

Emergent Invasive Plant Program

A CNPS Chapter model for early detection and effective response to emergent invasive weeds

CNPS ORANGE
COUNTY
CHAPTER occnps.org

California Native Plant Society

Many counties in California lack an effective process to identify, communicate on and coordinate the local management of emergent invasive plant species.

Recent state and local funding cuts for regional programs such as Weed Management Areas have only worsened the situation.

Advantages of Regional CNPS Leadership:

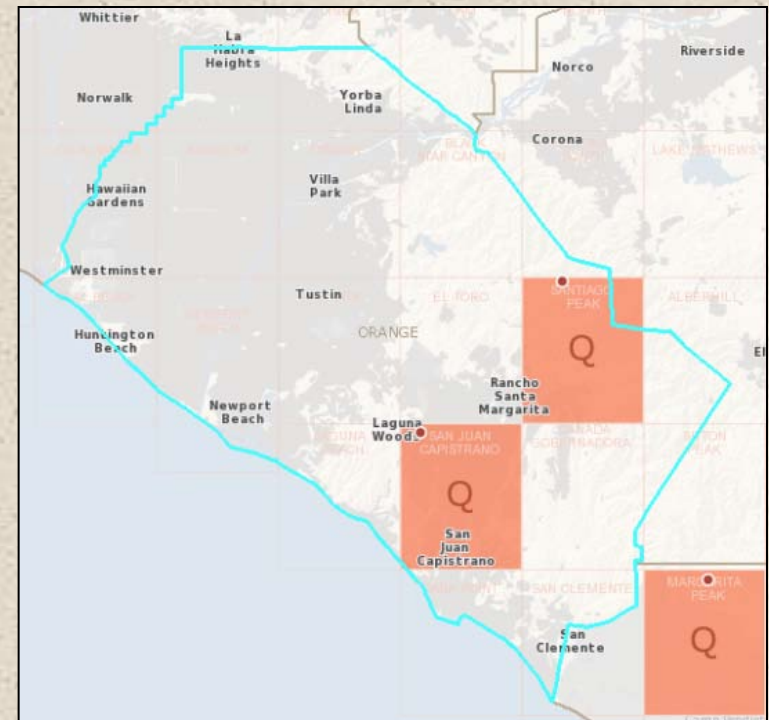
- Unencumbered by boundaries, jurisdictions or procedural constraints
- Expert knowledge of the issues and plants
- Existing organizational structure
- Existing partnerships with land managers and agencies
- Large body of members and volunteers
- Ability to act quickly

Constraints of Regional CNPS:

- Very little budget
- Volunteer driven
- Advice, but with no authority
- Challenges dealing with jurisdictions

OC CNPS' response is to focus specifically on Emergent Invasive Plants

- Newly arrived in the region or of limited distribution
- High potential for invasiveness
- High probability of significant ecological disruption



