

Table 3-2. Noxious Weeds and Other Invasive Non-Native Plants Known to Occur in Nevada County

Common name	Scientific name	CDFA Rank	CalEPPC Rank	Habitat	Distribution
Russian knapweed	<i>Acrotilon repens</i>	B	--	Fields, cultivated sites, roadsides, ditchbanks, waste areas	
Barbed goatgrass	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	B	Annual grasses list	Serpentine habitats, grasslands	
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	--	A-2	Riparian areas, grasslands, oak woodlands	
Vineyard Onion, Wild Garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>	B	--	Disturbed sites, vineyards, orchards, irrigated or moist areas	
Giant reed, arundo	<i>Arundo donax</i>	--	A-1	Riparian areas	
Wild oat, slender wild oat	<i>Avena spp.</i>	--	Annual grasses list	Grasslands, oak woodlands; widespread	
False brome	<i>Brachypodium distachyon</i>	--	Annual grasses list	Grasslands	
Ripgut grass	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	--	Annual grasses list	Grasslands, oak woodlands	
Red brome	<i>Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens</i>	--	A-2	Widespread in a variety of habitats and soil types	
Cheat grass, downy brome	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	--	A-1	Widespread; once thought only to occur east of Sierra crest	
Hoary cress, longstalk whitetop	<i>Cardaria ssp.</i>	B	A-2	Riparian areas, marshes of central coast; also ag lands and disturbed areas	
Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	A	--	Colonizes disturbed areas, ag lands, and waste areas, esp. in alluvial soils	
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	A	--	Colonizes disturbed areas, ag lands, and waste areas, esp. in sandy fertile soils	
Italian thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	C	B	Grasslands, shrub lands, oak woodlands	
Distaff thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	B		Disturbed areas in grasslands and ag lands	
Purple star-thistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	B	B	Moist areas in grasslands, esp. heavy, fertile alluvial soils	
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	A	--	Light well-drained soils	
Iberian star-thistle	<i>Centaurea iberica</i>	A	--	Moist areas in grasslands, often on ditchbanks	
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	A	Red Alert	Riparian areas, meadows, grasslands, forest habitats	
Tocalote	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	--	B	Widespread around the state, less common than yellow star-thistle locally	

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Yellow star-thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	C	A-1	Widespread; now found reproducing above 7,000 ft.	
Skeleton weed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	A	--	Disturbed roadsides, crop lands, rangelands, residential areas	
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	B	B	Riparian areas	
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	--	B	Riparian areas, marshes, meadows, logged areas	
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	--	B	Riparian areas, oak woodlands; widespread	
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	C	Considered, but rejected	Ag lands, disturbed areas	
Artichoke thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	B	A-1	Disturbed open areas in chaparral, grasslands, ag lands, riparian areas	
Bermuda grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	C	--	Generally moist or irrigated soils on disturbed roadsides, also in turf, gardens, and riparian areas	
Scotch broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	C	A-1	Oak woodlands, Sierra foothills	
Brazilian waterweed	<i>Egeria densa</i>	--	A-2	Streams, ponds, sloughs, lakes	
Quack grass	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	B	--	Disturbed areas, cultivated fields, mountain meadows	
Oblong spurge	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	B	--	Waste areas, disturbed sites, roadsides, fields, pastures	
Tall fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	--	B	Grasslands, coastal scrub, meadows	
Edible fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	--	A-2	Riparian areas	
Wild fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	--	A-1	Grasslands, riparian areas	
French broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	C	A-1	Oak woodlands, coastal scrub	
Baby's breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata var. paniculata</i>	B	--	Horticultural escape, invades disturbed areas on sandy soils, open grassy areas	
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	--	B	Riparian areas, coastal forests	
Velvet grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	--	B	Wetlands, riparian areas, wet meadows, grasslands	
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	A, F	Red Alert	Aquatic habitats	
Klamathweed	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	C	B	Meadows, woodlands, conifer forests	
Dyer's woad	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	B	Need more info	Well known invader in Utah; threat to wildlands	

