

I N V A S I V E W E E D S.
What are they and why
should we care about
them?



Presented by the
Los Angeles County
Weed Management Area

INVASIVE WEEDS.
What are they and why
should we care about
them?



By John Hurley

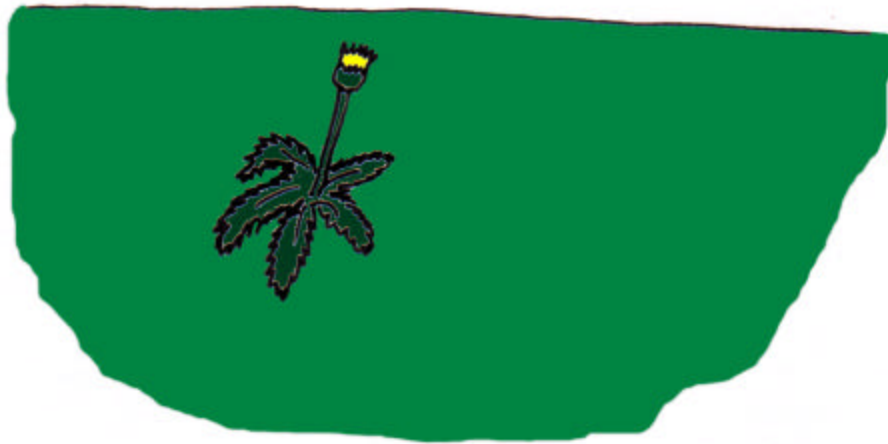
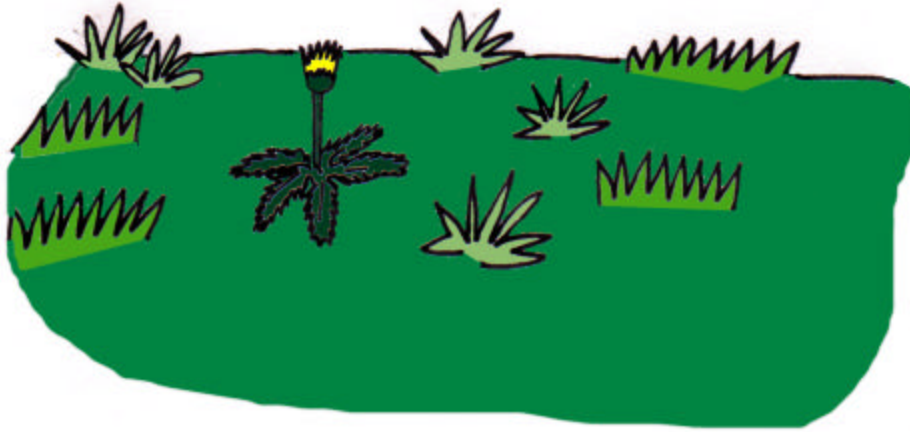


One day Allie heard some people talking about invasive weeds. Later she asked her Dad what they were and why people cared about them.



Dad said, "That's a good question, Allie. Someone once said a weed is any plant growing where you don't want it."

A dandelion in a weed lot
is just another plant...



