

ACTIVITIES



Perennial Pepperweed - *Lepidium latifolium*



Anemopsis californica could be confused with Perennial Pepperweed (Below left)

On June fourth the RCRCDD put on a weed identification field workshop for some of its restoration and weed control contractors' employees. They hoped to help everyone involved to get a better understanding of not only the weeds specific to the Temescal area but a better understanding of how to tell them apart from similar looking native plants that also grow there.

COMING EVENTS



A native Tidy Tips in a field of Tocalote

Cal-IPC Symposium

- October 8th to 10th 2009 in Visalia, CA. For more info visit www.cal-ipc.org

Cal-IPC Field Courses in:

Advanced Mechanical Control Methods
- July 21st in the Santa Cruz Mountains
For more info, visit <http://www.cal-ipc.org/fieldcourses/index.php>

SAROCWMA Quarterly Meeting

- September 8th 2009 9:30 AM, at the Riverside-Corona RCD

Current SAROCWMA Members and Affiliates

San Bernardino County Agricultural Commissioner
Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District
Native Plant Society - Orange County Chapter
Santa Ana Watershed Association
Riverside County Flood Control
San Bernardino National Forest
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

SANTA ANA RIVER and ORANGE COUNTY WEED MANAGEMENT AREA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Summer 2009



The Complexities of Eradication

For a weed species to be completely eradicated from an area you have to be sure that every plant is dead and there are no longer any viable seeds in the area to grow into a new population. Even a few scattered plants of many invasive species can repopulate an area within a few years. The first task in treating an area for weeds is finding and removing all of the plants capable of producing seeds so that no more are being formed, which sometimes can mean revisiting the site several times to treat the weed or weeds and make sure that the plants are truly dead. Then, for several years after the initial killings of invasives, seedling invasives have to be looked for in the area and removed before they can form any seeds. This can take a long time because some seeds will stay dormant for years.

SAROCWMA is an association of private, public and community groups working toward the control and eradication of non-native weeds on both private and public lands.

Weed Spotlight - Summer fun ruining weeds

TOP 10 WEEDS in the SAROCWMA work area:



1. Arundo donax
2. Artichoke Thistle
3. Black Mustard
4. Castor Bean
5. Chinese Tree of Heaven
6. Pampas Grass
7. Perennial Pepperweed
8. Salt Cedar
9. White Horsenettle
10. Yellow Star Thistle

While some native plants have spiky or sticky seeds, many of the common annoying plants are actually invasive weeds that will take over the native habitat if they are given a chance. Knowing which plants don't belong can help you have a yard that is more enjoyable while still staying natural.



Castor Bean is a poisonous invasive weed that can cause some people to have skin reactions to if they touch it with bare hands.



Brome grasses, and wild oats, while green and beautiful as fields in the spring, become unpleasant to walk through in the summer because they have seeds that stick to clothes and in the fur of pets. Dry as they are now they are also a fire hazard. Another invasive weed, Tocalote, is sharp and spiky when it is still green. It takes over large areas, making a yard unpleasant to walk through even in the springtime, and also poses a fire hazard when it dries.



Salt Cedar can increase your water bills because it is very water intensive. As you water it, or other plants around it, Salt Cedar hogs most of the water so you have to water more to compensate.



To get rid of Tocalote and invasive grasses it is best to spray them with herbicide in the spring before the seeds dry. There are usually far too many plants to pull out by hand if these weeds have been in an area for a while.

To get rid of Castor bean and Salt Cedar it is best to pull the seedlings from moist ground when they are small. Older Castor Bean can be sprayed with herbicide and Salt Cedar trees can be removed by having them cut down and painting the stump with herbicide.

So if you are trying to keep your yard natural to save water or just because you like it that way, remember, some of those plants that might be getting on your nerves might not be native. You could actually be helping the environment by getting rid of them so that the native ones can grow, as well as preventing the spread of non-natives.