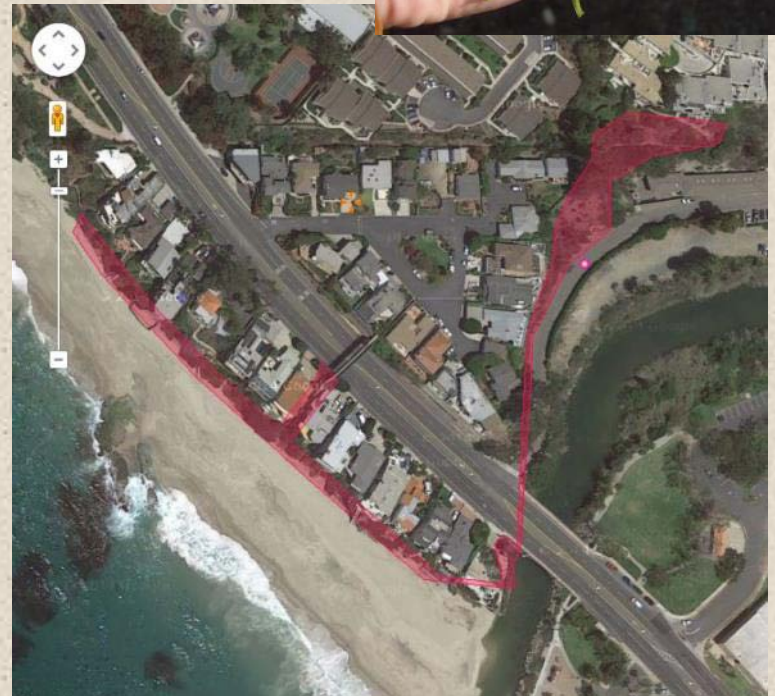
Rubus armeniacus, CalWeedMapper

Our Emergent Invasives Plant List is dynamic and kept to a manageable size

Our Goal:

The early detection and facilitation of the effective management of specific emergent invasive weeds within our region

- Early detection
- Communication
- Management support leading to a Rapid Response
- On-going monitoring



Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. *monilifera*, Aliso Creek

Early Detection

Trained “eyes on the ground”
to accurately report new
populations of high priority
emergent weed species



Hypericum canariense

Communication

With our network of partners; including land managers, agencies, support groups, contractors, our members and the public



Management Support of Rapid Response

Coordination with land managers, land owners, support groups and potential labor forces

Labor where needed to remove populations that may otherwise not be managed.



Brassica tournifortii, Loma Ridge



Centaurea solstitialis, Silverado Canyon

The Plants:

- A dynamic list
- Plant candidates suggested
- Must qualify as emergent
- A data — driven review process, using scoring
- Highest priority plants are

“Red Alert”



Senecio linearifolius var. *linearifolius*

Knowledge Base for Plant Selection:

- Local knowledge
 - Land managers
 - Botanical consultants
 - Active field experts
 - Other published and unpublished data



Scoring Protocol:

- Abundance
- Distribution
- Ecological Impact
- Rate of Spread
- Variables:
 - Cal-IPC ranking/alert
 - ID difficulty

Scientific Name	Source	OC-CNPS Emergent List	Current Abundance and Distribution				Ecological Impact Ability to Invade Native Habitat Ranking	Rate of spread Reproductive Rate and Dispersal Ranking	Modifiers			
			# OC Pops	Abund. Ranking	Known OC Quads	Distribution Ranking			Raw Ranking	Cal-IPC Ranking/Alert	ID Difficulty	Final Score
<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	Starr Ranch	Candidate	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.00
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Local knowledge	2015	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.00
<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>	Local knowledge	2015	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.00
<i>Voluntaria vubuliflora</i>	Local knowledge	2015	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1.00
<i>Hypericum canariense</i>	Local knowledge	2015	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1.25
<i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	SD Emergent	Candidate	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	1.50
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	SD Emergent	Candidate	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	1.50
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Local knowledge	2015	11	3	10	2	1	1	2	1	0	1.75
<i>Delairea odorata</i>	Local knowledge	2015	14	3	9	2	1	1	2	1	0	1.75
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Local knowledge	2015	13	3	9	2	1	1	2	1	0	1.75
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Local knowledge	2015	10	2	4	1	3	2	2	1	0	2.00
<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Local knowledge	2015	15	3	16	3	1	1	2	1	0	2.00
<i>Emex spinosa</i>	Local knowledge	2015	8	2	6	2	2	2	2	1	0	2.00
<i>Limonium duriusculum</i>	Test	Candidate	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	2.00
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Test	Candidate	8	2	6	2	2	2	2	1	0	2.00
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Local knowledge	2015	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2.25
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	Test	Candidate	5	1	5	1	1	2	1	0	0	2.25
<i>Oncosiphon piluliferum</i>	Test	Candidate	4	1	4	1	2	1	1	0	0	2.25
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Test	Candidate	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	2.25
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Local knowledge	2015	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.50
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Test	Candidate	6	2	4	1	2	1	2	0	0	2.50
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Test	Candidate	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.50
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Test	Candidate	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.50
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Test	Candidate	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2.50
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	SD Emergent	Candidate	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.50
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Local knowledge	2015	7	2	5	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.75
<i>Salpichroa origanifolia</i>	Local knowledge	2015	6	2	4	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.75
<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	Local knowledge	2015	9	2	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	2.75
<i>Eleoagnus angustifolia</i>	Test	Candidate	3	1	3	1	2	3	2	0	0	2.75
<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	Local knowledge	2015	7	2	5	1	3	2	2	0	0	3.00
<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>	Local knowledge	2015	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	3.00
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Local knowledge	2015	6	2	9	2	2	2	2	0	0	3.00
<i>Limonium ramosissimum</i>	SD Emergent	Candidate	9	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	3.00
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Local knowledge	2015	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	3.50
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Test	Candidate	12	3	8	2	2	3	3	0	0	3.50

