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

Presented by the
Los Angeles County
Weed Management Area

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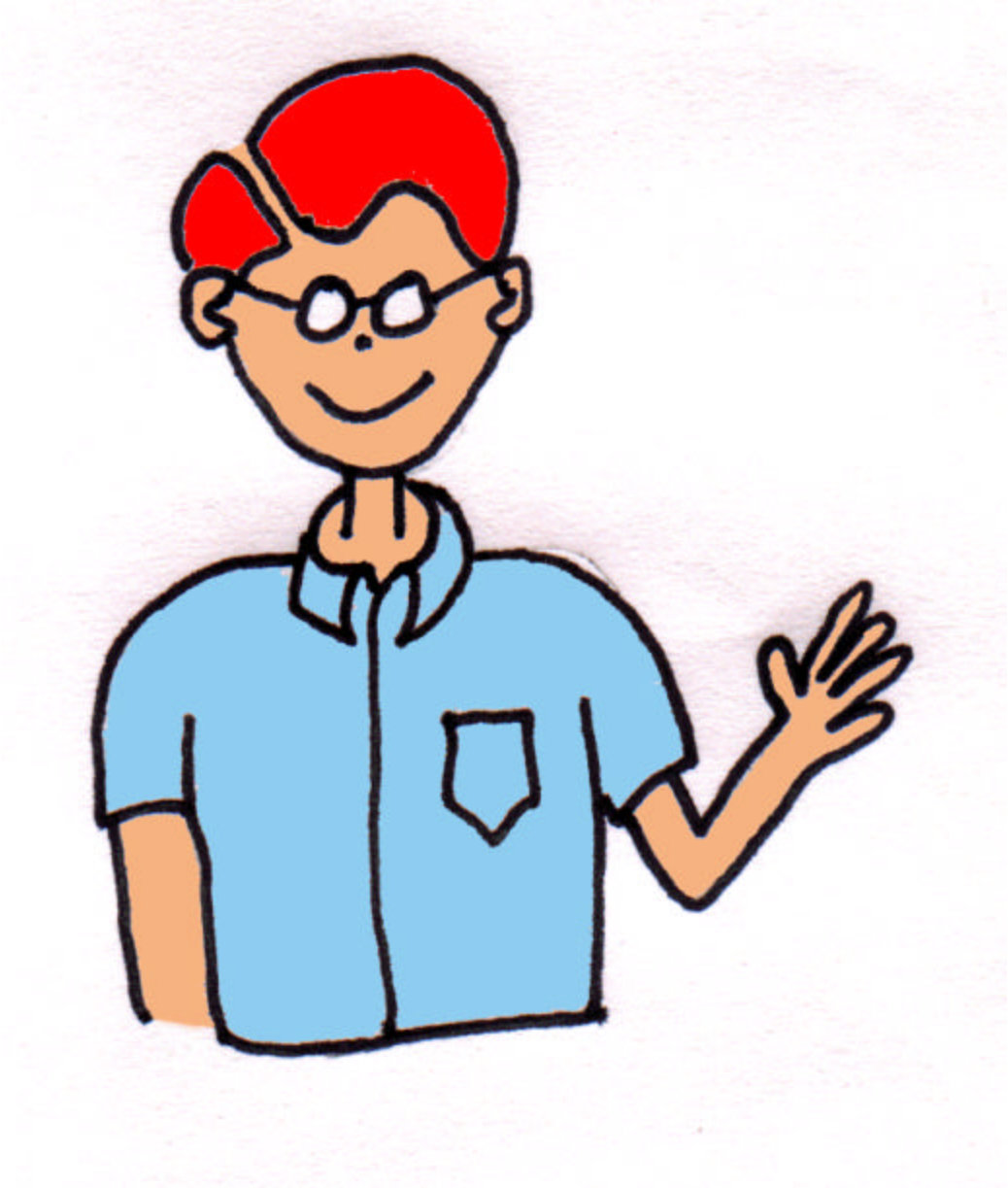
What are they and why should we care about them?

