On June fourth the RCCCD 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

Cal-IPC Symposium
- October 3rd to 10th 2009 in Visalia, CA. For more info visit www.cal-ipc.org

Cal-IPC Field Courses:
- Advanced Mechanical Control Methods – July 21st in the Santa Cruz Mountains
  For more info visit https://www.anlpc.org/fieldcourses/index.php

SAROWMA Quarterly Meeting
- September 9th 2009 9:30 AM at the Riverside-Corona RCD

SAROWMA 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.

Native Tidy Tips in a field of Tocotane

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 invaders, seeding invaders 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.
While some native plants have spiky or sticky seeds, many of the common annoying weeds 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.

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

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

Invasive grasses, and wild oats, while green and beautiful in 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, Tossalote, 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.

To get rid of Tossalote 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 Caster bean and Salt Cedar it is best to pull the seedlings from moist ground when they are small. Older Caster Bean can be sprayed with herbicide and Salt Cedar trees can be removed by boxing them out 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.