

6000 Volunteer Detection Partners

The Problem, Possibilities, Potential
and Pitfalls

Bob Case

California Native Plant Society

Cal-IPC

Why Hate Noxious Weeds?

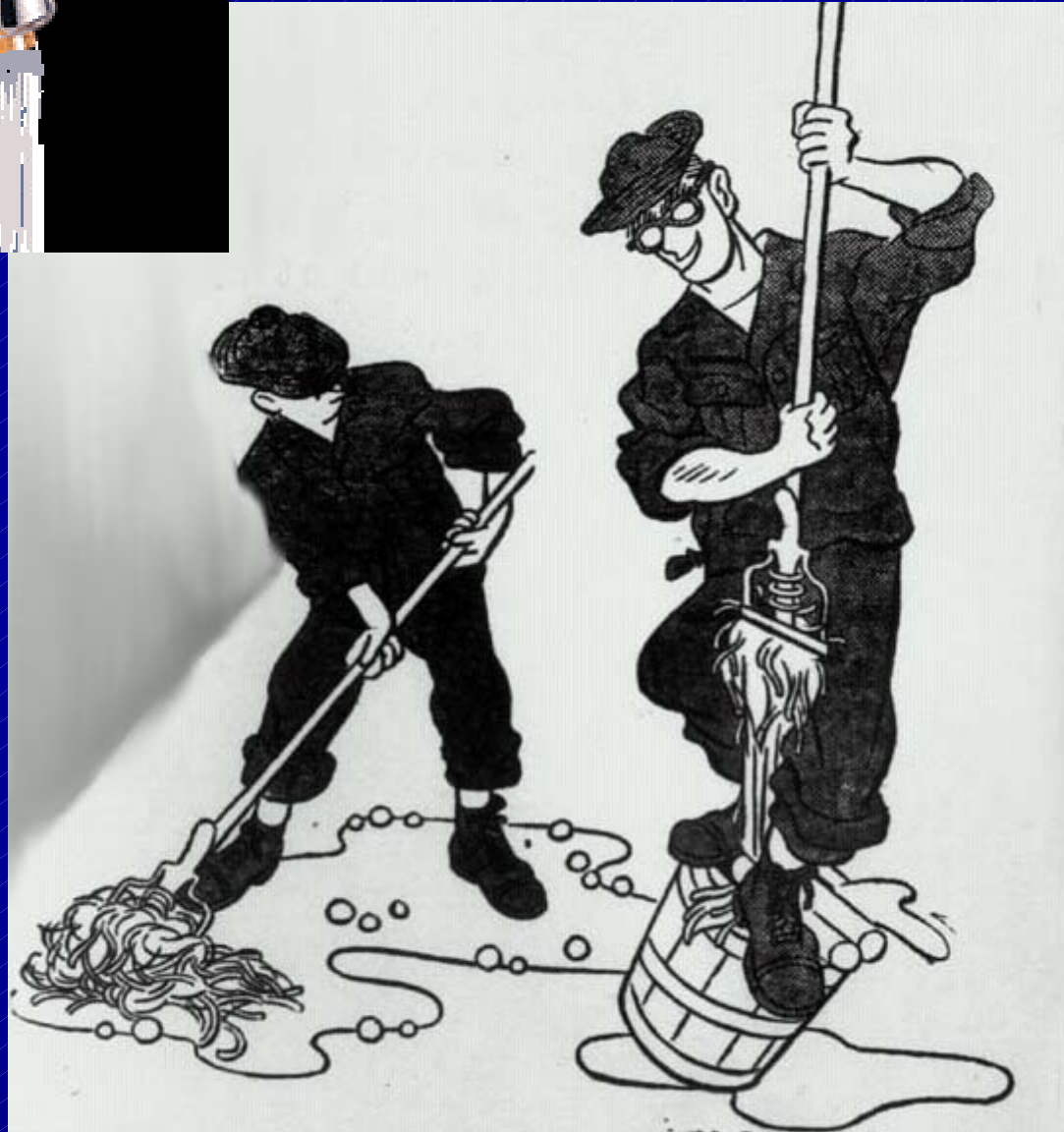
- Agricultural Costs
 - competition with crops
 - lost productive potential
- Environmental Consequence
 - reduced biodiversity
 - lost interrelationships
 - anerobisis-alleopathy
- Aesthetics and Accessibility
- Physical barriers
 - boating, pumps, harvesting
- Defend the Homeland



