



Monterey County Weed Abatement and INSV



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Topics

- INSV & Weed Management
- INSV Host Weeds
- Weed Abatement
- AB 732
- Abatement Responses
- Host Free Period Reminders



Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus





Western Flower Thrips





INSV & Weed Management





INSV & Weed Management



Weedy areas serve as disease reservoirs of INSV and habitat for Western Flower Thrips.





Critical Control Window





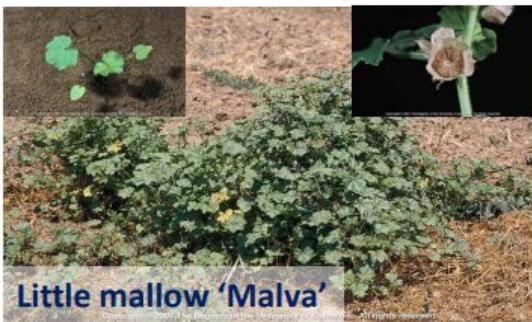
Critical Control Window

The BEST thing we can do to mitigate INSV risk to lettuce is take advantage of the winter season to control alternate weed hosts and reduce the reservoir of INSV and its vector, Western Flower Thrips



Top 10 INSV Host Weeds

Top 10 weed hosts for INSV



Little mallow 'Malva'



Lambsquarter



Annual Sowthistle



Hairy Fleabane



Nettleleaf Goosefoot



Burning Nettle



Shepherd's purse



Field Bindweed



Marestail



Purslane

*Pictures courtesy
of Richard Smith
and UC ANR*

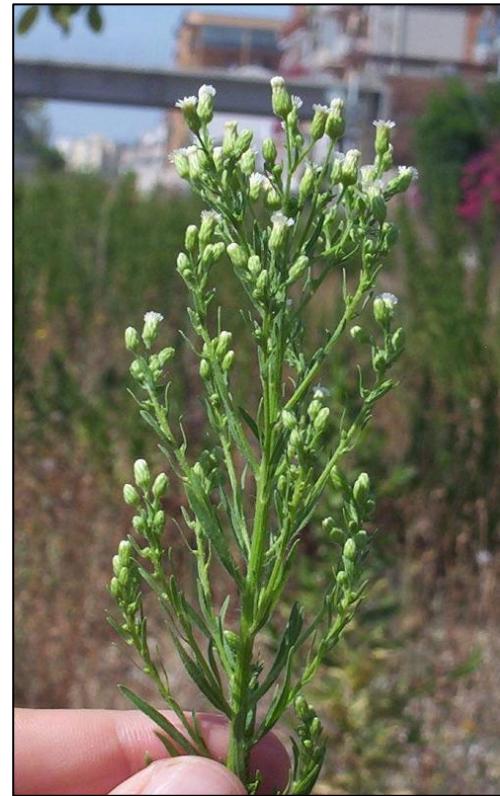


Little Mallow (*Malva parviflora*)