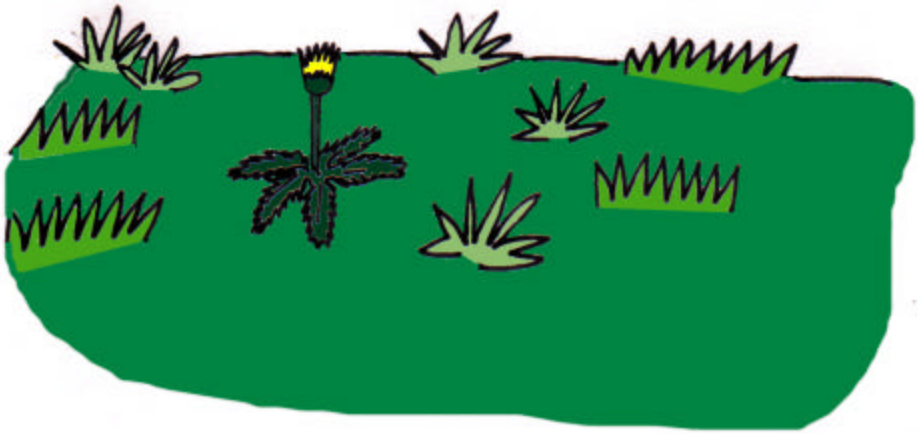
By John Hurley

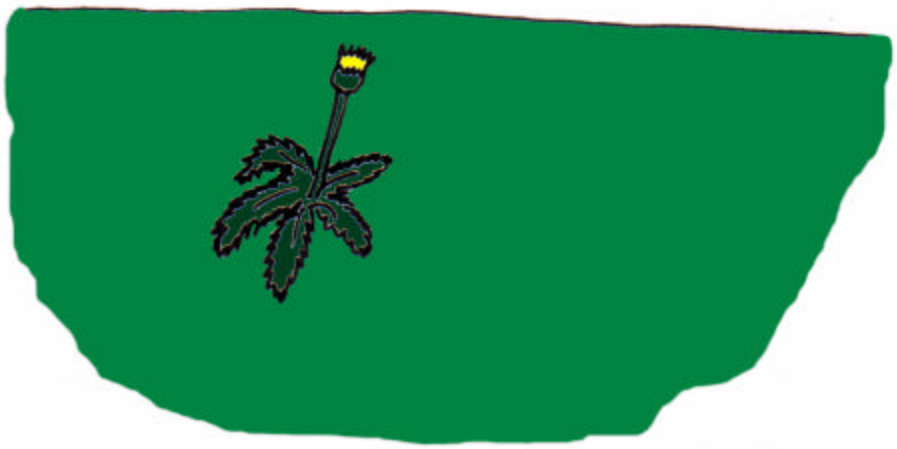
One day Allie heard some people talking about invasive weeds. Later she asked her Dad what they were and why people cared about them.



