Invasive Plants in California

Giant reed (Arundo) clogs streams, increasing wildfire and flood risk.

Yellow starthistle is unpalatable to livestock and wastes 1 million acre-feet of water a year.

Water hyacinth and other aquatic weeds harm water transport, boating and aquatic life in the Delta.

Invasive plants can increase fuel loads and spread wildfire.

Invasive plants are moving farther into the Sierra Nevada, threatening iconic treasures like Yosemite.
Weed Management Areas (WMAs)

Since 2000, California’s network of WMAs has eradicated thousands of populations of high-priority invasive plants. Seed grants from CDFA have leveraged a 2-to-1 match from partners. Hundreds of organizations statewide are involved in the WMA program, providing critical collaboration on natural resource management at the landscape level.

Invasive plant management through WMAs has multiple benefits. This chart from CDFA shows the portion of WMA program funding spent on invasive plant species that impact particular sectors.

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