

CDFA Weed Management Area (WMA) Update

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Weed Management Areas (WMAs)

Food and Ag Code Sec. 7270-7276

Paraphrased:

Localized organization consisting of private, city, county and state entities to coordinate and combine efforts to deal with common weed control problems



WMAs (cont.)

WMAs are not regulatory agencies. They are additional layers of collaboration that are self organized.

- WMAs can apply for funding from CDFA for noxious weed management operations
- WMAs are required to submit reports and mapping data



Dense mat of *Hydrilla verticillate*, an “A” rated weed

- **WMA grant program RFP on track to be posted December 1, 2024**
- **Applications due March 1, 2025 @ 11:59PM**
- **\$40,000 per WMA**
- **Q&A session will be announced after the RFP is posted.**



Arundo donax, Giant reed, a B rated pest

2024/2025 application and award timeline

Invitation to submit Grant Applications	December 1, 2024
Grant Applications Due	March 1, 2025 at 11:59pm PDT
Review Process	March 15, 2025 – June 1, 2025
Announce and Award Funding	June 15, 2025
Grants Awarded	July 1, 2025

<https://www.grants.ca.gov/>

CDFA's noxious weed mission

Food and Agricultural Code sec. 403

“The department shall prevent the introduction and spread of injurious insect or animal pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds.”

Food and Ag. Code sec. 7271

“The Legislature designates the Department of Food and Agriculture as the lead department in noxious weed management and the department is responsible for the implementation of this article in cooperation with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.”

CDFA Pest ratings

- Weeds are rated as **A, B, C, D, Q** or **W**
- “**Q**” is a suspected risk, but more information is needed. Reasonable cause to hold commodity in shipment
- “**W**” rated weeds were identified in CCR 4500 as priorities by the legislature. Weeds alone are rated by both CCR 4500 and CDFA.



Myrtle Spurge, an “A” rated pest

What does it mean to be A-rated?

“A pest of known economic or environmental detriment and is either not known to be established in California *or* it is present in a limited distribution that allows for the possibility of eradication or successful containment”

Subject to action if found entering or established in the state

B's are county discretion, unless within a nursery

C's are the lowest priority due to geographic prevalence or naturalization

FAC Sections 5261 and 6461



Aligatorweed (*A. philoxeroides*), an “A” rated pest.

What goes into a pest rating proposal?

- Background and history
- Distribution
- Known effects
- Consequences of introduction

Initiating Event: Identify the organism considered for the pest rating and the event(s) that triggered this pest rating proposal.

History & Status:

Background: Describe what is known about the biology of the pest, its host range, and potential pathways and spread.

Worldwide Distribution: Identify the native range of the pest. Also identify other countries and states that it has invaded.

Official Control: Is the pest under official control in any countries or states?

California Distribution: Identify where the pest has been found in the environment of California.

California Interceptions: Identify where the pest has been found in regulatory situations in California (e.g., at the airports, border stations, nurseries, ports, seed receivers, etc.).

The risk **Common Name** would pose to California is evaluated below.

Consequences of introduction

- Climate/host interactions
- Dispersal Risk
- Economic Impact
- Environmental impact



Cape Ivy, a “W” or 4500 listed species

Stay up to date @ the Pest Rating Blog

<https://blogs.cdfa.ca.gov/Section3162/?cat=7>

PEST RATING PROPOSAL:

⇒ WEEDS:

PEST RATINGS:

[Ageratina adenophora \(Spreng.\) R. M. King and H. Rob.: croftonweed, thoroughwort, sticky snakeroot](#)
[Ageratina adenophora \(Spreng.\) R. M. King and H. Rob.: croftonweed, thoroughwort, sticky snakeroot](#)

Pest Rating: B

[Algerian sea lavender: Limonium ramosissimum](#)

Pest Rating: B

[Alliaria petiolata \(M. Bieb.\) Cavara & Grande, garlic mustard, hedge-garlic](#)

Pest Rating: A

[Alligatorweed | Alternanthera philoxeroides](#)

Pest Rating: A | Proposed Seed Rating: R

[American eelgrass | Vallisneria spiralis Michx.](#)

Pest Rating: D | Seed Rating: Not Rated

[Achnatherum brachychaetum \(Godr.\) Barkworth \(punagrass\)](#)

Pest Rating: B | Seed Rating: P

WEEDS

GIANT REED | ARUNDO DONAX

NOVEMBER 6, 2017 DEAN KELCH



California Pest Rating for

Giant Reed | *Arundo donax*

Family: Poaceae

Pest Rating: B | Proposed Seed Rating: R

Biological Control

Three types:

- **Conservation:** methods that protect and/or enhance local natural enemies
- **Augmentative:** release of natural enemies without the intention of establishment
- **Classical:** control of a weed species by introduction and establishment of co-evolved natural enemies



Puncturevine with weevil exit holes in seeds

CDFA Biological Control Program

- Established in 1974
- Focuses on classical biological control
- Significant reduction of weeds like:
 - Rush skeleton weed, dalmatian toadflax, squarrose knapweed, and Mediterranean sage



Stem boring weevil on yellow starthistle



Stem boring beetle in squarrose knapweed

What biological control success looks like

2008: Recreation area covered in dalmatian toadflax



2020: Very few dalmatian toadflax remaining



Credit: Lincoln Smith

Weeds of Interest

- Dalmatian Toadflax
- Giant and Japanese Knotweeds
- Hoary Cress
- Puncturevine
- Rush Skeletonweed
- Russian Knapweed
- Squarrose Knapweed
- Yellow Starthistle



Psyllids on giant knotweed



Gall wasp galls on a Russian knapweed

Hydrilla treatment

CDFA has successfully eradicated numerous hydrilla populations over the years

Most recently we have eliminated several populations in clear lake

Last remaining known sites are actively being treated in Yuba and Nevada counties



Five-point whorl pattern indicative of Hydrilla. Some leaves are serrated.