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…

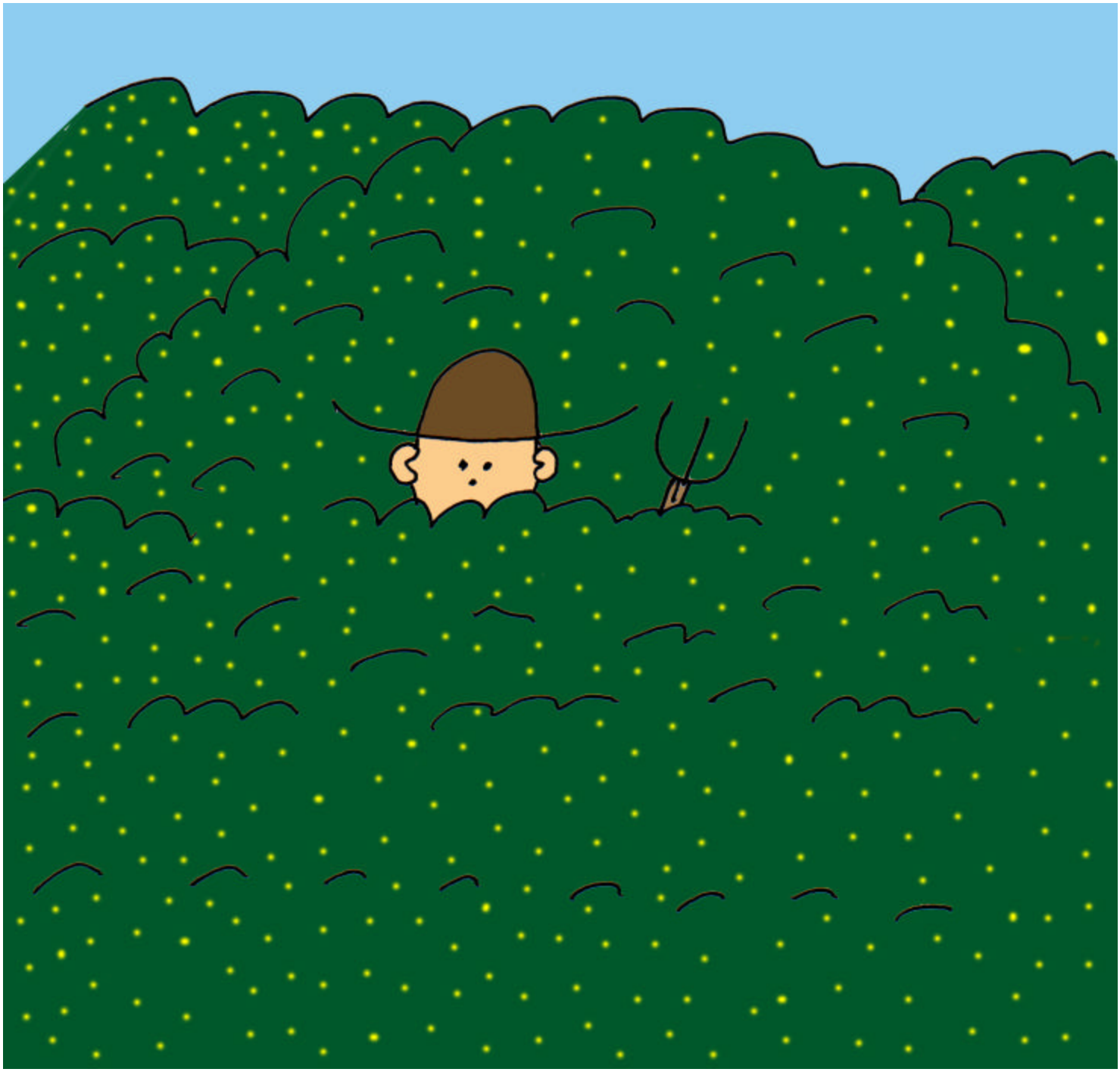




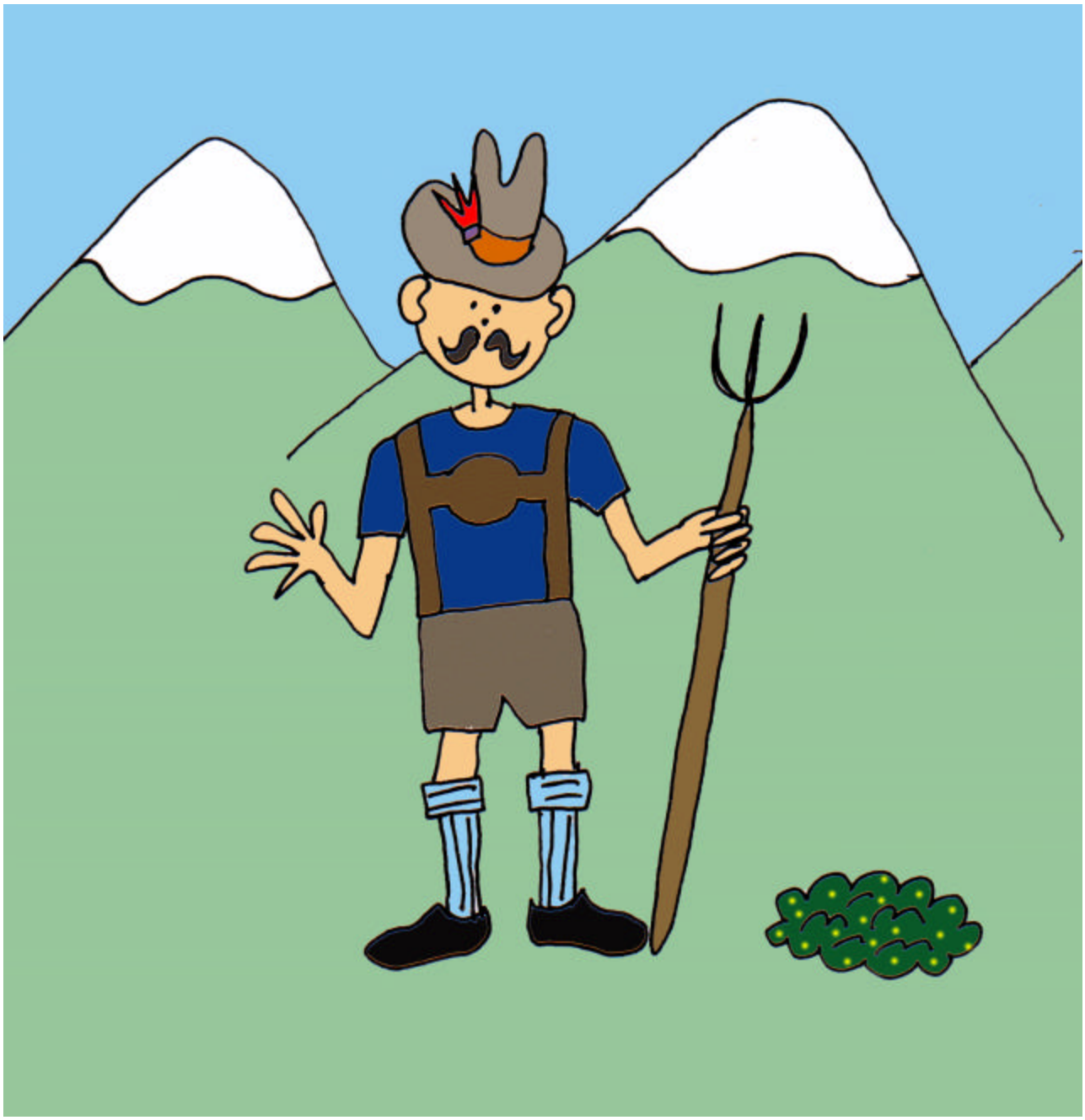
…but a dandelion in a lawn