A data driven score - using objective measurements



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of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains

Have You Seen These Plants?

administrator



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They are OCCNPS' current **RED ALERT Invasive Plants**, our primary candidates for **Early Detection and Rapid Response** action.

Click on a name for more information and images that can be printed out for field use.

Watch for these weeds as you visit OC's wildlands. Report any that you see to invasives@occnps.org, following the protocol outlined in [Reporting an Invasive Plant](#).

This list is dynamic, and will change over time.

[CLICK HERE for the current list of all OCCNPS' Emergent Invasive Plants](#)



Brassica tournefortii
SAHARA MUSTARD



Dittrichia graveolens
STINKWORT



Centaurea solstitialis
YELLOW STAR THISTLE



Lepidium latifolium
BROAD-LEAVED PEPPERGRASS



Volutaria tubuliflora
MOROCCAN KNAPWEED



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What is Early Detection/Rapid Response?

OC-CNPS' Emergent Invasive Plant Management Program

Links for Invasive Plants

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RED ALERT Invasive Plants

our primary concern

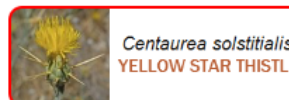
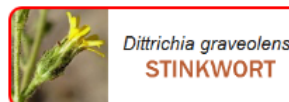
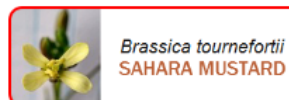
Early Detection and Rapid Response

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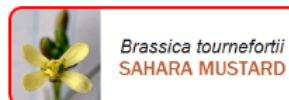
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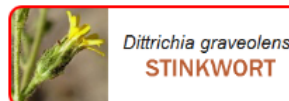
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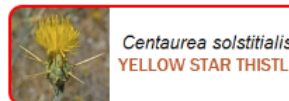
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YELLOW STAR THISTLE



Lepidium latifolium
**BROAD-LEAVED
PEPPERGRASS**



Volutaria tubuliflora
**MOROCCAN
KNAPWEED**



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OCCNPS' Emergent Invasives List

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The species outlined in red are currently **OCCNPS' RED ALERT Emergent Invasives**. All on this list are prime candidates for **Early Detection and Rapid Response** action. Click on a name for more information and images that can be printed out for field use. Watch for these weeds as you visit OC's wildlands, and report any that you see to invasives@occnps.org, following the instructions in [Reporting an Invasive Plant](#).

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Araujia sericifera
BLADDERFLOWER



Asphodelus fistulosus
ONIONWEED



Brassica tournefortii
SAHARA MUSTARD



Centaurea solstitialis
YELLOW STAR THISTLE



Chrysanthemoides monilifera
ssp. monilifera
BITOU BUSH



Delairea odorata
CAPE IVY



Dittrichia graveolens
STINKWORT



Emex spinosus
SPINY EMEX



Ehrharta calycina
PERENNIAL VELDT GRASS



Hypericum canariense
CANARY ISLAND ST. JOHN'S WORT



Kochia scoparia
SUMMER CYPRESS



Lepidium draba
WHITETOP



Lepidium latifolium
BROAD-LEAVED PEPPERGRASS



Ludwigia hexapetala
CREeping WATER PRIMROSE



Robinia pseudoacacia
BLACK LOCUST



Rubus armeniacus
HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY



Salpichroa origanifolia
LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY VINE



