

# NAPA COUNTY INVASIVE PLANTS

Over 1700 plant species that are native or naturalized have been found in Napa County.

About 490 species (29%) are not native.

At least 70 species are now widespread in Napa County and/or pose a significant threat to natural communities

- Invasive plant species displace native plant species.
- Loss of native plants reduce or eliminate native invertebrates and microbiota.
- The loss of biodiversity affects all life forms and alters food chain.
- Disruption in the food chain leads to further impacts to plant vigor, reproduction and distribution.
- Large scale changes affects climate and thereby air, water and soil qualities.
- Trying to fix the problems is far more difficult than preventing them.

## The most intensely impacted vegetation type in Napa County is Annual Grassland

- Over half of the 70 invaders in the county occur in grasslands
- And a number of others occur in the herbaceous layer of woodland and chaparral communities.

I would like to present a few of these species.

# *Cynara cardunculus* (Artichoke Thistle)

- This species has been the south part of county for at least 30 years but has increased in numbers from a scattered few plants to hundreds.



# Dittrichia graveolens (Stinkwort)

- This species appeared in Napa County about 2008.
- It has followed vehicle traffic along roadsides but has appeared in several wildlands in recent years.





## Foote Preserve at Mt. George — in burned chaparral





# Napa Marsh – Eucalyptus Drive



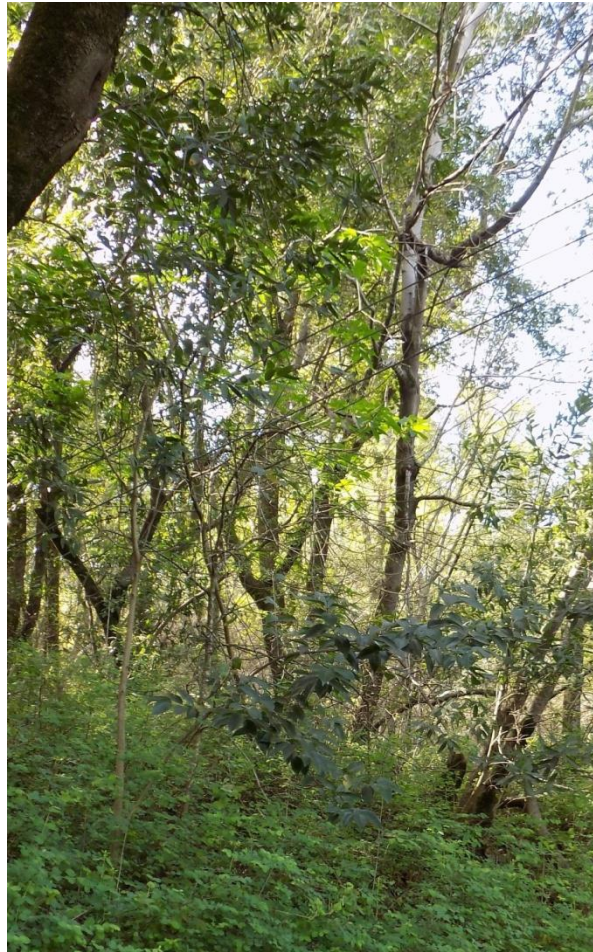
# Ligustrum lucidum (Glossy Privet)

- Planted as a street tree in Napa.
- Provides fruit to a number of bird species.
- Seeds distributed in stream corridors and forests.





# Redwood Road – invasive in hardwood forest



# Brachypodium distachyon (Purple False Brome)

- This annual grass has been in Napa County for decades but in recent years has become prolific.
- It has the capacity to dominate grassland exceeding 80% of the cover in some locations.

