

Priority Invasive Weeds for Central Sierra

KNAPWEEDS

- Erect perennials up to 3 ft. tall with alternate leaves
- White, pink, or purple flowers
- Small leaves below flowers with spiny or papery margins
- Reproduces by seed and from rhizomes, root sprouts or fragments, and/or by resprouting when damaged
- Spread by roads, wind, waterways, or hay



Diffuse knapweed



Spotted knapweed

BROOMS

Scotch Broom

- 5-10 ft. tall with angled branches
- Leaflets narrow, 0-3
- Yellow 1 in. flowers, sometimes with red or white accents
- Flat pods 1-2 in., hairy around margins



Scotch broom

Spanish Broom

- 10-15 ft. tall with rounded branches
- Leaflets narrow, 0-1
- 1 in. yellow flowers at stem tips only
- Flat 2-4 in. pods, sparsely to not hairy



Spanish broom

French Broom

- 3-8 ft. shrub with angled branches
- Leaflets broad, 3, generally persistent
- Flowers less than 1 in.
- Fat 1 in. gray-fuzzy pods



French broom

YELLOW STARTHISTLE

- 2-6 ft. annual with stiff wiry stems and spiny flowerheads that grow singly at stem tips
- Narrow yellow petals grow as a tuft above an oval, green, spine-covered bud
- Stiff spines up to 1 in. long
- A cottony white tuft remains above spines after flowers die
- Starts as a low cluster of leaves, like a dandelion rosette, but with white hairs
- Leaf bases extend down stems, giving them a winged appearance
- Leaves and stems gray to bluish green, covered with fine white cottony hairs
- Reproduces by seed
- Spread by recreation, roads, trails, wildlife, waterfowl, livestock, equipment, hay, forage



Yellow starthistle

MEDUSAHEAD

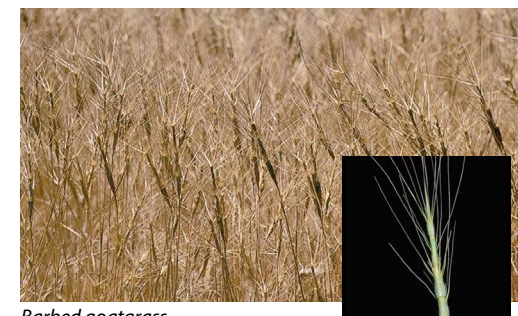
- Up to 2 ft. annual grass
- Seedheads are spike-like with long bristles
- 1-3 in. seed bristles are straight when green and become wavy as they dry
- Short, stiff, straight bristles remain on stems long after seeds fall to the ground
- Yellowish-green dense stands are highly visible after other annual grasses die
- Reproduces by seed
- Spread by wildlife, waterfowl, livestock



Medusahead

BARBED GOATGRASS

- Annual gray-green grass up to 1.5 ft. tall with thickened seedheads
- Young seedheads often reddish or purplish
- Closely related to wheat
- Reproduces by seed
- Spread by roads, wildlife, livestock, hay, horticulture



Barbed goatgrass

More Information

- "Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants: Best Management Practices for Land Managers." www.cal-ipc.org/BMPLandmanagers
- Tree Mortality Task Force www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/
- Stopping Weeds: Guidelines for tree removal contractors www.cal-ipc.org/stoppingweeds