HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?
It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County

YELLOW STAR THISTLE
*Centaurea solstitialis*

**Known OC sites & Status Updates**

Distribution map & info:
- calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=1853
- cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant_profiles/Centaurea_solstitialis.php

**Can be confused with:** Tocalote, *Centaurea melitensis*

Flowering & seed production occur from April to September

Yellow star thistle is a highly invasive, bushy winter annual, up to 3+ ft. It inhabits open hills, grasslands, open woodlands, fields, roadsides, & rangelands. It is toxic to livestock & is considered one of the most serious rangeland weeds in the state.

It propagates rapidly by seed. A large plant can produce nearly 75,000 seeds, which are wind-dispersed.
IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT’S NOT ON THE LIST:
• Record the plant’s location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site’s landowner or manager, if known.
• Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves & flowers.
• If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
• To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
• Report the find immediately to invasives@occnps.org.

\textit{Centaurea solstitialis:} note the long straight stout spines

\textit{Centaurea melitensis:} note the shorter, curved spines

\textbf{YELLOW STAR THISTLE, P. 2}