is a weed.”

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…



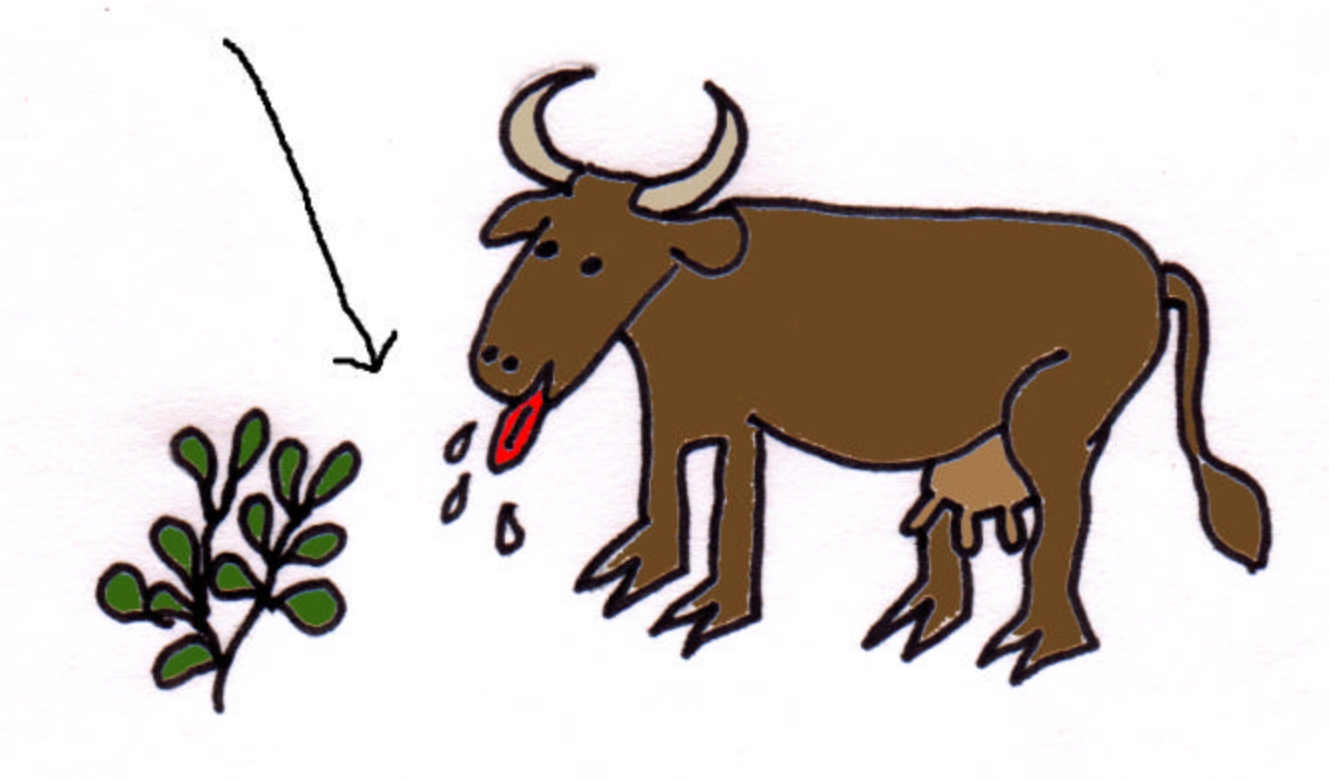
…are not always
problems where they
come from.