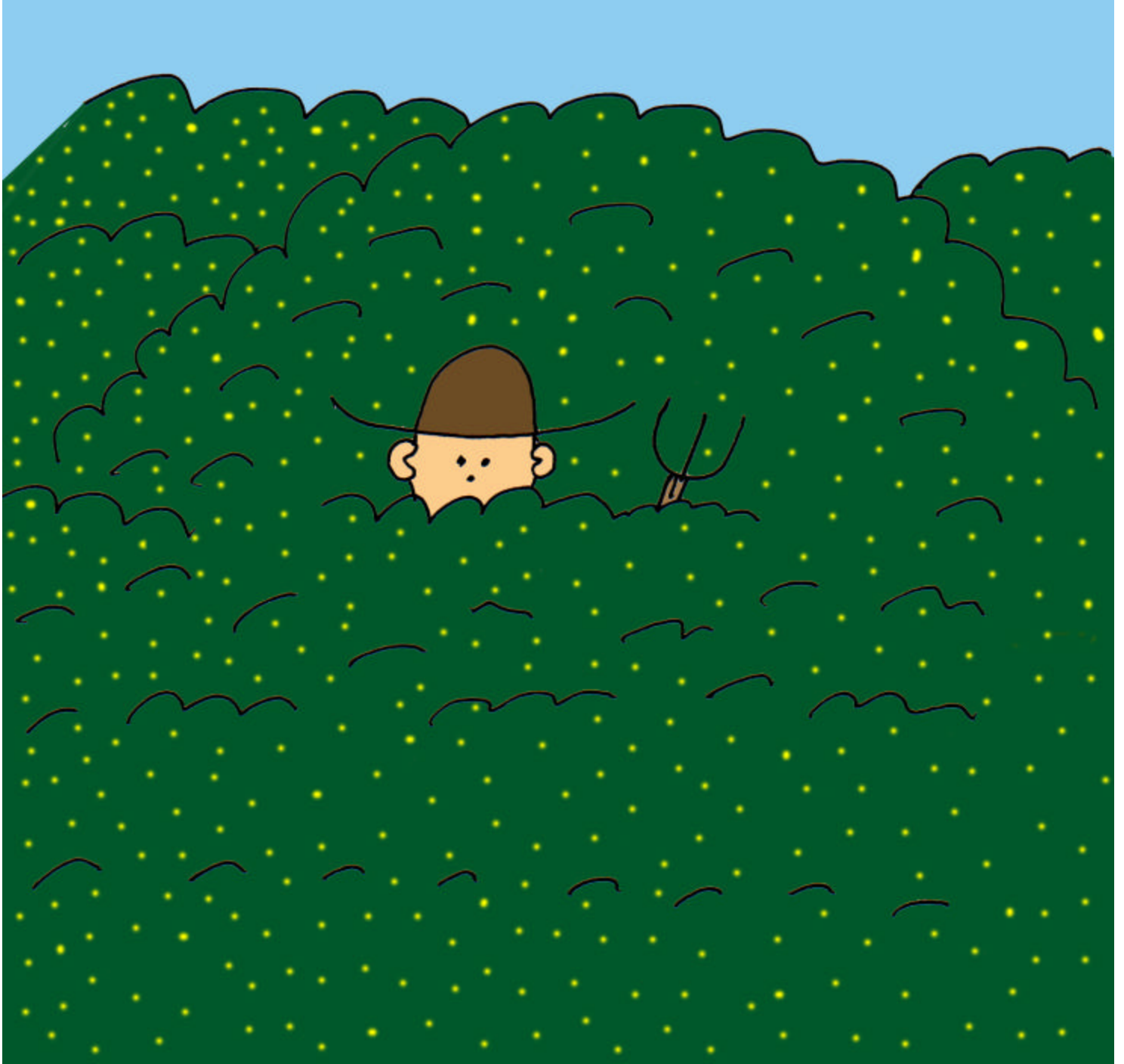
...but a dandelion in a lawn
is a weed."



