



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

June 4, 2017

Greetings from the OC CNPS Emergent Invasive Plant Program!

This is the first of several email updates about non-native invasive plants in and around the Orange County area. We anticipate that these communications will happen about every month or two and will include new detections, changes in the status of known invasive populations and other news that you may find interesting.

Since this is the first of these emails we want to remind you that the primary focus of our OC CNPS effort is on new detections and small populations of high-risk species. Although important, we probably will not say too much about many of our well-known invasives.

Since this is the first email, this edition will be longer than future versions, so that we can get caught up with some news over the past two or three months.

For more information about Emergent Invasive Plants in Orange County, click "Invasives" at www.occnps.org. See their current status, multiple images for each species, printable invasive plant profiles and other information.

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, headquartered in Sacramento. It has about 10,000 members in 34 Chapters statewide. Membership is open to all.

cnps.org

CNPS is dedicated to celebrating California's native plant heritage and preserving it for future generations.

The Orange County Chapter of CNPS focuses that dedication on the native plants and natural vegetation of Orange County and adjacent Southern California.

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Canary Island St John's Wort (*Hypericum canariense*):

Detected in Laguna Canyon on May 18th and reported through the Emergent Invasive Program. It was quickly field checked, roughly mapped and can be seen on Calflora (http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/noccdetail.cgi?seq_num=po36358). This is a significant infestation of a highly problematic plant. It is a large woody shrub and appears to readily invade intact native plant communities.

Land managers, conservation organizations and others are currently in communication about next steps. More information about this infestation can be seen here (<https://www.occnps.org/invasives/locations-and-status-updates.html>).



Barbed goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*):

In late May a recurrence of a 2015 detection of this invasive grass was found at Audubon's Starr Ranch. This is the first location in OC for this non-native invasive annual grass that still has limited distribution in SoCal. The [California Invasive Plant Council](#) classifies its potential impact on native ecosystems as high. The Ranch is working on a control strategy. More info here: http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=107

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*):

We received a bit of good news regarding the infestation near the mouth of Aliso Canyon. An allied organization, active in the area, has agreed to assist OC CNPS with coordination of the land managers and agencies that will likely be involved in future management. More to come on this.



More Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*):

In a long and complex story, we believe we have discovered how the first *Chrysanthemoides* - boneseed plant arrived in Laguna Beach. It was apparently planted by legendary Laguna Beach gardener Hortense Miller. The original plant, now quite old, was still growing in her garden. OC CNPS worked with the garden leadership and it was agreed that the plant would be removed.

Long flowered veldtgrass (*Ehrharta longifolia*):

Fred Roberts detected a small colony of this invasive in late April in the Bonita Canyon area, a first record for OC. Management is pending.

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*):

An undetermined number of plants were detected in March or April in San Diego Creek Channel near the Audubon House and Duck Club. More to come.

Japanese dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*):

A report of invasive Japanese dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*) at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park in late April appears to be erroneous.

Coastal galenia (*Galenia pubescens*):

Detected by an OC CNPS member in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park in April and reported through the Emergent Invasive Program. This is the first OC detection of this species. It has been successfully responded to by Laura Cohen, the resource specialist at the park. She reported that more than 500 plants were removed. Initial Calflora record is here: http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/noccdetail.cgi?seq_num=po29088. A secondary report is here: http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/noccdetail.cgi?seq_num=po33092.



Volutaria (*Volutaria tubuliflora*):

Volutaria management continued at Upper Newport Bay from late winter through spring and has now concluded for the season.

**Non Toxic Communities:**

We are monitoring several of the “non-toxic” efforts in various OC communities. We are concerned about losing herbicides as a critical tool in the management of invasive plants in wildland areas. Thus far the cities of Irvine and San Juan Capistrano have passed ordinances forbidding the use of synthetic herbicides from all public areas.

Cal-IPC Symposium:

The Cal-IPC annual symposium will be Oct. 24-27 in Palm Springs. The OC CNPS Invasive Committee is preparing new posters and handouts to display on the sponsor table. This will outline steps for other groups to establish their own Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR) program.

At the Cal-IPC symposium, Ron Vanderhoff will be presenting as part of a Volutaria session, discussing the Newport Bay detection, infestation and management.

Santa Ana River & Orange County Weed Management Area update:

A meeting on May 24 at Santiago Oaks Regional Park was well attended, especially by OC members. The meeting including a live training and demonstration on the use of the Calflora software. This online database, record keeping and weed management tool is used by many land managers and the public. Several customizations and advanced features for reporting and management tracking were reviewed.

The March WMA meeting was in Riverside and attended by OC CNPS committee co-chair Jutta Burger. Jutta gave updates of OC CNPS invasive activities and also relayed updates from the other regional members to our chapter committee.

Coastal NCCP Invasive Survey:

The OC Coastal NCCP (Natural Communities Coalition) is continuing its spring survey of approximately 150 miles of trails throughout the coastal area, including lands within OC Parks, CA State Parks, Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks, Irvine Open Space areas and others. James Bailey is conducting the surveys and has been reporting on a specific list of priority invasive plants, as well as other non-native species new to the region.

The Cal-IPC Invasive Inventory:

OC CNPS has been active in Cal-IPC reviews of dozens of species for possible inclusion in their Invasive Species Inventory. The scientific reviews have been completed, the public comment period has concluded and the results will be made public within the next few weeks. This is a significant update to the inventory.

Other Committee Tasks and Follow-ups:

Checking on our two OC *Parthenium* infestations (Santa Ana and Irvine)

Following up on the management of a small yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) infestation at Upper Newport Bay

Ongoing stinknet (*Dittrichia graveolens*) management in Arroyo Trabuco (year 4)

Ongoing yellow star thistle management (*Centaurea solstitialis*) management in Silverado Canyon and along Hwy. 74 (years 3 and 4).

Orange County Chapter, CA Native Plant Society

Invasive Plant Committee

Emergent Invasive Plant Program

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