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."

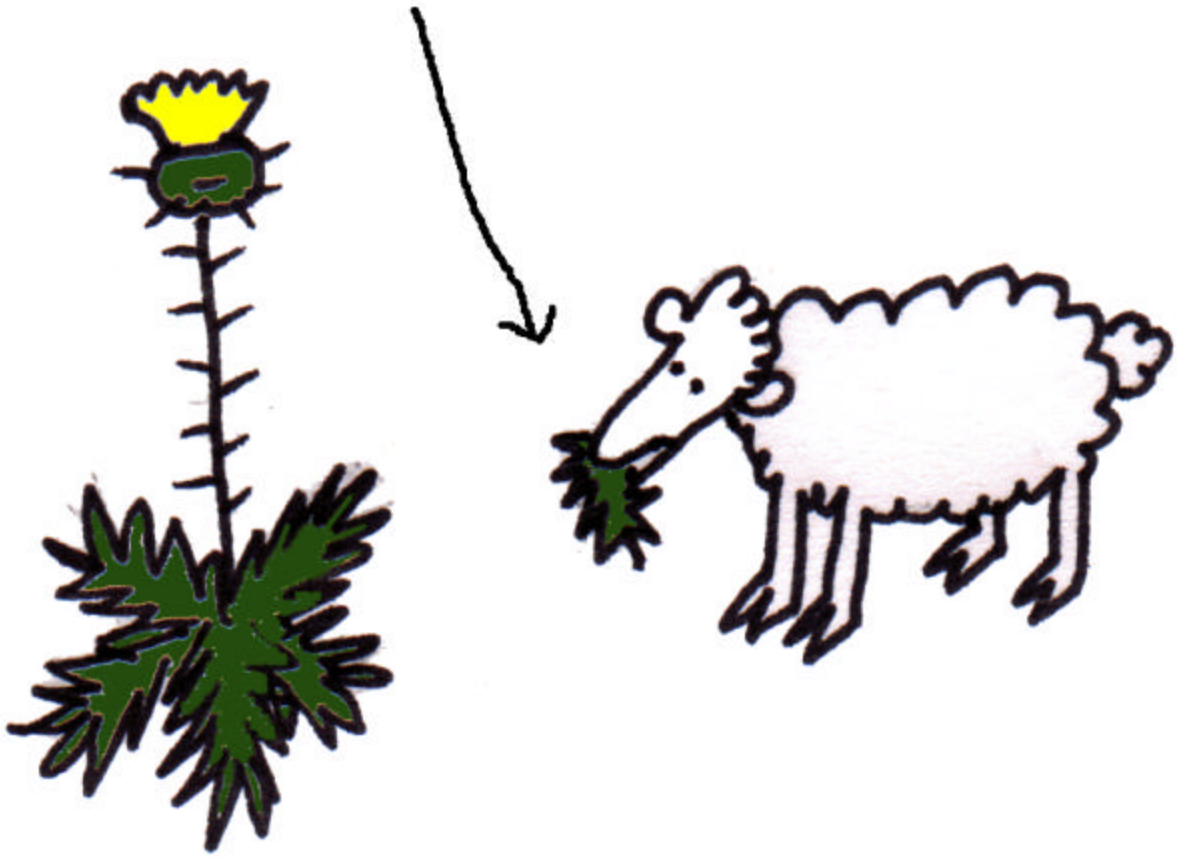
Some invasive weeds
taste bad.

