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The Early Detection Team (EDT) surveys roads and trails in the Bay Area Network of National Parks. We detect, map, and remove new populations of invasive plants before they can spread.

Do you have early detections to report, or need more information? Contact the Early Detection Coordinator, Eric Wrubel, Eric.Wrubel@nps.gov (415) 289-1849.

Noteworthy Early Detections

[Floating water primrose](#) [\(*Ludwigia peploides* ssp. *montevidensis*\)](#)



Floating water primrose leaves, flowers and fruits

While conducting a focused survey in Rodeo Lake for parrot's feather ([Myriophyllum aquaticum](#)), the EDT discovered a large population of floating water primrose. The [California Invasive Plant Council \(Cal-IPC\)](#) classifies the potential statewide impact of this species on native ecosystems as high ([plant profile](#)). It aggressively invades shallow, slow moving water in freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. It can choke out native vegetation, and cause impacts to food webs by reducing light availability and dissolved oxygen in the water column.

The impacts to the aquatic ecology of Rodeo Lake from floating water primrose and parrot's feather are currently unknown. The lake is currently heavily dominated by native aquatic species including [Elodea canadensis](#) and [Hydrocotyle ranunculoides](#), which also form dense vegetation mats. To see the extent of the floating water primrose population in Google Earth, follow this link: [GGNRA Surveys May 2013](#).

[Pacific bentgrass](#) [\(*Agrostis avenacea*\)](#)

EDT found and removed a small patch of Pacific bentgrass at the Big Lagoon restoration site at Muir Beach. The patch was found in seasonally wet ground by a drainage feature on the Green Gulch trail. This is the



Pacific bentgrass at the Big Lagoon restoration site.



Pacific bentgrass at seasonal wetlands in Corte Madera..

second occurrence we have located near Muir Beach.

Pacific bentgrass can become invasive in seasonal wetlands. [Cal-IPC](#) classifies the potential statewide impact of this species on native ecosystems as limited ([plant profile](#)). It inhabits open, disturbed, often moist places throughout California. It is especially invasive in vernal pool habitat in the San Diego area. The wispy inflorescences of Pacific bentgrass break off and act like tumble weeds, dispersing seed as they blow across the landscape. To the left is a photo of Pacific bentgrass dominating a man-made seasonal wetland at Corte Madera, Marin Co.

This species has the potential to become invasive at Golden Gate NRA in seasonally wet, disturbed soils.

Other News

New SFNPS Weed Watchers Calflora User Group

[Calflora.org](#) has a new User Group for SFNPS Weed Watchers. This tool is now available for staff and volunteers to report invasive plant species occurrences to the SF NPS Bay Area Early Detection Team. You can download the [Calflora Observer](#) app to record and photograph observations using a smartphone, or the online [Weed Observation Entry](#) application. Users can also quickly view up to 1,000 occurrences previously mapped by the EDT and NPS Habitat Restoration Team.

ID	Plant	Photo	Observer	Source	Record Date	County	Location Description	Comments
10000	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10001	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10002	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10003	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10004	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10005	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10006	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10007	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10008	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10009	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	
10010	Hesperis matronalis	View Photo	Lynell Davis	National Park Service, SFNPS	2012-12-01	Marin	at site of old	

SFNPS Weed Watchers User Group webpage

press **My Groups**. If you are already a member of any groups, you will see them listed. To join the SFNPS Weed Watchers group, send an email to the [early detection coordinator](#), and I will add you to the list.

To join a group, go to [My Calflora](#) (and register as a contributor if you haven't already). Then

The SFNPS Weed Watchers User Group augments the existing [What's Invasive](#) smartphone

app for Golden Gate NRA and Point Reyes NS. The What's Invasive app contains detailed descriptions and photographs of twelve high priority invasive species that volunteers photograph, record and map.
[X]

Point Reyes EDT / Trails Collaboration

The Point Reyes Trail Crew and Point Reyes early detection technician, Christine Davis, are working together to coordinate mowing and early detection survey schedules. There are 115 miles of backcountry trails at PORE, many of which will be surveyed this year by Christine and mowed or trimmed by the trail crew. Early detection surveys are planned before trails are mowed or with at least 2 weeks of growth after mowing to ensure plant detectability. The trail crew informs Christine of their mowing schedule and in turn, Christine can report any downed trees on the trails to the trails supervisor, Shawn Maloney. This reciprocal relationship saves all involved time and benefits both programs. Thanks for the help Trails Crew!

Survey Results

Google Earth™ maps are available to view mapped occurrences and survey routes. If you don't have Google Earth installed on your computer, you can download it for free [HERE](#), where you can also find links to tutorials and other resources.

Look in the Google Earth sidebar for a list of species mapped during the surveys.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

[GGNRA Surveys May 2013](#)

Point Reyes National Seashore

[PRNS Surveys May 2013](#)

What We Do

The Weed Watchers map, assess, and report occurrences of priority invasive plants along trails and roads in the San Francisco Bay Area network of National Parks, treating localized infestations when feasible.

The monthly data presented via the Google Earth KML files in this newsletter represent only new observations of patches of priority invasive plant species. A patch is defined as a group of individuals that is at least 20 meters from the next nearest group. Some patches may not be mapped in a given month if they have already been recorded in previous years, or if the patch is too large (see below).

Priority Species Lists

[Golden Gate NRA 2013](#)

[Point Reyes NS 2013](#)

See the table below for more information about our priority invasive species and the data that we collect:

Our Priorities	Example	Explanation	Data Collected

List 1 (Highest Priority Plants)	 Fertile capeweed	List 1 plants are highly invasive and are typically not widespread. Control or even eradication is often feasible.	<i>Point occurrences*</i> and <i>polygon assessments**</i> are recorded for all patches, regardless of their size.
List 2 (High Priority Plants)	 Cape ivy	List 2 plants are highly invasive and usually more common than List 1 species, but are still feasible to control in many places.	<i>Point occurrences</i> are recorded for all patches regardless of their size, and <i>polygon assessments</i> are recorded for all patches smaller than 100 square meters.
List 3 (Medium Priority Plants)	 Sweet fennel	List 3 plants are usually widespread and difficult to control at the scale of the park. Uncommon species of concern are also listed here to improve our understanding of their distribution in the park.	<i>Point occurrences</i> are recorded for all patches smaller than 100 square meters.
List 4 (Lower Priority Plants)	 Rattlesnake grass	List 4 plants include all other exotic species that are not captured by Lists 1 – 3. Typically, these are ubiquitous invasive plants and are beyond control, or they are waifs.	These plants are not mapped. Skilled observers may record presence/absence.
*Point occurrences are individual points recorded to represent an entire patch of invasive plants **Polygon assessments describe the size, shape and coverage of a patch			