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Perennial pepperweed, tall whitetop	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	B	A-1	Coastal and inland marshes, riparian areas, wetlands, grasslands	
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	--	B	Grasslands, mountain meadows	
Toadflax	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i> ssp. <i>Dalmatica</i>	A	--	Disturbed open areas, fields, pastures, degraded rangelands, roadsides, crop lands	
Italian ryegrass	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	--	Annual grasses list	Grasslands, wetlands, vernal pools	
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	B	Red alert	Horticultural; noxious weed of wetlands, riparian areas	
Pennyroyal	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	--	A-2	Wetlands, vernal pools	
Nimblewell	<i>Muhlenbergia schreberi</i>	B	--	Turf weed, also in pastures, orchards, forest sites, residential areas, moist woodlands	
Parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	--	B	Streams, lakes, ponds	
Eurasian milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	--	A-1	Lakes, ponds, streams	
Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	--	B	Horticultural/agricultural escape; reported as invasive in riparian habitats	
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i> ssp. <i>acanthium</i>	A	--	Natural areas, disturbed areas, roadsides, fields, esp. fertile soils	
Taurian cottonthistle	<i>Onopordum tauricum</i>	A	--	Natural areas, disturbed areas, roadsides, fields, esp. fertile soils	
Bulbous canarygrass	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	--	B	Moist soils, wetland and riparian areas, meadows	
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	B	--	Horticultural escape, invades riparian and wetland areas, esp. bare volcanics	
Giant knotweed	<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	B	--	Horticultural escape, invades riparian and wetland areas, esp. open, sunny sites	
Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	--	B	Riparian areas, canyons	
Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus discolor</i>	--	A-1	Riparian areas, marshes, oak woodlands, seeps and springs	
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	C	--	Sandy soils in grasslands, desert washes, roadsides, disturbed areas, including disturbed natural areas; throughout CA	
Bouncing-bet	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	--	A-2	Riparian areas, meadows	

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Peruvian pepper tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>	--	B	Horticultural species, invasive in riparian habitats	
Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	B	B	Grasslands, disturbed areas, waste places, roadsides	
Carolina horsenettle	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	B	--	Disturbed areas, degraded ag lands, pastures, esp. sandy well-drained soils	
White horsenettle	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	B	--	Disturbed areas, ag lands, roadsides, vineyards, forest openings, waste areas	
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	C	--	Ditchbanks, moist areas in orchards and pastures, roadsides	
Medusa-head	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	C	A-1	Grasslands, including serpentine and gabbro habitats	
Tamarisk, salt cedar	<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	--	A-1	Riparian areas, desert washes, seeps and springs	
Puncture vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	C	--	Sandy soils in grasslands, disturbed areas, waste areas,	
Common gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	B	--	Disturbed areas, logged areas, burn sites, ag lands	
Woolly mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	--	B	Meadows, woodlands, riparian areas, burn sites	
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	--	B	Riparian areas, oak woodlands	

¹ California Exotic Pest Plant Council Lists: A-1 = Most Invasive Wildland Pest Plants, Widespread; A-2 = Most Invasive Wildland Pests, Regional; B = Wildland Pest Plants of Lesser Invasiveness; Need More Information = Species' status is uncertain; more information is needed; Red Alert = Pest plants with the potential to spread explosively; Annual Grass = a preliminary list of annual grasses, abundant and widespread in California, that pose significant threats to wildlands.

² California Department of Food and Agriculture Lists: F = Federal Noxious Weed, as designated by USDA; targeted for federally-funded prevention, eradication, or containment efforts; A = The agency mandates that these species be targeted for eradication or containment; B = These species are more widespread and, therefore, difficult to contain and the agency allows county Agricultural Commissioners to decide whether to target them for eradication or containment in their jurisdictions; C = These weeds are so widespread that the agency does not endorse state- or county-funded eradication or containment efforts except in nurseries or seed lots.