mission trails Park in Carmel in 2004.
- Seems to be escaping from yards from Santa Cruz County to Monterey County





***Passiflora* sp.**





A new alternative  
control strategy; the  
“DEATH STARE”







# Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*)

- Native to Mediterranean region
- Also invasive in Australia
- First reported in Alameda County in 1995
- Now found in at least 6 counties in northern California
- Unpalatable to livestock
- Resembles Russian thistle, but similar to tarweeds up close (Asteraceae)







# Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*)

- Spreads very rapidly, wind dispersed seeds and can stick to hair, feathers, vehicles and equipment
- Moving quickly along highways
- Can form dense infestations on disturbed sites
- Yet unknown what it will do in wildlands and rangeland





**Woolly distaff thistle**  
(*Carthamus lanatus*)



## Woolly distaff thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)

- Native to the Mediterranean region.
- CDFA B-list, not listed by Cal-IPC in 1999 list, but will be in 2005 list
- Government-listed noxious weed in some southern regions of Australia. Also invasive in other US states (i.e., Texas and Oklahoma)
- Expanding range in central and southern coastal areas of California.



Onionweed (*Asphodelus fistulosus*)



# Onionweed (*Asphodelus fistulosus*)

- Native to southern Europe.
- On need-more-information list in 1999 Cal-IPC Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern list.
- Government-listed noxious weed in Australia, where it is most problematic on pastureland in the southern areas. Also invasive in New Mexico and Texas.
- In pastures and on rangeland, it is avoided by livestock and can develop dense populations that exclude grasses and other desirable forage species.