Senecio linearifolius
v. linearifolius
LINEAR-LEAVED AUSTRALIAN FIREWEED



Volutaria tubuliflora
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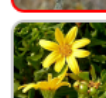
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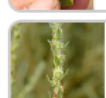
Hypericum canariense
**CANARY ISLAND
ST. JOHN'S WORT**



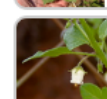
Rubus armeniacus
**HIMALAYAN
BLACKBERRY**



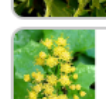
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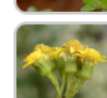
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**LILY-OF-THE-
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Lepidium draba
WHITETOP



Senecio linearifolius v.
linearifolius
**LINEAR-LEAVED
AUSTRALIAN FIREWEED**



Volutaria tubuliflora
**MOROCCAN
KNAPWEED**



**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?**

It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County

**MOROCCAN KNAPWEED**aka Egyptian or Mediterranean
Desert Knapweed***Volutaria tubuliflora*****Known OC Sites & Status Updates****Distribution map & info:**

- calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=13055
- cal-ipc.org/symposia/archive/pdf/2011/2Ketch.pdf

Can be confused with *Volutaria canariensis*,
Canary Island Knapweed

Moroccan knapweed is an erect, openly branched, robust annual that grows from a soon-deciduous basal rosette. It grows best in disturbed ground & seasonally flooded sites, where it can grow to 3+ ft. high & wide. It forms a stout deep taproot & many fine, water-absorbing, surface roots.

It has become widespread in the Anza-Borrego area, & has recently been added to California's Noxious Weed List.



Printable profiles for each Emergent Species

**MOROCCAN KNAPWEED, P. 2****IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT
A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE
LIST:**

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to invasives@occnps.org.



Each plant produces roughly 2500 seeds. Seed are minute, barrel-shaped, with a crown of fine hairs that acts as a parachute for wind dispersal--allowing the plants to spread at a very high rate.

Invasive Plants

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Known Locations and Status Updates

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Select an invasive species from the list on the right to see the locations of known Orange County occurrences, as well as status updates from the chapter. **Please do not report known** Orange County occurrences. All **new** or other occurrences should be reported to invasives@occnps.org using the instructions at [Reporting an Invasive Plant](#).

Status updates include new occurrences, management activities, updates about the population, successes and failures and other news regarding each invasive species. The most recent news appears at the beginning of each report. If you have updates or corrections, please report them for inclusion to invasives@occnps.org.

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Voluntaria sp. (aff. *V. tubuliflora*) - MOROCCAN KNAPWEED

Known OC site:

- * Big Canyon area of Upper Newport Bay, Newport Beach. .29 acres gross area. (under management by Irvine Ranch Conservancy, City of Newport Beach)

Status Updates: (from management in which OC-CNPS is involved)

2015-10-16: Germination has begun in the **Big Canyon** area, spurred perhaps by unusual late summer showers. Plants are being monitored and removal will be ongoing.

2015-05: A plant survey of the entire **Big Canyon** area was conducted by Fred Roberts, who is also a OC-CNPS Rare Plant Specialist. Riley Pratt, the IRC Project Manager indicated that no additional *Voluntaria* were found.

2015-04-13: Approximately 300 more plants in two or three small colonies were discovered, removed and bagged today at **Big Canyon** by The Irvine Ranch Conservancy. This brings the total removed plants for 2015 to about 3,600. Another survey of the entire Big Canyon area by an independent botanist contractor, and CNPS member, will be conducted on Thursday.

2015-04-10: Most **Big Canyon** plants have been removed by The Irvine Ranch Conservancy. Total of 3,324 plants were removed and bagged. About 3,000 were in the main population, but a few more scattered stands were along the North bluff. The surrounding area (5+ acres) was surveyed for additional plants.

2015-04-10: The Daily Pilot Newspaper (L.A. Times local edition for Newport Beach/Costa Mesa, etc.) publishes a feature story on the plant in **Big Canyon** and the OC-CNPS invasive plant effort.