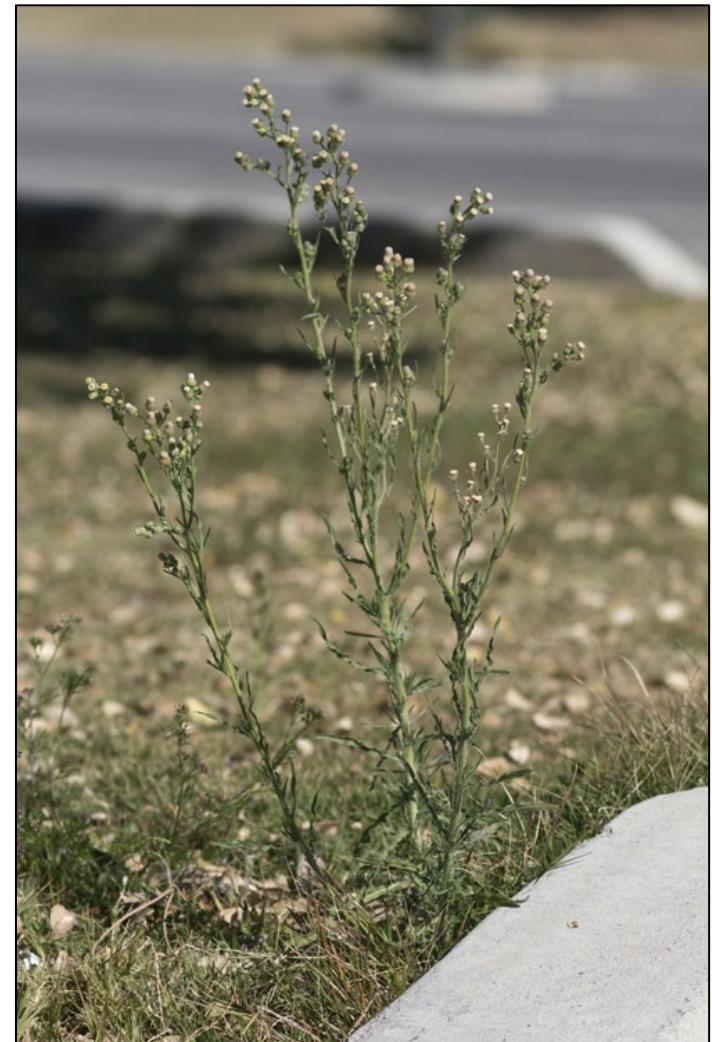


Mare's Tail (*Conyza canadensis*)



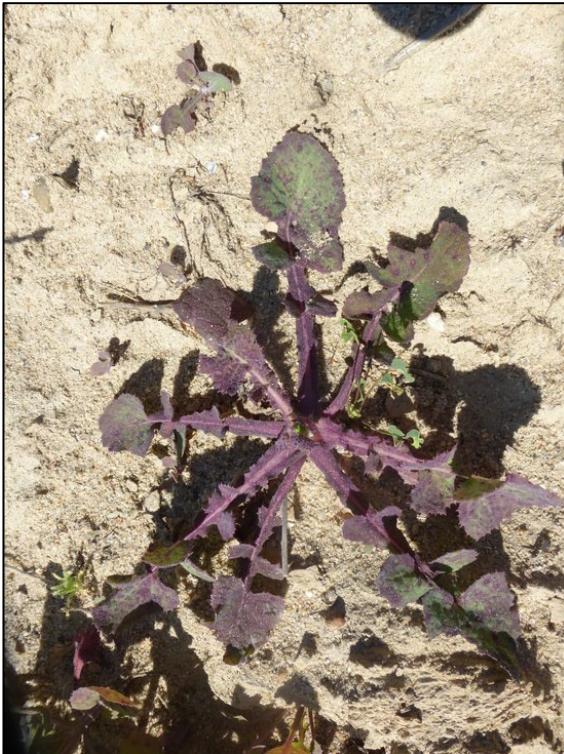


Hairy Fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*)



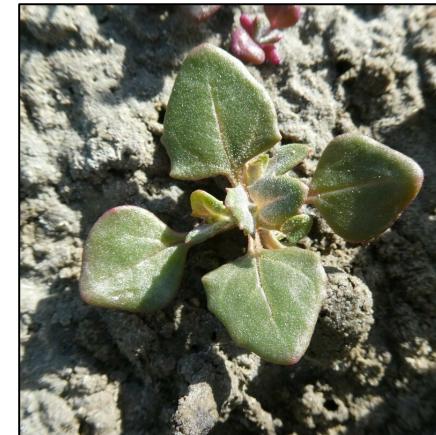


Annual Sowthistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*)





Nettleleaf Goosefoot (*Chenopodium murale*)





Common Lambsquarter (*Chenopodium album*)





Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)