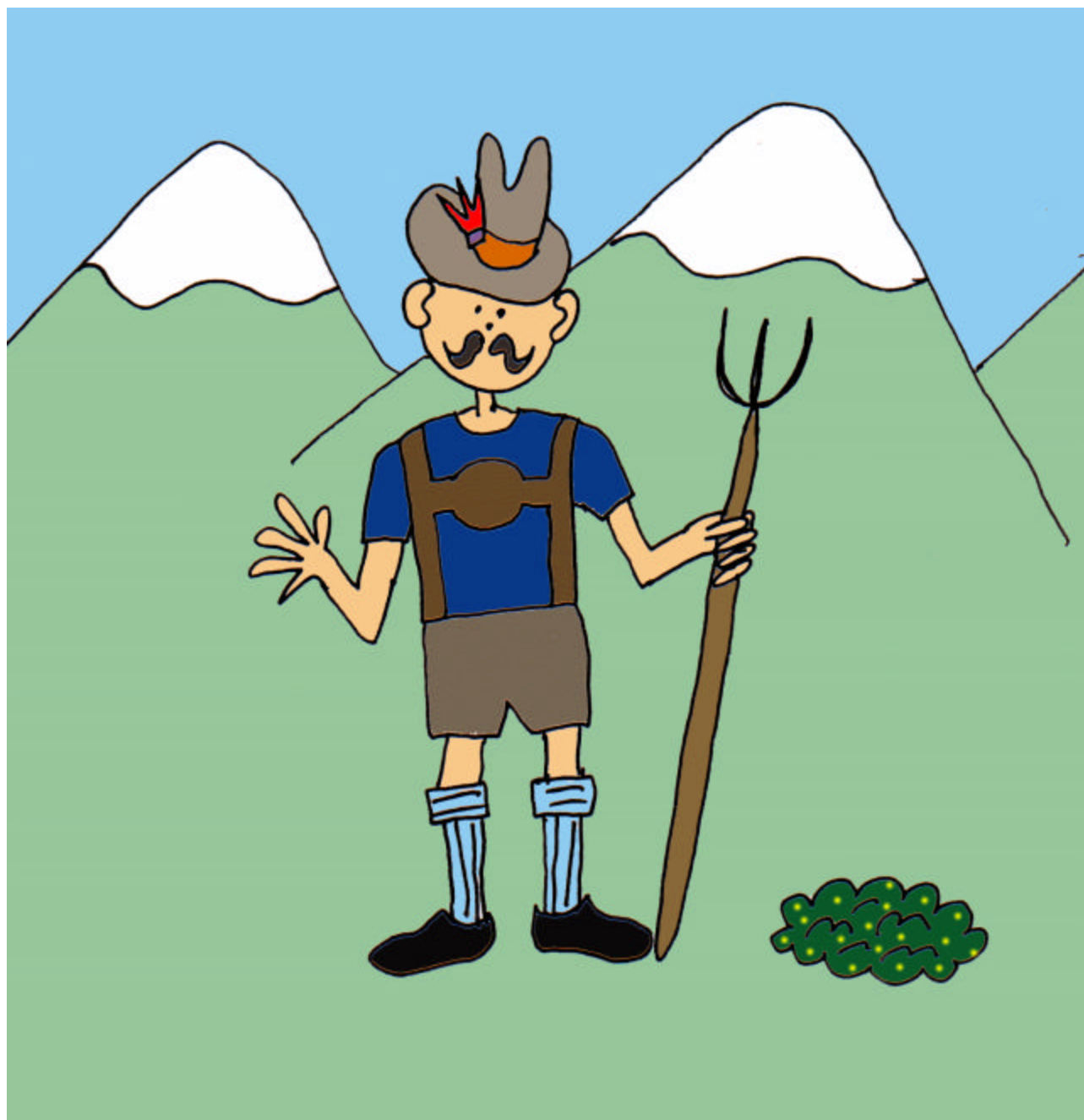
There are two kinds of weeds,
non-invasive weeds and
invasive weeds.

Non-invasive weeds are simply plants growing where we don't want them.

Sometimes they can be a nuisance to farmers, gardeners and landscapers, but they are almost never a problem in natural areas.



Plants that cause
problems here...



