Japanese Dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*)

Eradication Effort in Santa Barbara County

Channel Islands Restoration

NOXIOUS WEED

- Native to Asia
- Parasitic Annual
- Parasitizes Farm Crops (Trees & Shrubs), and Native Willows and Oaks
- Looks like Yellow Spaghetti
- Stems Round and Twining around host plants
- Capable of Photosynthesis but gets most of its energy from host plants
- Continually re-attaches to host plant and can spread from one host to another nearby
- Spreads by small detached pieces distributed by animals including humans pruning, composting or inadequate disposal



Location

- First observed in 2011 in a small creek channel in willow riparian forest in Lompoc.
- Only known Santa Barbara County location.
- Original Infestation: 0.69 acre

Treatment & Monitoring

- Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner
 - 2011 2016: Other Contractor
 - 4 Treatments: Roundup Promax on host plants and Garlon on poison oak
 - 2017 2020: Channel Islands Restoration



At the project site in August 2017

Monitoring

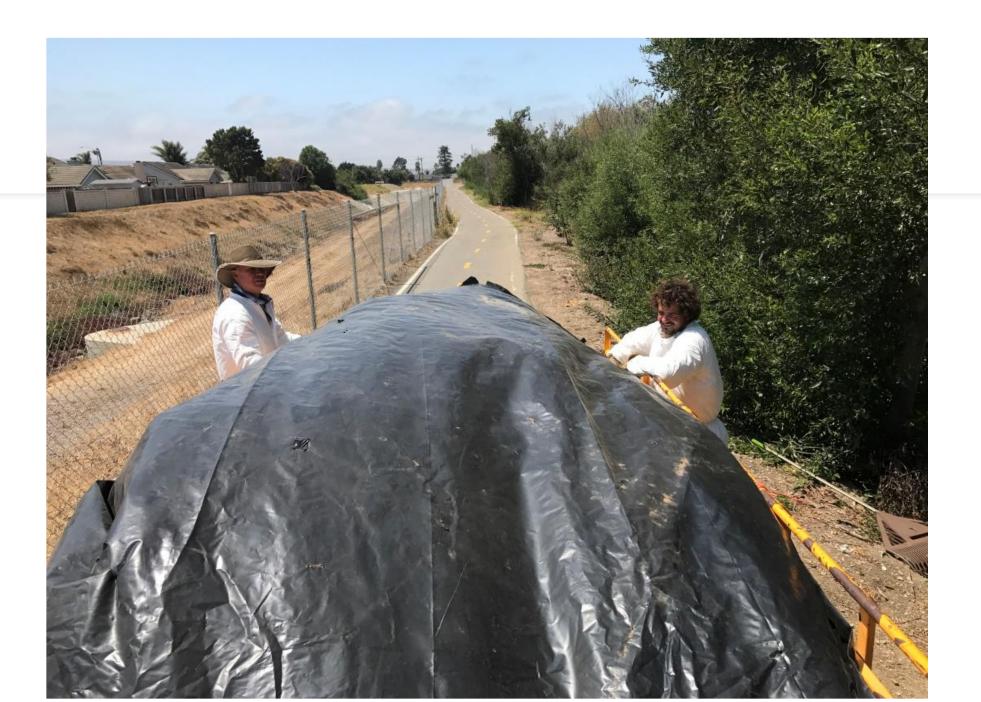
August 1 – August 10 40% increase in coverage!

Treatment

- ✓ Cut the host branches
- Treated dodder on the branches on the ground: Roundup Custom + Surfactant + Dye
- ✓ Returned 1 week later and found it dead.
- Wrapped them up in plastic burritos, covered in burlap and took to landfill







Follow-Up Monitoring & Treatment

- August 2017
- October 2017
- February 2018
- Quarterly Monitoring 2018
- Quarterly Monitoring 2019
- Quarterly Monitoring 2020

Treatment

Treatment

Treatment

None Observed

None Observed

None Observed through October

October 2020





Thank You

State of California Wildlife Conservation Board

Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner

Cachuma Resource Conservation District