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!

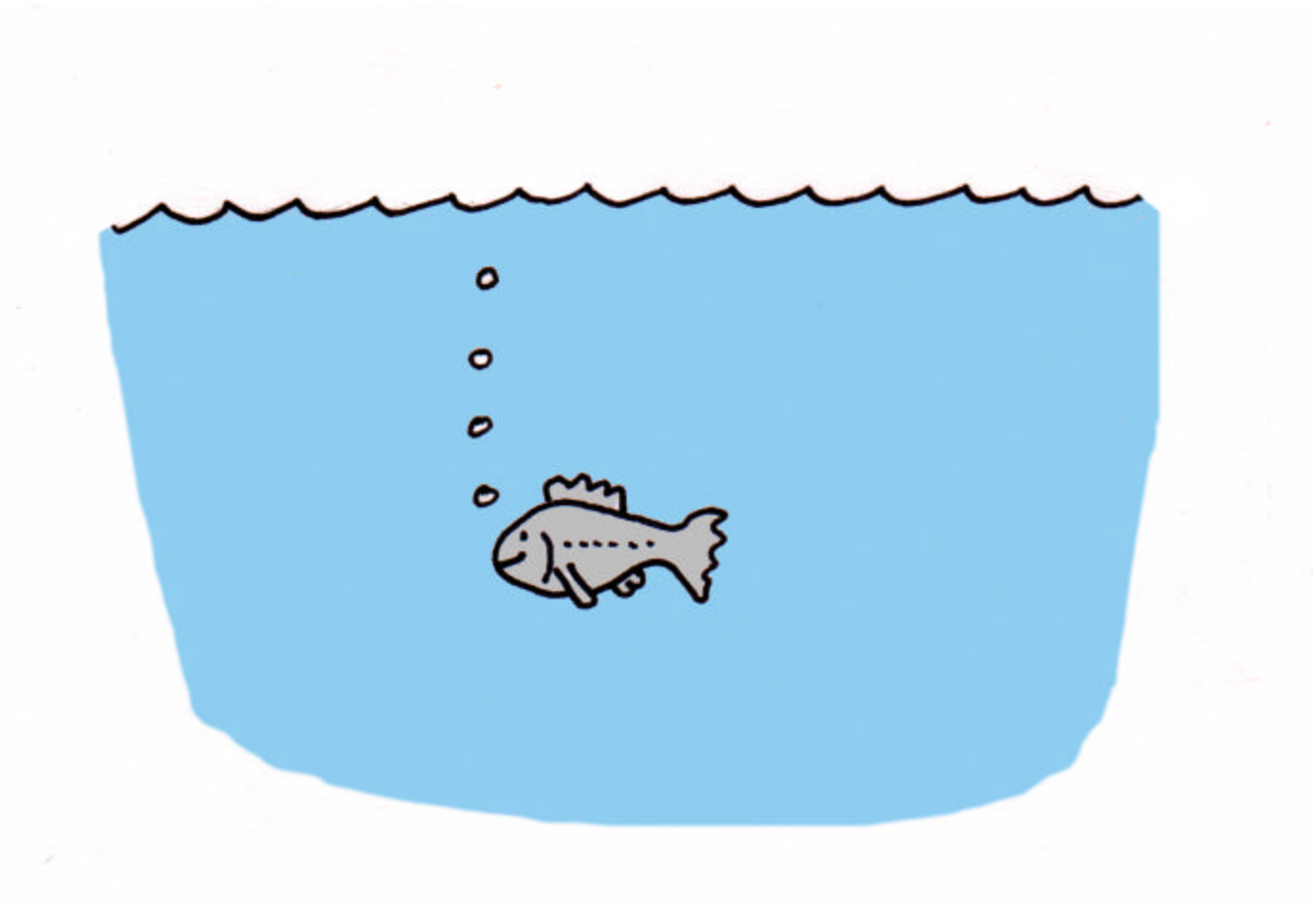


Some invasive weeds have stickers and the animals can't eat them.