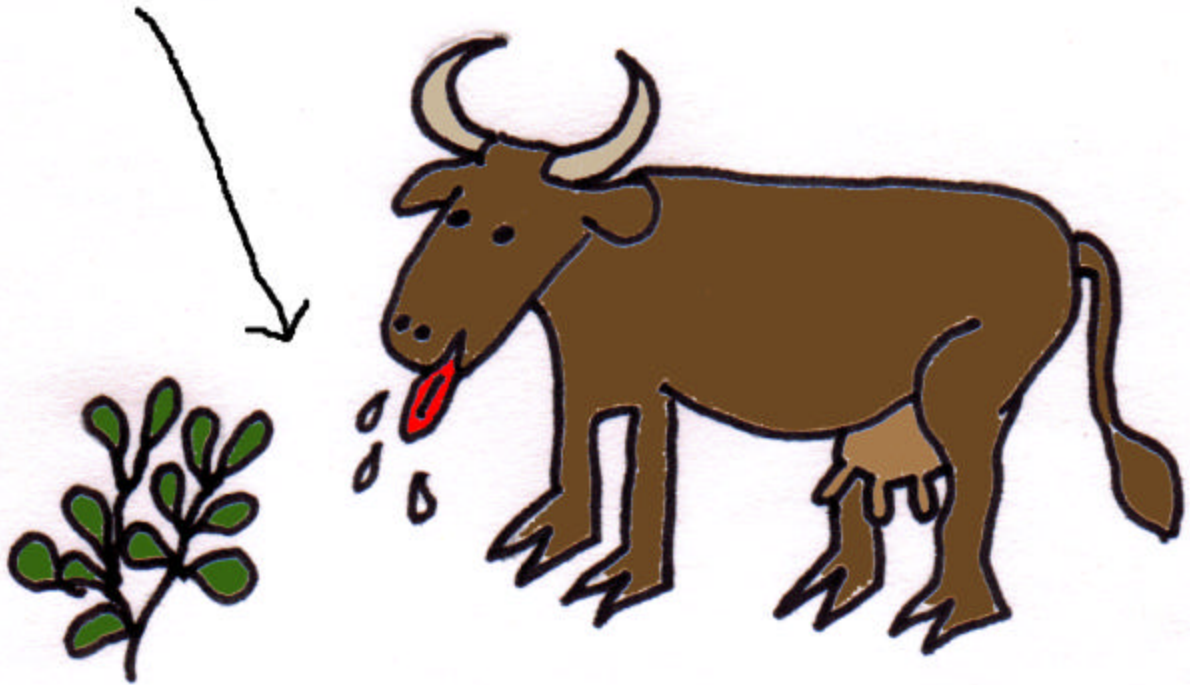
...are not always
problems where they
come from.

Invasive weeds are brought in from somewhere else. When they get here they can spread very quickly. Since they are not from here, they may not grow in harmony with the native plants and animals.

That is why we call them "invasive."

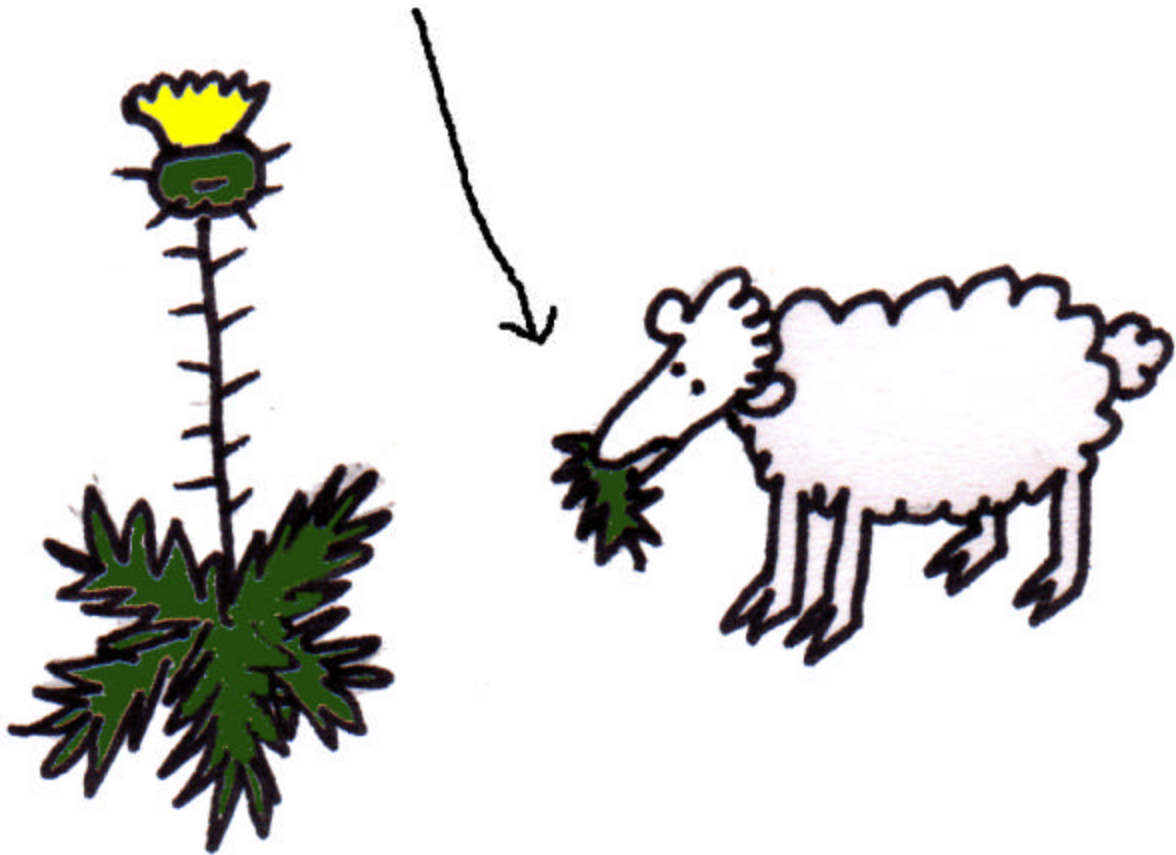
Some invasive weeds
taste bad.

