What is a Noxious Weed?

Generally, the term weed is used to describe any plant that is unwanted and grows or spreads aggressively. The term ***exotic weed*** describes an invasive, unwanted non-native plant. Terms such as ***invasive weed*** or ***noxious weed*** are used somewhat interchangeably to refer to weeds that infest large areas or cause economic and ecological damage to an area. The term "noxious" weed also has legal ramifications in some states that maintain official lists of noxious weeds. **A plant considered a weed in one area may not be a weed in another.**

Weeds take over important habitat areas for wildlife, devastating shelter and forage while reducing the diversity and quantity of native plants. When weeds do not hold and protect the soil the way native plants do, erosion increases and causes sediment in streams, which can hurt fish populations and water quality.

Noxious weeds are spreading on private and park lands. In fact, no one really knows how fast or how far they are spreading. The WMA is one effort to correct this and begin controls.

The **LOS ANGELES COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT AREA** was formed in 2001 by the following charter members:

County of Los Angeles
Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District
California Department of Food and Agriculture
Callfornia 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

This pamphlet is a first step in increasing public awareness and involvement. To learn more about the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area, attend a meeting or become a member, contact: **The County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures Department, 12300 Lower Azusa Road, Arcadia 91006.**
Telephone: (626) 575-5462.
http://acwm.co.la.ca.us
TTY (626) 575-5520

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The County of Los Angeles Fire Department
The County of Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioners/ Weights & Measures Department
The Las Virgenes Institute for Resource Management
The California Native Plant Society
and
The Mountains Restoration Trust
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

A partnership with public and private landowners, government agencies and citizens dedicated to protecting agriculture and the environment from invasive weeds in Los Angeles County

What is a Weed Management Area?

Weed Management Areas (WMAs) are local organizations that bring together landowners and managers (private, city, county, state and federal) in a county, multi-county or other geographical area to coordinate efforts and expertise against common invasive weed species.

The WMA functions under the authority of a mutually developed Memorandum of Understanding and is subject to statutory and regulatory weed control requirements. In California, such groups are usually initiated by the County Agricultural Commissioner's office or a Federal Agency employee and voluntarily governed by a chairperson or steering committee. WMAs are unique because they attempt to address both regulated agricultural weeds and wildland weeds under one local umbrella organization.

WMAs use many effective outreach weed management methods such as printing weed identification/control brochures; organizing weed education events; writing and obtaining grants; and coordinating joint demonstration projects, weed eradication and mapping efforts.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) helps to coordinate and support WMAs. You can learn more about them and WMAs statewide by visiting their website:

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/wma

The Following Are Some of Los Angeles County's Most Invasive Weeds

- Bullthistle *(Cirsium vulgare)*
- Castor Bean *(Ricinus communis)*
- Giant Reed *(Arundo donax)*
- Geraldton Carnation Spurge *(Euphorbia terracina)*
- Halogeton *(Halogeton glomeratus)*
- Mustard *(various species)*
- Tamarisk/Salt Cedar *(Tamarix spp.)*
- Tocolote *(Centaurea melitensis)*
- Tree Tobacco *(Nicotiana glauca)*
- Tumbleweed/Russian Thistle *(Salsola tragus)*
- Yellow Starthistle *(Centaurea solstitialis)*

INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT

Invasive weed infestations reduce the biological, agricultural, recreational and economical value of the land and have negative effects upon the environment by suppressing native plant species. **Integrated weed management** is a system used to plan and recommend selected methods of management to prevent, contain or control undesirable plant species using all available strategies and techniques. Together, these strategies and techniques are economically and environmentally more effective than any single option.

These three weeds are currently targets of eradication efforts by the County Agricultural Commissioner Department and/or the California Department of Food and Agriculture. You can help by reporting suspected sightings to the **County Agricultural Commissioner Department at: (626) 575-5462**. http://acwm.co.la.ca.us. For more information on these and other invasive weeds, visit the "Noxious Weed EncycloWeedia" at CDFA's website, http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/weedhome.

Spotted Knapweed
Centaurea maculosa

Halogeton
Halogeton glomeratus

Alligatorweed
Alternanthera philoxeroides