

Bay Area Early Detection Team

Early Detection News July 2013

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
S.F. Bay Area Network
Inventory and Monitoring Program



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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.

New Results Format

ID	Plant	Photo	Observer	Source	Observation Date	County	Location Description	Comments
4471534-537	Rubus perigrinus	Photo	Davis, Christine	SFNP-888 Early Detection	2013-05-14	Marin	Redwood Center center 1001 trailhead	npw00502013051402
4471534-538	Rubus perigrinus	Photo	Davis, Christine	SFNP-888 Early Detection	2013-05-14	Marin	at center trail	npw00502013051403
4471534-539	Rubus perigrinus	Photo	Davis, Christine	SFNP-888 Early Detection	2013-05-14	Marin	at center trail	npw00502013051404
4471534-540	Rubus perigrinus	Photo	Davis, Christine	SFNP-888 Early Detection	2013-05-14	Marin	at center trail	npw00502013051405

SFNPS Early Detection Survey Results Now on Calflora.org

Our survey results are now posted monthly on Calflora.org under the SFNPS Early Detection user group. To see our survey results go to the [Calflora Observation Hotline](#), click on the group association menu, and select the SFNPS Early Detection group. You can view up to 1,000 occurrence records, and you can filter your results by date, area, or taxon. You can also sort the results by a number of parameters

Early Detection results filtered by area in the Calflora Observation Hotline tool.

You can also join the SFNPS Early Detection user group to report new invasive plant species

occurrences. Download the [Calflora Observer](#) app to record observations using a smartphone, or use the online [Observer](#).

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.

Noteworthy Early Detections



Stands of Alkali sacaton on Hill 88.

[Alkali sacaton](#) [\(*Sporobolus airoides*\)](#)

What is alkali sacaton doing on Hill 88?

Late last year EDT encountered a large population of alkali sacaton on historic Hill 88 in the Marin Headlands. We revisited the site this year to identify the strange grass on the southern flank of Hill 88, and found that it covered roughly three acres below the abandoned military facility.

Why is this so unusual? Alkali sacaton is found throughout the southwestern US in alkaline flats and alluvial floodplains, where it forms stands of a rare and declining vegetation alliance*. However, it has also been used for erosion control on saline soils. It is most likely that alkali sacaton was used on Hill 88 for erosion mitigation.

This unlikely species is reproducing and thriving on Hill 88. We don't know how long it has been present, or what its rate of spread is. Continued surveillance is necessary to know whether alkali sacaton is actively spreading in the chert grasslands of Wolf Ridge.

*Sawyer, J.O., Keeler-Wolf, T., Evens, J. 2009. A manual of California vegetation, second edition. California Native Plant Society.



Reed canarygrass growing in mesic coastal scrub.

[Reed Canarygrass](#) [\(*Phalaris arundinacea*\)](#)

The Early Detection Team found a patch of reed canarygrass, while assisting the Plant Community Change Team (PCC) with wetland site assessments near the Estero Trail Road at Point Reyes. We counted ten large clumps growing at the edge of mesic coastal scrub and a stand of common rush (*Juncus effusus*).

Reed canarygrass is native to North America, and occurs throughout the United States in wet sites along streams and in grasslands and woodlands. However, European cultivars have been introduced that hybridize with native populations, and may show increased vigor and invasiveness. There is concern that these hybrids may swamp out native genotypes*.

There are no historic records we know of for this species in Marin County, indicating that it is recently introduced. The first Marin County occurrence was reported from Drake's Estero several years ago by Point Reyes wetland ecologist Amelia Ryan.

*DiTomaso, J., Healy, E.A. 2003. Aquatic and riparian weeds of the west. UCANR.

[Andean Tussockgrass \(*Stipa manicata*\)](#)

In July the EDT found a new population of Andean tussockgrass in San Mateo County along Sneath Lane at Sweeney Ridge. Last year we wrote about the emerging threat of Andean tussockgrass in the Marin Headlands. This is the first record we know of for San Mateo County.

Andean tussockgrass has been mistaken for native purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), and has

been accidentally propagated and outplanted at several locations in California. It appears to favor more mesic locations than purple needlegrass, and is generally taller and more robust. See the August 2012 newsletter for more information on this species.

Survey Results

Survey Results Are Now Posted in the
SFNPS Early Detection Group
on the

[Calflora Observation Hotline](#)

To see our survey results click on the group association menu, and select the SFNPS Early Detection group. Use the map to navigate to a survey area (listed below). You can view up to 1,000 occurrence records, and you can filter your results by date, area, or taxon. You can also sort the results by a number of parameters.

Please contact us if you need detailed mapping products. We have additional GIS layers for tracklogs, population assessments and treatments.

July 2013 Survey areas

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

- Coastal Trail: Muir Beach to Coyote Ridge
- Bolinas-Fairfax Road and Bolinas Ridge
- Rancho Corral de Tierra: Pedro Mtn. Rd., Denniston Loop Tr., Spine Tr.
- Sweeney Ridge and Sneath Lane
- Hill 88
- Owl Trail
- Highway 1 at Stinson Beach
- Conzelman Road
- Miwok Trail: Tennessee Valley to Coyote Ridge

Point Reyes National Seashore

- Horseshoe Trail from Drakes Beach
- Duck Cover Trail
- Mount Wittenberg Trail
- Rift Zone Trail
- Highway 1 near Five Brooks
- Olema Valley Trail
- Ragetti Trail
- Ridge Trail
- Coast Trail: Pelican Lake, Palomarin
- Arroyo Honda

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			