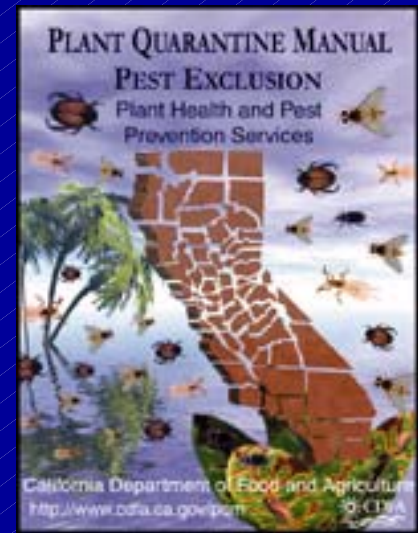
The faucet is running, the sink is overflowing, the room is flooded and as you look into the room you spot a mop in the corner, what do you do?



**Make some headway!
Mop faster fool!**



Quarantine Regulations?



- What happens if the faucet is still dribbling?
- What is the most cost effective and environmentally sound way to deal with invasive plants?
- How can we take care of existing populations that are spreading into new habitats and areas?

The Problem

- More weeds are coming into California
 - Ethnic botany --Seed catalogues
 - Internet commerce -- “medicinal plants”
- Agricultural Commissioners work load increased, budget reduced
- CDFA “Weed Tours” have ended
- Expanded definitions and impacts of invasive plants -- it’s not just Ag now
- “We need more trained, enthusiastic eyes out there”
Bottom Line How Do We Get Them?

CURRENT PROGRAM

- County and CDFA detection biologists are trained.
 - systematic searches and surveys in areas of high-risk with eradication of small populations.
 - give limited training to land managers
- There are not enough trained biologists at the state or county level to cover the entire state.
- CDFA and herbaria botanists identify weeds and alert the correct agencies
- Weed Management Areas have greatly facilitated the training of "detection partners." Lost state funding

State Weed Plan Early Detection

- Early detection -- combination of highly trained detection biologists and "detection partners," who receive short training sessions in identification of key species.
- The "detection partners" can number in the hundreds or thousands and are trained through workshops, articles, brochures, and other outreach methods. **They are a crucial link in early detection because of the vast area of the state they can traverse in their activities on the land.**



Government agencies

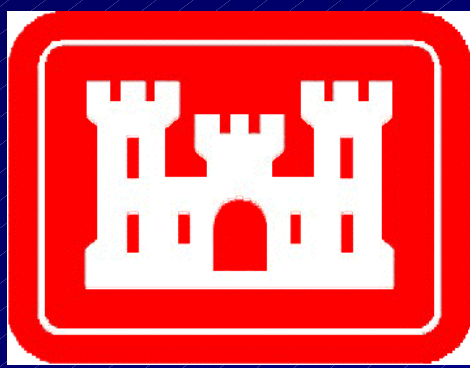
National Forest Service

National Park Service



- Some agencies already have control programs
- BUT how many have trained detection staff?





Army Corps of Engineers

- CLASSES to RECOGNIZE the NATIVES
- Large projects in the west and California where equipment is brought in and soil is disturbed
- Pest Management Information Series (PMIS) CD and online



County Road Crews and CalTrans

Contra Costa County Public Works



- Engineers
- Road Crews
- Annual meetings
- Monthly meetings



Early Workshops and presentations brought some Success!



EXPANSION-The Approach

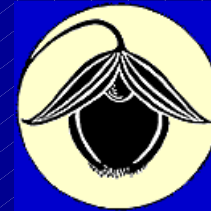
- Pulling Together Initiative Grant
- Five or Six Trainers
- Contact Possible Cooperative Organizations
 - Cal-IWAC and CINWCC
- Awareness Campaign-WMA Area Specific Brochures
- Identification Workshops focus on 20 species
- Specimen and Data Collection
- Encouragement and Rewards

Possible Cal-IPC Action

- Produce a pamphlet with pictures of the Cal-IPC Red Alert weeds and guide to their identification.
- Web site red list photos and current distribution information
- Possible Outreach Identification Workshops for Cal-IPC Red Alert weeds.

