

Prevention of Invasive Weed Spread and Weed Watch 2008



Wendy West
University of California
Cooperative Extension
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



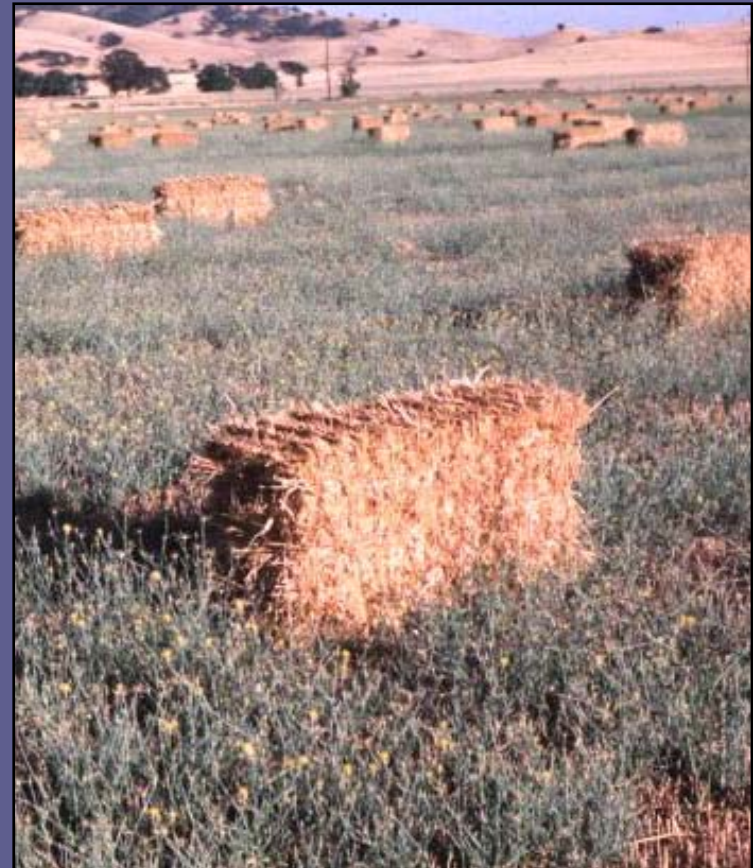
Diffuse knapweed at equipment storage yard

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

Invasive Weeds Watch!

We need your help to detect new invaders early!

These invasives are:

Currently not found in El Dorado County
OR

Small populations that are still eradicable

Spotted Knapweed

Centaurea biebersteinii DC

- Highly competitive
- Inhibits growth of other plants
- Irritates human skin
- Montana has 4 mil. acres!
- Purple flowers, black spots on bracts, gray-green foliage







Oblong Spurge

Euphorbia oblongata

- Spurges infest more than 5 million acres in 35 states
- Small oblong spurge infestations in EDC
- Likes wet areas, ditches on roadside
- Sap has irritant properties
- Creeping root growth
- Yellow flowers in umbrella-like clusters



Tall Whitetop

Lepidium latifolium

- Contributes to soil erosion
- Highly invasive root
- Litter shades other plants
- Tall plant, long tap root
- White flower, waxy leaf





Yellow Starthistle

- Report if found above 3500 foot elevation!
- Project to control at the leading edge and outlying populations
- Stop spread into the Sierra Nevada Mountains



What should I do if I find one of these invasive weeds?

Call El Dorado County Department of Agriculture (530)
621-5520

1. Record location
2. Take a sample – save in sealed bag
3. Do not kill the plant!
4. EDC Ag will help to eradicate, once verified

And help us increase public awareness to catch the
invaders early!

Remember...

... prevention and early detection

are the most cost effective invasive weed control methods!

Questions?

Thank You!