Sheperd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)





Common Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*)





Burning nettle (*Urtica urens*)





Weed Abatement

The California Food and Agriculture Code [FAC] gives legal authority to Agricultural Commissioners to take immediate action to abate infested or infected property/plants on abandoned or neglected property when:

1. The infestation creates a public nuisance
2. The nuisance constitutes an immediate hazard to adjoining or nearby property
3. Great or irreparable injury would result from delay

[FAC sec. 2271, 5763, 5401-5494, 5561-5645, 5781-5786]



Weed Abatement

FAC section 5551: Nuisance Definition

Any neglected or abandoned plant or crop is a public nuisance in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) It is a menace to the agriculture of the county, district, or vicinity because of the existence of any pest, in or on it.
- (b) It is a menace to the agriculture of the county, district, or vicinity because of the existence of any other condition than the condition described in subdivision (a).
- (c) It is a host plant of, or provides a favorable or likely harbor for, any pest.



Weed Abatement

- Generally initiated by a complaint call
- Inspector collects information about concern, location, complainant contact information, and responsible party





Weed Abatement



- Inspector conducts a site visit to verify the problem
- If a nuisance or hazard is confirmed, a phone call or a written notice is issued to the responsible party directing them to eradicate, control or destroy the pest



Weed Abatement

- If the Ag Commissioner deems the nuisance an immediate hazard or the responsible party is not responsive, they may intervene and abate the nuisance immediately themselves or by a contractor
- The cost of abatement activities will be paid by the responsible party





Weed Abatement



- Hazard reduction strategy, goal is not pathogen or vector eradication
- Reported site must be established as a nuisance
 - ✓ Top 10 INSV weed hosts present
 - ✓ Western Flower Thrips are present
 - ✓ INSV is present (detected by lab analysis)



Weed Abatement

- Responsible parties have 30 Days to abate the nuisance
- If abatement is not started within 30 days, the Board of Supervisors will conduct a hearing to determine whether to levy a special assessment pursuant to Government Code Section 25845 cover the cost of such abatement.
- The special assessment may be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary county taxes and subject to the same penalties, procedure, and sale in case of delinquency.



Assembly Bill No. 732

- Signed by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2025
- Authorizes County Agricultural Commissioner's to levy a civil penalty, in lieu of imposing a lien.
- Person charged with violation must receive notice of the nature of the violation and given an opportunity to be heard.
- If the person takes a good faith action within 30 days of receiving notice, the person not liable for that civil penalty.



Assembly Bill No. 732

- The civil penalty can be in the amount of up to \$500 for each acre of property found to be in violation.
- Can be increased up to \$1,000 per acre if the person does not take a good faith action to rectify the public nuisance within 45 days of the original civil penalty.





