

Bay Area Early Detection Team

Early Detection News

June 2014

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



Contents

[Noteworthy Early Detections](#)

[Survey Results](#)

[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 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



[Finestem needlegrass](#) [\(*Nassella tenuissima*\)](#)

In early June, Fort Baker Resource Specialist Jonathan "Coty" Sifuentes-Winter discovered and removed a single clump of finestem needlegrass growing in the pavement on the shoulder of East Bunker Road at the Alexander Avenue underpass.

Finestem needlegrass is on the Bay Area Early Detection (BAEDN) 2010 priority list. It is reported to be invasive in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, but is not yet widely naturalized in California. In the San Francisco Bay Area it is a "garden thug", and is often seen spreading beyond landscaped areas.

Sources:

[Global Invasive Species Database](#)

Finestem needlegrass.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.



Comfrey.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Comfrey **(*Symphytum officinale*)**

In early June, Fort Baker Resource Specialist Jonathan "Coty" Sifuentes-Winter discovered and removed a single clump of finestem needlegrass growing in the pavement on the shoulder of East Bunker Road at the Alexander Avenue underpass.

Finestem needlegrass is on the Bay Area Early Detection (BAEDN) 2010 priority list. It is reported to be invasive in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, but is not yet widely naturalized in California. In the San Francisco Bay Area it is a "garden thug", and is often seen spreading beyond landscaped areas.

Sources:
[Global Invasive Species Database](#)

Regional News

Taro root **(*Colocasia esculenta*)**

California State Parks Vegetation Manager Ramona Robison reports that taro root is colonizing sloughs and channels in the Sacramento Delta area, having apparently escaped from cultivated fields.

Taro root is valued worldwide for its starchy, edible corms. It has been in cultivation for millenia in Southeast Asia, India and Africa, and is an important food crop in South America and the South Pacific.

Taro root.
Photo: © Pankaj Oudhia, 2008-2013

Taro root is able to colonize streambanks canals and lakeshores where nutrient levels are high. It is a category I invasive plant on the Florida Exotic Pest Council's list of invasive species.

For more information on Taro root occurrences in the Delta, or to report new sightings contact ramonarobison@parks.ca.gov.

Sources:
Ramona Robison, pers. comm. June 19, 2014.
[Florida Invasive Plant Species Mobile Field Guide \(FLIP\)](#).
[Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida IFASa](#).

Survey Results

The June 2014 surveys were conducted in:
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Point Reyes National Seashore

Click on the link below to view the results in Calflora
[June 2014 occurrences](#)

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.

Point occurrences 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