Potential non-agency Detection Partners

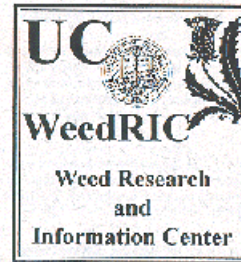
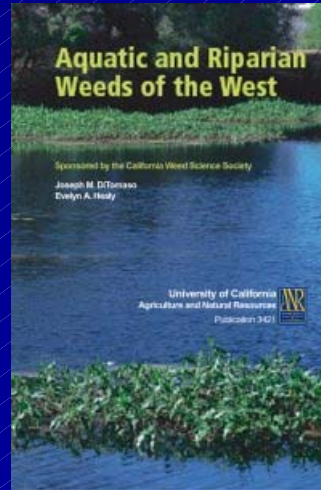
- Property Owners- Ranchers
- Watershed groups
- Non-Governmental Organizations:
 - CNPS, Audubon, Sierra Club
- University/college and herbaria staff
- UC Cooperative Extension-Master Gardeners
- NO Batteries Required



Available Resources



- PMIS
- UC online
- Encycloweedia
- DiTomaso Books
- Wildland Weeds ---Cal-IPC
- Cal-IPC Classes
- WMA “Dirty Dozen and Top Ten Brochures
- many more



PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE

What is WeedRIC?

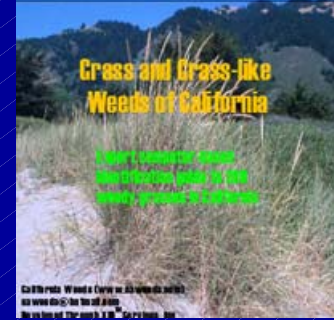
The Weed Research and Information Center is a focal point for weed research and management throughout California.

WeedRIC provides a clear identity for the University in weed science that brings together expertise from many disciplines. Information seekers can easily access many weed-related topics at the WeedRIC office and website.

WeedRIC is a highly visible center for technology transfer and research coordination.

WeedRIC provides a forum where stakeholders and University researchers interact and share information.

University of California





CNPS a gold mine of expertise and devotion

- 34 Local chapters cover the state
- Local knowledge and floras
- Professionals and dedicated plant lovers
- Frequent field trips and observations
- Some chapters have been visited, more are scheduled

cnps.web.aplus.net/cgi-bin/nc/bridge.cgi

CNPS databank

- Looking for common plants?
- **Web Index of California Wild Plants natives - naturalized - common escapes - invasives**
a service of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society



What do you do if you spot a suspicious plant?

- Record location on simple map, take GPS coordinates if possible
- Fill out a data sheet with name of collector, owner of property etc.
- Collect, and submit one sample to local AG Commissioner, press if necessary
- Keep one sample compare and show after identification is certain

Where do I take the weed?



- Local Agricultural Commissioner
- UC cooperative extension
- University herbarium
- CDFA Plant Diagnostics Laboratory
 - Dr. Fred Hrusa



Post Detection Action

- Follow-up essential by Commissioner's staff or WMA even if report is a known population
- Actual work may be accomplished by an agency or group, which specializes in on-the-ground projects.
- Some populations can be controlled or eradicated by dedicated persistent volunteers

Possible Pitfalls



- report poor data
- report a common weed
- report to wrong agency or person
- Don't get feedback
- Ag commissioner unable to take action

Timeline for Results

- 2006 contact groups and agencies complete online guide and links
- 2006-2007 Awareness Presentation to cooperative groups
- 2007-2008 Invasive Plant Identification and Reporting Workshops
- 2009 Continue process

Possible reward system

- Free lunch?
- Certificate?
- Monetary reward based on the cost savings of early detection?

Levels of Participation



- All we need is a few good passionate warriors-hate is action
- Contact local partners
- Deliver presentations
- Choose your level of participation

