

# Prevention of Invasive Weed Spread and Weed Watch 2008



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# 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

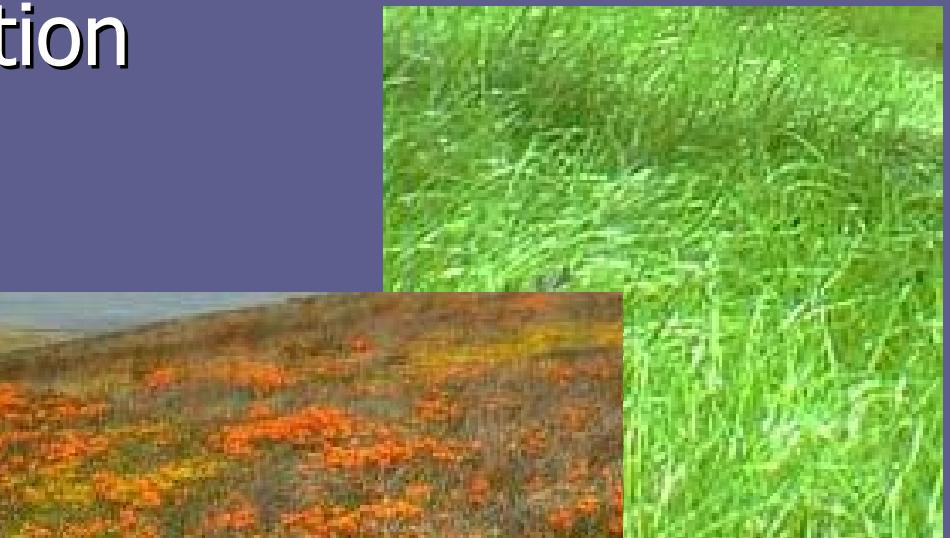
# *Prevention Tips*

- 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



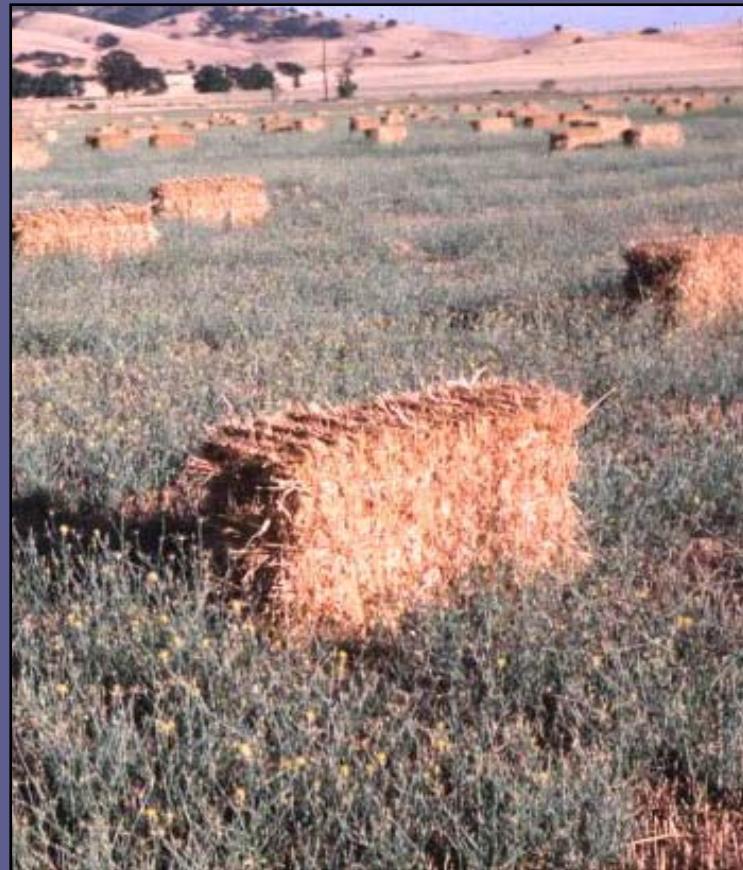
*Diffuse knapweed at equipment storage yard*

# *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!