2015-04-09: The Irvine Ranch Conservancy completes the removal effort for this season at **Big Canyon**. Approximately 1,100 plants are removed.

2015-04-08: The Irvine Ranch Conservancy begins removal of plants from the **Big Canyon** site. Approximately 600 plants are removed today, with the balance, estimated at another 500 plants slated for removal tomorrow.

2015-04-08: OC-CNPS distributes a Media Release to several dozen media outlets, agencies, environmental organizations and other interested parties regarding the infestation.

2015-04-08: Fresh voucher samples from the **Big Canyon** infestation are taken by an Emergent Invasive Committee member and mailed to the CDFA state botanist in Sacramento

2015-04-06: Prompted by this discovery and the work of OC-CNPS, the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture lists the species as a state Noxious Weed List 4500 and given an A rating. A-rated pests are subject to state or county enforced action involving eradication, quarantine, containment, ejection or other actions.

2015-04-03: From the mapping, the colony at **Big Canyon** is determined to be within City of Newport Beach property and managed by The Irvine Ranch Conservancy, who agrees to take the lead on management activities.

2015-04-02: The **Big Canyon** area is surveyed more thoroughly by a committee member and the colony is plotted as a polygon on Calflora. A much larger infestation is found, over an area of about 0.5 acre and comprising an estimated 500-1,000 plants. Notification is sent by the committee to assorted stakeholders and interested parties, including US Fish & Wildlife, CA Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife, OC Parks, The Irvine Ranch Conservancy, The City of Newport Beach and The Newport Bay Conservancy. Details are also communicated to The California Native Plant Council, CDFA and other SoCal botanists

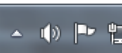
2015-04-01: Images from the **Big Canyon** infestation are forwarded to the OC-CNPS Emergent Invasive Plant Committee. From the images, the plant is identified by the OC-CNPS committee as *Voluntaria tubuliflora*. The site is visited in the early evening by a committee member and the identification is confirmed. 23 plants are located in a small colony of only 5-6 square meters. A voucher sample is taken.

2015-03-31: OC-CNPS member Barbara Boethling discovers a few plants of an unknown *Centaurea*-like plant at **Big Canyon**, in Upper Newport Bay. She shows images to fellow member Diane Etchison.

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Early Success: Moroccan Knapweed (*Volutaria tubuliflora*)

- Second record for U.S.
- Site visited by OC CNPS and confirmed within 24 hours, mapped within 48 hours
- Aggressively and immediately managed within 10 days:
 - By Irvine Ranch Conservancy, under contract with City of Newport Beach
 - 3,624 plants removed
- CDFA adds to Noxious Weed List—A rating
- Media coverage and community awareness



Early Success: Sahara Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*)

- 6 new emergent infestations were reported to OC CNPS
- 5 of these were aggressively and immediately managed:
 - 3 by OC CNPS volunteers
 - 1 by a cooperating land manager
 - 1 by support group volunteers



Early Success: Yellow Star Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

- Three colonies in the county were mapped and plotted:
 - Additional sub-colonies found and reported by OC CNPS
- Colonies now under management:
 - By Irvine Ranch Conservancy, in cooperation with OC Parks
 - By CA State Parks in cooperation with OC CNPS
 - By OC CNPS volunteers
 - By OC CNPS in cooperation with USFS
- 4,527 plants, plus 10 bags, removed



Early Success: Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*)

- First occurrence in Orange County reported by OC CNPS member.
- Mapped and plotted by OC CNPS within 10 days
- Reported to OC Parks by OC CNPS
- All plants removed within 60 days
 - Cooperative effort with OC CNPS and OC Parks
- On-going management coordinated:
 - Treated, under the cooperative effort of OC CNPS and OC Parks
 - Hand pulls, under the cooperative effort of OC CNPS and OC Parks



OC CNPS Emergent Invasive Plant Management Program

- Relatively quick setup time
- Very low cost
- No boundaries
- Immediate results
- Engages the public

Immediate Successes !!!



What's Next?

- Build partnerships
- Train for Early Detection
- Add to the Cal-IPC knowledge base
- Encourage other chapters and regional organizations

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