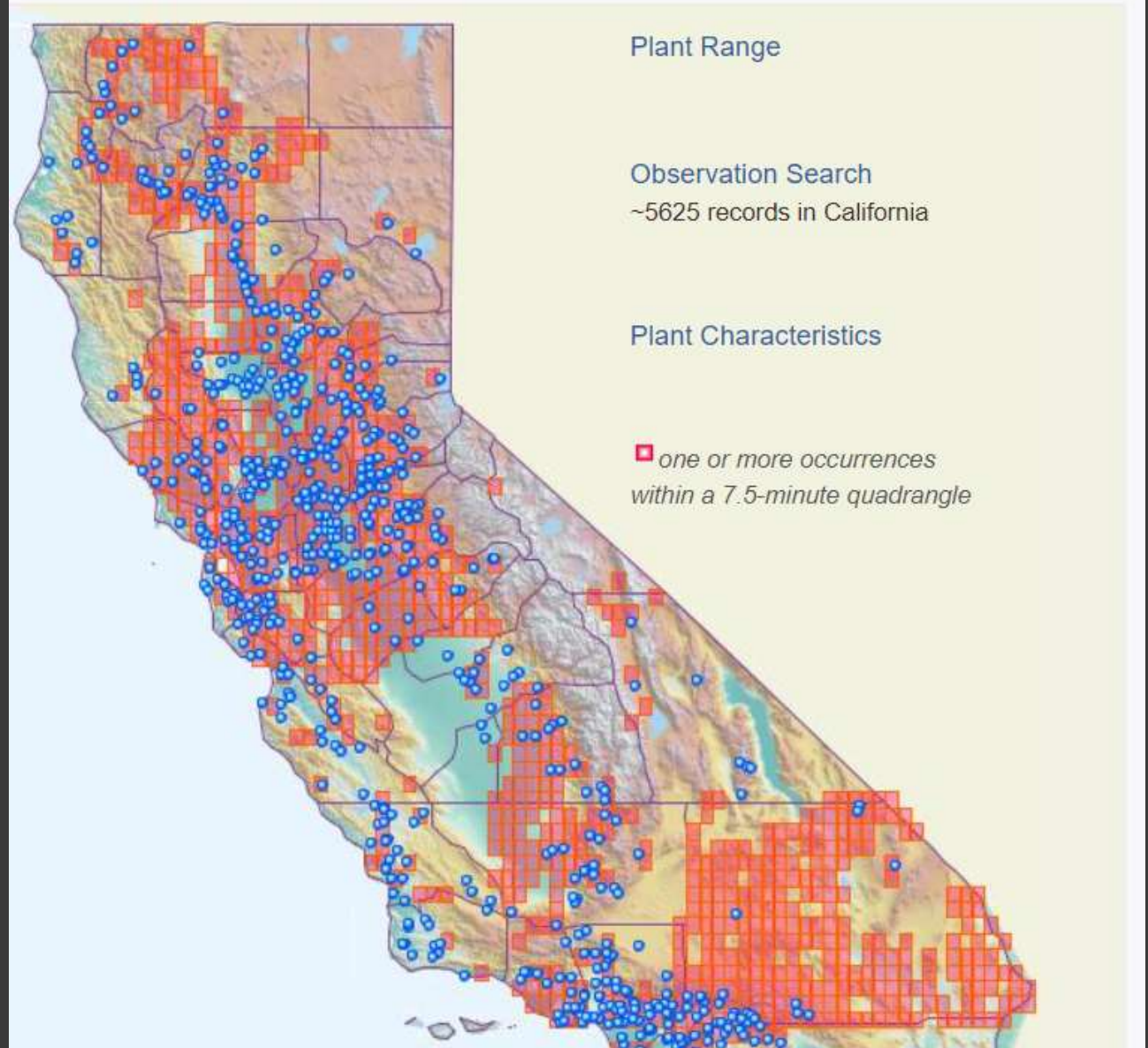


Mapping

- Weed data mapped/analyzed by CDFA Plant Data Analysis Services (PDAS)
- Calflora is the primary mapping tool for CDFA
- <https://www.calflora.org/>

Ailanthus altissima is a **tree** that is **not native** to California.

Cal-IPC rating: moderate



California Department of Food and Agriculture Weed Management Committee

- FAC Sec 7273 (a) The department shall designate and provide staff support to an oversight committee to monitor this article and shall consider input from weed management areas, county agricultural commissioners, and the Range Management Advisory Committee.
- (b) The membership of the oversight committee shall include an equitable number of representatives from each of the following interests:
 - (1) Livestock production.
 - (2) Agricultural crop protection.
 - (3) Forest products industry.
 - (4) California Invasive Plant Council.
 - (5) Research institutions.
 - (6) Wildlife conservation groups.
 - (7) Environmental groups.
 - (8) Resource conservation districts.
 - (9) The general public.
 - (10) Local government.
 - (11) The Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- (Amended by Stats. 2014, Ch. 271, Sec. 4. (AB 2402) Effective January 1, 2015.)

Thank you

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