Some invasive weeds
are poisonous.

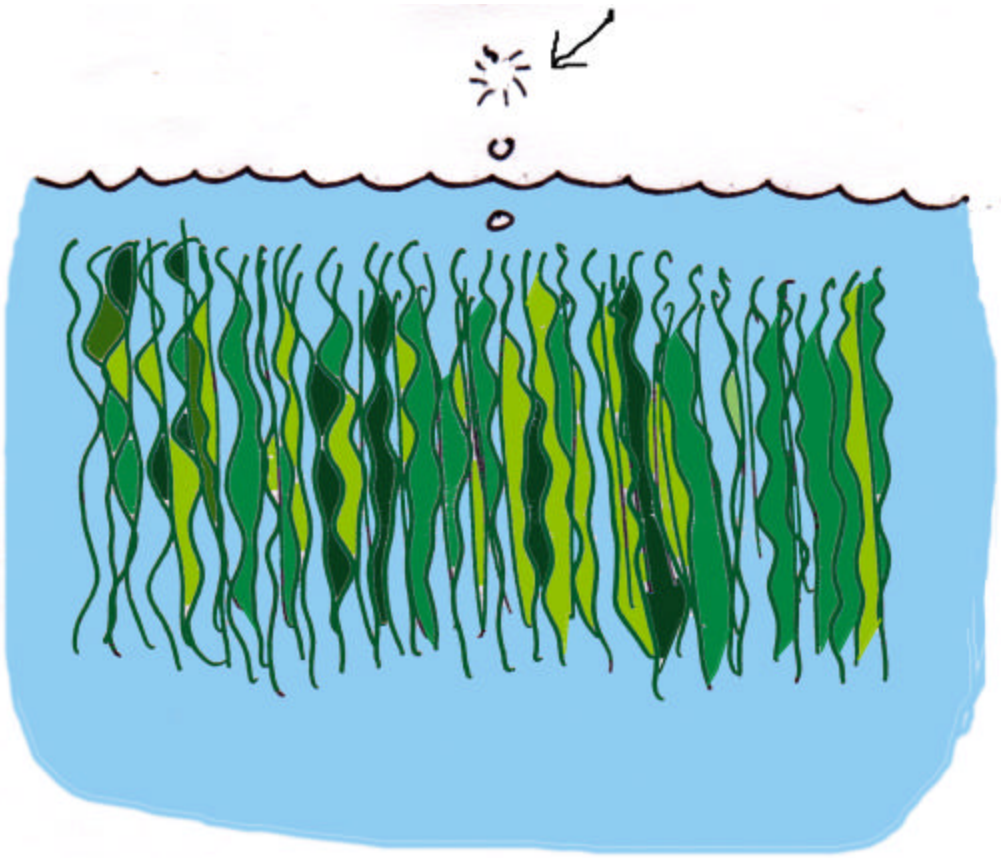
Hey, where
am I?

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



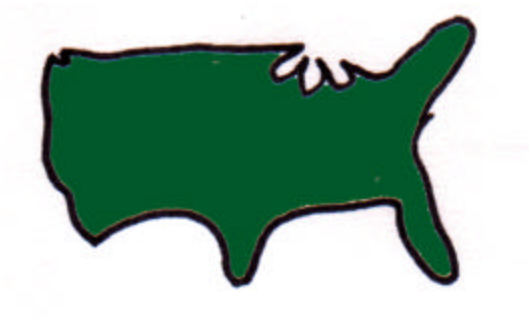
Invasive weeds don't just live on the land…

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.cdfa.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 ResourceManagement
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