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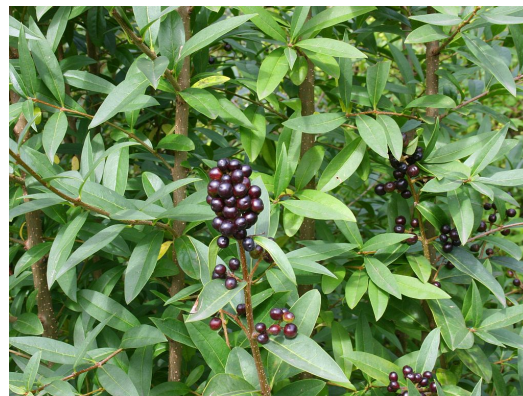
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The Early Detection Team (EDT) surveys roads and trails in the San Francisco Bay Area Network of National Parks (SFAN). We detect, map, and remove new populations of invasive plants before they can spread.

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



Ligustrum vulgare, berries.
Photo by Frank Vincentz.

Tocaloma Surveys

The EDT discovered three species new to the Golden Gate NRA plant list during July surveys in the Tocaloma area along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, east of Platform Bridge Road.

European privet ([Ligustrum vulgare](#)) was observed growing in dense thickets around abandoned homesites. There are no published accounts of European privet in Marin County, but there are sporadic occurrences of California privet ([L. ovalifolium](#)) and glossy privet ([L. lucidum](#)). The latter two species are commonly used in gardens, while European privet is not. All three species are naturalized and invasive in parts of eastern

North America, and are potential invaders of riparian habitats in the Bay Area.

Smilo grass ([Stipa miliacea](#)) was found on the shoulder of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. It was likely introduced in contaminated fill soil associated with last year's road improvements. The single plant was removed immediately. The California Invasive Plant Council ([Cal-IPC](#)) classifies the potential statewide impact of this species on native ecosystems as **Limited** ([plant profile](#)). Smilo grass is invasive in riparian ecosystems of Central and Southern California, where it can displace native understory vegetation.

A single plant of Johnsongrass ([Sorghum halepense](#)) was observed growing as a weed in the gardens at the SPAWN headquarters. Johnsongrass is a large, clumping perennial grass with vigorous, coarse rhizomes. It is an agricultural pest in California (UC Integrated Pest

Management), and is considered to be one of the 10 most noxious weeds in the world.

Sources:

[Nesom, Guy L. "Taxonomic overview of *Ligustrum* \(Oleaceae\) naturalized in North America north of Mexico." *Phytologia* 91.3 \(2009\): 467-482.](#)

[UC Integrated Pest Management](#)

[DiTomaso, J. M., & Healy, E. A. \(2007\). Weeds of California and other western states \(Vol. 3488\). UCANR Publications.](#)



Stipa purpurata, florets.
Photo by Robert Steers, NPS.

Bristly needlegrass **(*Stipa purpurata*)**

A large patch of bristly needlegrass was discovered by EDT intern Joseph Aquila, along the Coastal Trail northwest of Fort Cronkhite. Native to Chile, bristly needlegrass, is only known to be naturalized in North America at a few locations in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The most well established populations are located on the west slope of Bolinas Ridge, north of the Bolinas-Fairfax Road. More recently, patches have been reported in the Marin Headlands, and at Drake's Estero. Consequently, the EDT began mapping bristly needlegrass in Golden Gate NRA and Point

Reyes NS this year. Currently, there is little information on the invasiveness of this species.

Sources:

[Flora of North America Vols. 24 & 25 Poaceae](#)

[Global Compendium of Weeds](#)



Desmond Murray mapping
winged plumeless thistle on Mount Wanda.
Photo by Eric Wrubel, NPS

John Muir NHS Surveys

the EDT recorded two new species for the park plant list during July surveys at John Muir NHS. The species are winged plumeless thistle ([Carduus tenuiflorus](#)) and Monterey pine ([Pinus radiata](#)).

Desmond Murray, JMNHS Biological Technician, discovered a patch of winged plumeless thistle in a wet swale on Mount Wanda. Winged plumeless thistle is morphologically similar to Italian thistle ([Carduus pycnocephalus](#)), which is a widespread weed at JMNHS. Cal-IPC classifies the potential statewide impact of winged plumeless thistle on native ecosystems as **Limited** ([plant profile](#)).

An individual Monterey pine was detected at the edge of the park, along Alhambra Ave. Monterey pine is native to the Monterey Peninsula of California, but has been widely cultivated and naturalized in other parts of California, and worldwide, and is considered an invasive species outside of its natural range. Cal-IPC classifies the potential statewide impact of this species on native ecosystems as **Limited** ([plant](#)

[profile](#)).

Survey Results

The June 2014 surveys were conducted in:

**John Muir National Historic Site
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Point Reyes National Seashore**

Click on the link below to view the results in Calflora

[July 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.	<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			