



Contents

[Noteworthy Early Detections](#)

[Survey Results](#)

- [GGNRA June Surveys](#)
- [Point Reyes June Surveys](#)

[What We Do](#)

Links

[Weed Watchers](#)

[Bay Area Early Detection Network](#)

[California Invasive Plant Council](#)

[SFNPS Invasive Plant Page](#)

[Whats Invasive! Smartphone App & Web Reporting Tool](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

[Weed Watchers](#)

[Invasive Plant Patrol](#)

[Habitat Restoration Team](#)

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



Tufted wallaby grass (*Rytidosperma caespitosum*) along the Baquiano Ridge Trail.

[Tufted Wallaby grass \(*Rytidosperma caespitosum*\)](#)

This June EDT mapped 2.3 gross acres of tufted wallaby grass (RYCA) along the lower Baquiano Trail at Sweeney Ridge, bringing the total to 5.8 acres mapped to date. We first discovered RYCA at Baquiano Ridge in 2011. Prior to that, RYCA was only known from a few, small populations at scattered localities in California. To the currently mapped extent of RYCA, click on the GGNRA June Surveys link below.

One of the previously recorded locations of RYCA was in San Mateo County, in the Cascade Ranch unit of Ano Nuevo State Park ([CCH](#)). However there are reports from nearby of the closely related [Rytidosperma penicillatum](#) (= *Danthonia pilosa*), which could be RYCA that was misidentified.

The first edition of the Jepson Manual (1993) did not distinguish between the two species of *Rytidosperma*.

The second edition (2012) listed RYCA as a waif,

because it was only known to be naturalized in a few places in California. The discovery of the Baquiano Ridge population suggests that this species could either be increasing its range, or is more widespread than previously known.

More collections and population assessments are needed to determine the actual distribution of RYCA in San Mateo County. If you find a new population of *Rytidosperma* in a Bay Area National Park, please report it to the SFAN Early Detection user group at Calfora.org (see below). To report an occurrence outside of a National Park, use the Calfora/Bay Area Early



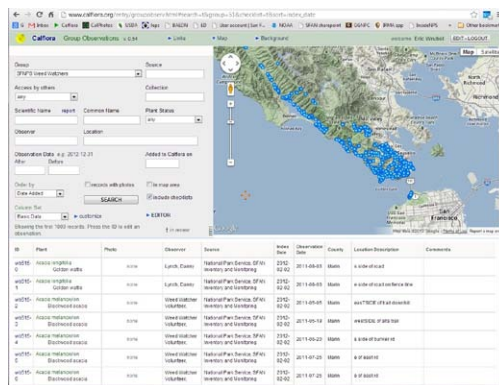
Woolly dystaff thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*)

[Woolly Dystaff Thistle](#) [\(*Carthamus lanatus*\)](#)

In June, EDT found a large population of woolly dystaff thistle (CALA) along the Devil's Gulch Trail, near the border of Golden Gate NRA and Samuel P. Taylor State Park. CALA has spread across many acres of rangeland in West Marin, but it remains relatively rare on National Park lands.

The [California Invasive Plant Council \(Cal-IPC\)](#) classifies the potential impact of CALA on native ecosystems as moderate - ALERT ([plant profile](#)). It is also classified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as a [Noxious Weed List B](#). CALA can form dense stands, outcompeting other grassland species for moisture, light, and nutrients. It causes injury to mouths and feet of livestock and impedes passage of wildlife. It has little or no feed or grazing value and decreases the quality of rangeland.

Other News



New SFNPS Early Detection User Group on Calflora

SFNPS Early Detection is a new user group on [Calflora.org](#). This group 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 observations using a smartphone, or use the online [Observer](#). Users can also quickly view up to 1,000 occurrences previously mapped by the EDT and NPS Habitat Restoration Team.

SFNPS Weed Watchers User Group webpage.

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

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 can map.

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 June 2013](#)

Point Reyes National Seashore

[PRNS Surveys June 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		List 4 plants include all other exotic species	These plants are not mapped. Skilled observers

Priority
Plants)



Rattlesnake grass

that are not captured by
Lists 1 – 3. Typically,
these are ubiquitous
invasive plants and are
beyond control, or they
are waifs.

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