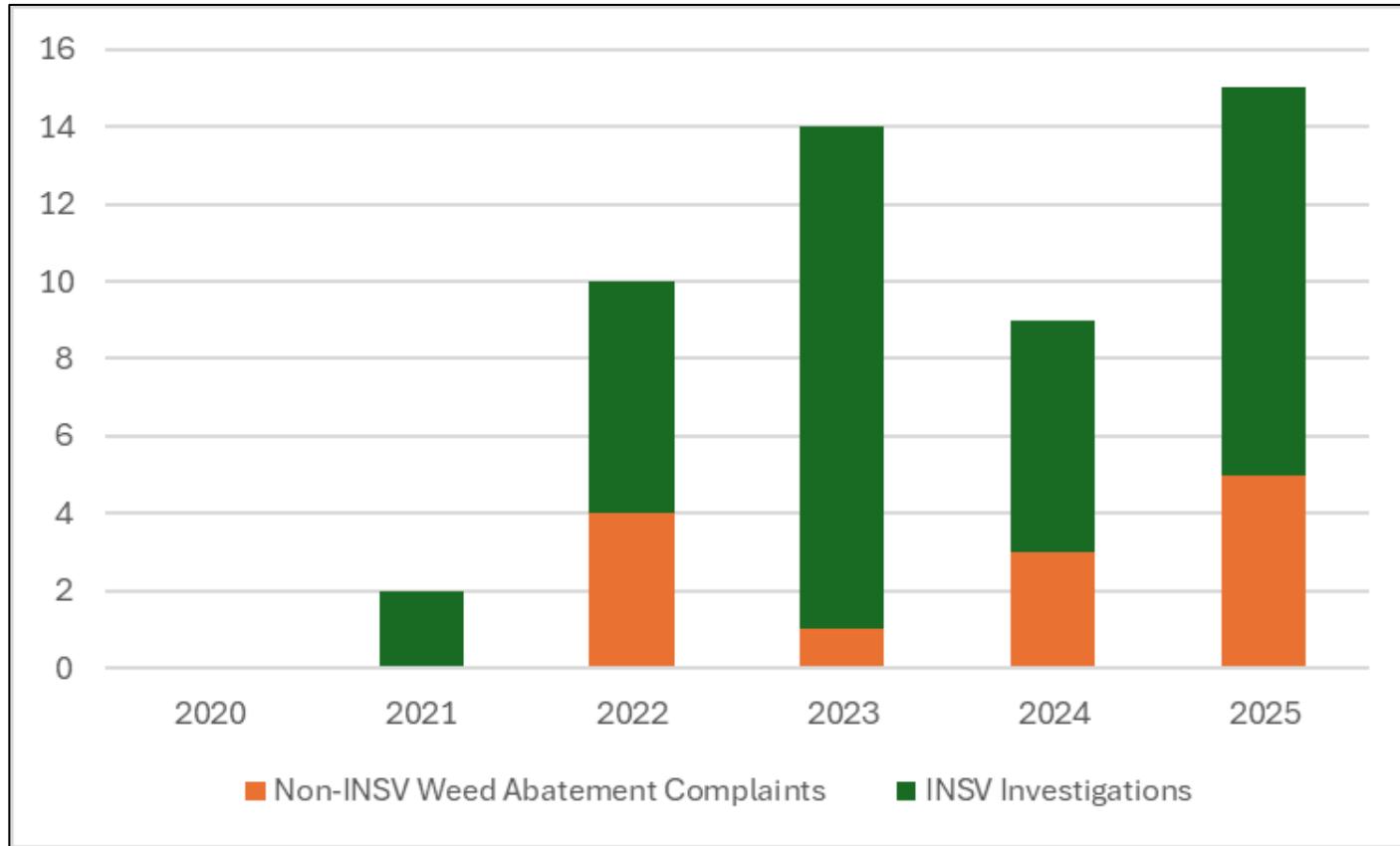
Assembly Bill No. 732

- “Pest” does not include:
 - A beneficial organism that is used as a biological control agent, or
 - A conservation practice standard or an on-farm management practice, including a standard or practice identified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the USDA





Weed Abatement Response



Not all weed complaints are INSV investigations



Weed Abatement Response





Weed Abatement Response





Complaint Respondents





Lettuce Mosaic Virus Host Free Period

Host Plants: Lettuce (*Lactuca spp.*), Endive & Escarole (*Chichorium endive*)

Pest/Disease: Lettuce Mosaic Virus

No Plant Period: December 7-21 each year

Host-free District: County of Monterey

No host plant shall be grown above ground during the host-free period except under permit.

(Section 3611, Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations)



Celery Mosaic Virus Host Free Period

Host Plants: Celery (*Apium graveolens*)

Pest/Disease: Western Celery Mosaic Virus

No Plant Period: January each year

Host-free District: County of Monterey

No host plant shall be grown above ground during the host-free period except under permit.

(Western Celery Mosaic Host-Free Districts and Periods, Section 3610, Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, was adopted January 9, 1983.)



Questions?



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