Yuck!



Animals won't eat them.
They eat the other plants.
Pretty soon the whole field is
full of plants the animals
won't eat.

Ouch!



Some invasive weeds have
stickers and the animals
can't eat them.

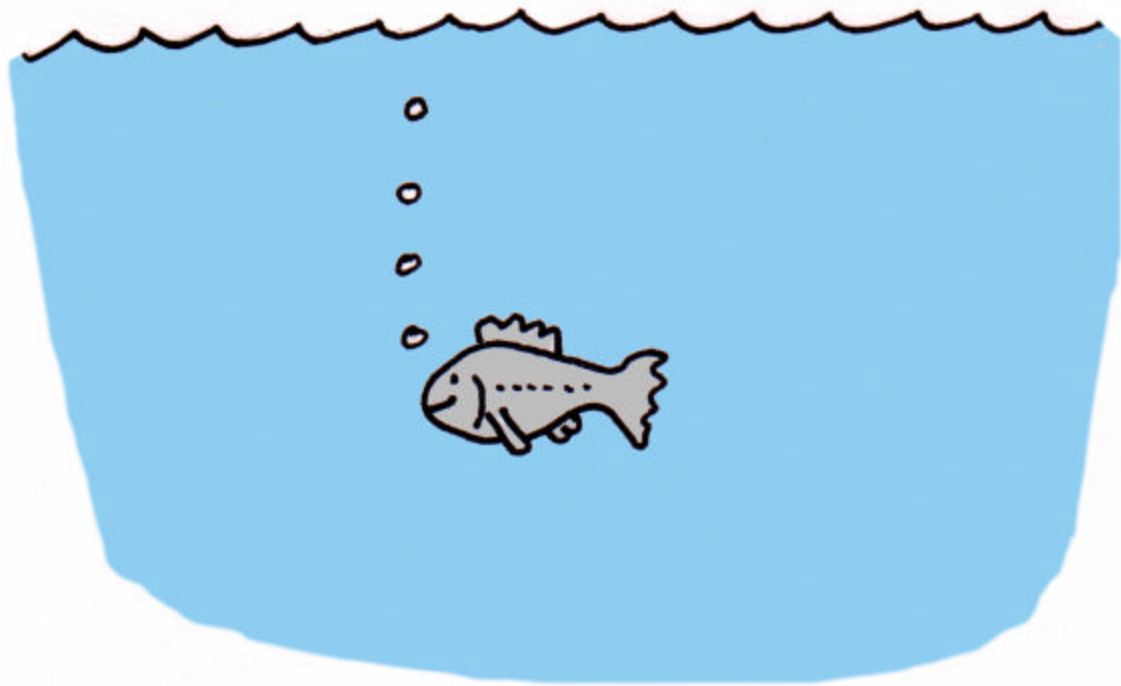


Some invasive weeds
are poisonous.

Hey, where
am I?

