

# Preventing the Spread of Invasive Weeds



Wendy West  
University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
[wkwest@ucdavis.edu](mailto:wkwest@ucdavis.edu)



# Why is Prevention Important?

- Avoid establishment of new infestations
  - Detect early
  - Eradicate early
  - Save money!
- Prevent spread of a known infestation
  - Contain infestations
  - Stop spread beyond a leading edge line

# How Invasive Weeds Spread

- Animals and birds
- Humans – on boots, clothing, pets
- Wind and water
- Escaped ornamentals
- During activities that cause disturbance
  - e.g. equipment, road materials

# Site-Disturbing Projects

- Construction areas – homes and offices
- Road construction and improvements
- Construction of fire breaks
- Fire evacuation routes
- Clearing to reduce fire fuels
- Ditches

# Site-Disturbing Projects

Why worry about weed spread during site disturbing projects?

Seed bank

Bare ground – invasives love open areas

Seeds, plant parts moved by equipment

# *Prevention Tips*

- Learn which plants are considered invasive in your area
- Inventory plants (desirable vs. invasive) on your property and along access roads before a site-disturbing project begins
- If invasive weeds are present, treat them before disturbing the soil in an area (ideally for 3 to 5 years prior)



# *Prevention Tips*

- Minimize the soil disturbance and retain desirable vegetation



# *Prevention Tips*

- Require all equipment used on your property to be cleaned BEFORE work begins to remove:
  - seeds
  - plant fragments



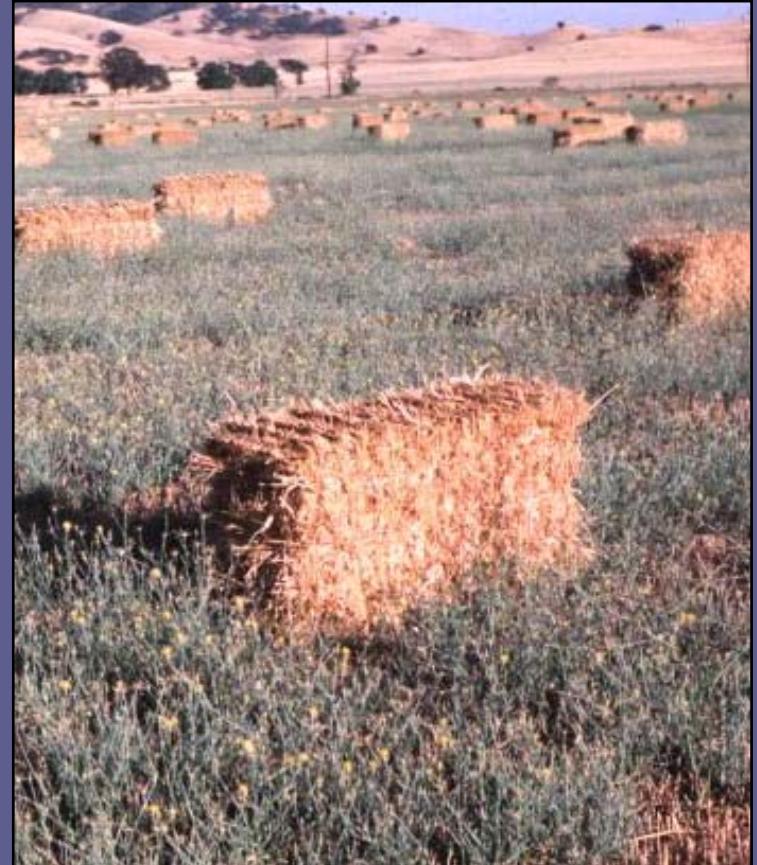
*Diffuse knapweed at equipment storage yard*

# *Prevention Tips*

- Mark off known infestations and request equipment operators to work in these areas last
- When practical, salvage weed-free topsoil and replace it on disturbed areas; healthy topsoil will enhance revegetation

# *Prevention Tips*

- Request weed-free materials (fill, gravel, sand, mulch, straw, etc.) from suppliers



*Straw from a YST infested field*

# *Prevention Tips*

- Re-establish vegetation on all bare ground
- Mulch to “shade out” invasive weeds and prevent seed germination



*Revegetation project*

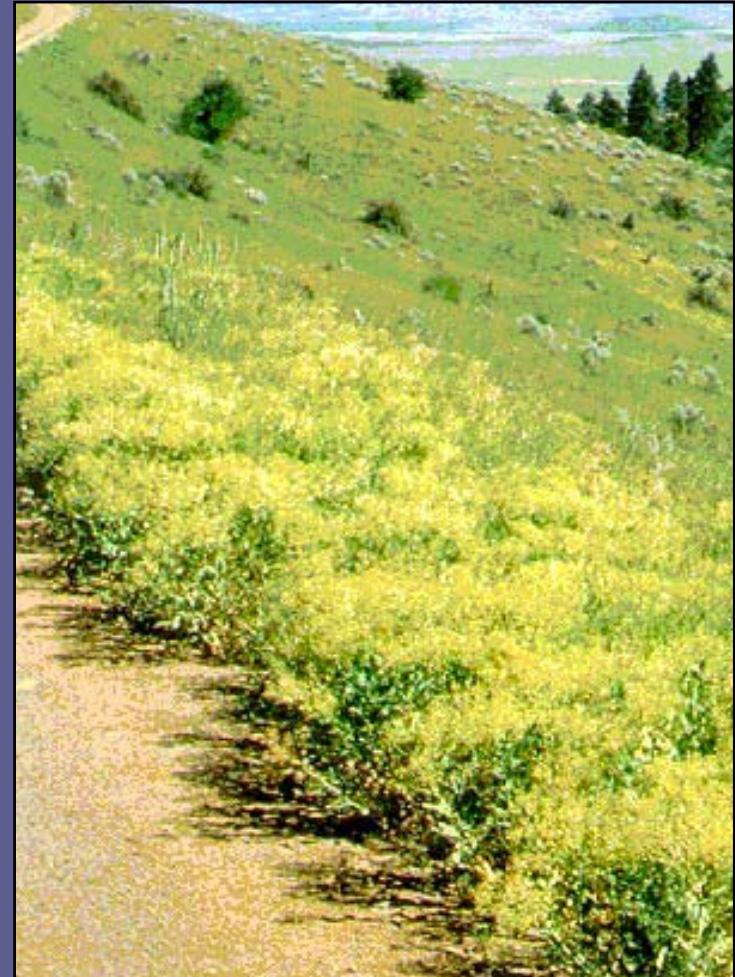
# *Prevention Tips*

- Inspect the project site for at least three growing seasons after completion of project



# *Prevention Tips*

- Weed infestations should be controlled immediately to prevent further spread!



*Hoary cress*

# *Remember...*

**... prevention and early detection**

are the most cost effective invasive weed control methods!

Questions?

Thank You!