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The Early Detection Team (EDT) surveys roads and trails in the San Francisco Bay Area Network of National Parks (SFAN). 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



Schismus arabicus. Staff, NPS.

[Arabian schismus](#) [\(Schismus arabicus\)](#)

During the May surveys at Pinnacles National Park, EDT found a patch of Arabian schismus at the recently constructed Chaparral picnic area on the west side of the park. Arabian schismus has been recorded in the main campground on the east side of the park, but has not previously been found elsewhere at Pinnacles

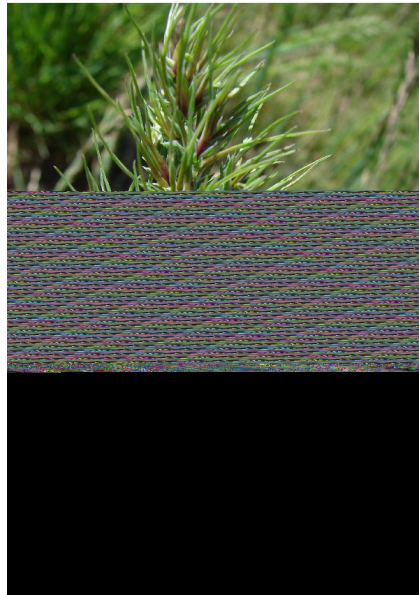
during early detection surveys.

The [California Invasive Plant Council](#) classifies the potential statewide impact of Arabian schismus on native ecosystems as **Limited**. It is one of the dominant annual grasses in arid and semi-arid regions of California. Arabian schismus outcompetes native annual plants on nutrient-limited soils, and has been implicated in increased fire frequency in California deserts, by creating ground fuels that carry fire across the gaps between shrubs.

Sources:

[Cal-IPC Plant Profile: *Schismus arabicus*, *S. barbatus* \(mediterranean grass\)](#)
[Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands](#)

Bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*)



Poa bulbosa. Sheri Hagwood, BLM.

The EDT found a large patch of bulbous bluegrass in the Pinnacles Campground, at campsites 45 – 47. This species is widely scattered, but uncommon within the park, with most known populations occurring in the east side campground.

Bulbous bluegrass is a rangeland pest throughout the western U.S., with the greatest concentrations located in northeastern California. It reproduces vegetatively by forming small bulblets, which drop from the mother plant in early spring and grow quickly. It is adapted to Summer-dry climates and thrives in habitats that are seasonally moist in the Winter and Spring.

Sources:

[Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#)

[USDA Plant Guide: Bulbous bluegrass](#)

Other News

ID	Plant	Photo	Observer	Source	Index	Observation Date	County	Location Description	Comments
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	
wd151	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>		Lynch, Danny	National Park Service, SFNPS	2010	2011-05-13	Marin	a side of road on roadside	

SFNPS Early Detection User Group on Calflora

SFNPS Early Detection is a user group on [Calflora.org](#). This group is 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.

Survey Results

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
[GGNRA January-April 2014](#)

Pinnacles National Park

[Pinnacles May 2014](#)

Point Reyes National Seashore

[PRNS January-April 2014](#)

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 National Recreation Area
John Muir National Historic Site
Pinnacles National Park
Point Reyes National Seashore

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