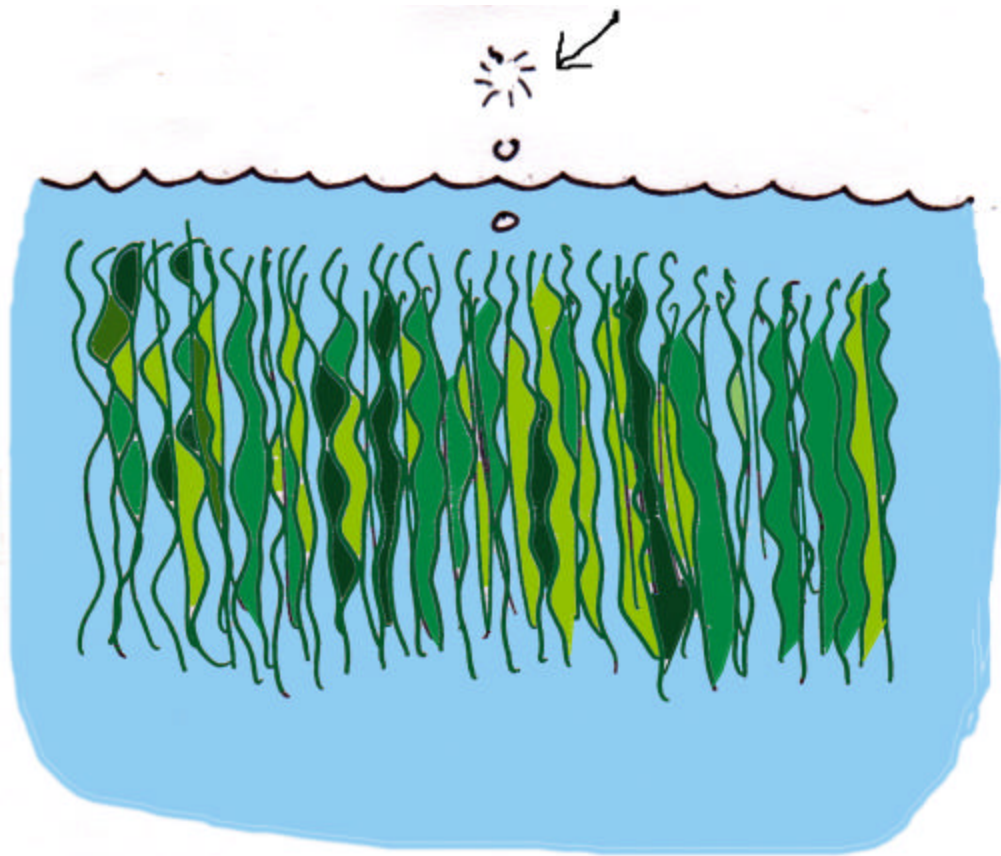


Some invasive weeds grow so
tall and thick the animals
can't get through. The
animals have to find
somewhere
else to live.



Invasive weeds don't just
live on the land...

Hey, where
Am I?



...some invasive water
weeds grow so fast and
thick the fish
can't get through them.
If the fish can't move to
another pond they may die.

Invasive can come
from other parts of the
United States,



or from anywhere
in the world.



Because they come from
somewhere else, people
also call them "non-native"
or "exotic" weeds.

They get brought in by
trucks moving dirt,



or by boats with
water weeds on them.



They can come in with house
plants or are brought in by
people who want to plant
them around their homes.

Invasive plants can come in as



whole plants or seeds.

Some only need a piece of



stem
or
root



to get started.

There are many people trying to keep these invasive weeds from coming here.

They work for the city, county, state, or federal government.

They are forest rangers, nursery growers, farmers, ranchers, and conservationists.



And they are just regular
people like you and me
who like to
play in the park and
hike in the hills.

WEBSITES

Los Angeles County Agricultural
Commissioner/Weights &
Measures
Department.

<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>

California Native Plant Society

<http://www.cnps.org>

California Exotic Pest
Plant Council

<http://www.caleppc.org>

California Department
of Food and
Agriculture weed page

<http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/wma>

**The
LOS ANGELES COUNTY WEED
MANAGEMENT AREA**

is made up of the following members:

County of Los Angeles
Antelope Valley Resource Conservation
District
California Department
Of Fish & Game
California Department of
Food and Agriculture
California Native Plant Society
California State Polytechnic University,
College of Agriculture, Pomona
Las Virgenes Institute
for Resource Management
Mountains Restoration Trust
National Park Service/Santa Monica
Mountains National Recreation
Area North East Trees
Resource Conservation District of the
Santa Monica Mountains
San Gabriel Mountains
Regional Conservancy
United States Bureau of Land
Management
United States Forest Service

June 23, 2002