# UCCE El Dorado County Present **Master Gardeners of** MULTESTT OF CALIFORNIA ODERSTINE EXTENSIO

#### University of California

**Agriculture and Natural Resources** 

Making a Difference for California

**Control of Invasive** and Noxious Weeds **Common to El Dorado Stephen Savage** County **UCCE Master Gardener** 

#### University of California

**Agriculture and Natural Resources** 

California Master Gardener Cooperative Extension El Dorado County

Making a Difference for California

### Control of Invasive and Noxious Weeds Common to El Dorado County

### **Course Outline**

- Invasive Weeds of Concern in
  - Eldorado County
- II. Common Weeds of Concern in the Home Landscape and Garden

### **Common Herbicides**

Below is a list of common herbicides that will be mentioned during the presentation. All are available over the counter, but Clopyralid (Transline) and Aminopyralid (Milestone) require an applicators license from the agriculture office to purchase.

Brand Name	Active Ingredient
Roundup, Alecto, other names	Glyphosate
Ortho Max Poison Ivy & Brush Killer	Triclopyr
Bayer Brush Killer	Triclopyr
Bayer Weed Killer for Lawns	2,4-D Mecoprop Dicamba
Spectracide Weedstop for Lawns	2,4-D Quinclorae Dicamba Sulfentrazone
Ortho Weed-B-Gone	2,4-D Dicamba
Transline	Clopyralid
Milestone	Aminopyralid

### Part I

# Invasive Weeds of Concern in El Dorado County

- Why Do We Care
- Himalaya Blackberry
- Bull Thistle
- Dalmatian Toad Flax
- Diffuse/ Spotted Knapweed
- Oblong Spurge
- Perennial Pepperweed
- Purple Loose Strife
- Focalote, Malta Thistle
- Stinkwort



Dittrichia graveolens (Stinkwort)

The El Dorado County Department of Agriculture would like *you* to report any area of these invasive weeds you might see! Call LeeAnne Mila 530-621-5520

> **University** of **California** Agriculture and Natural Resources

# Why Do We Care About Invasive Weeds?

- Highly aggressive displace natives and desirable plants
- Decrease wildlife habitat forming monocultures
- Reduce recreational values and uses
- Decrease land productivity and value
- Hard to control takes diligence!
- Contribute to soil erosion and lake/stream sedimentation
- Noxious weeds rated in California





Rubus armeniacus

#### Himalaya Blackberry

- Native to Western Europe
- Introduced about 1885 as a cultivated crop
- Grows well in acidic and alkaline soils
- Single plant produces several thousand seeds
  - Seeds are dispersed by animals and birds
- Also reproduces by tip rooting
- Rapidly over tops understory
- Vegetation producing a dense thicket

#### Himalaya Blackberry

Rubus armeniacus

#### Habitat

- Prefers wet sites, stream and creek beds
   Control
- Mechanical or Burning Mature Plants
- Grazing to prevent regrowth
- Hand Pulling and Hoeing- Young Plants

#### Herbicide

> 2,4 – D, Triclopyr, Dicamba, Glyphosate



Rubus armeniacus



Cirsium vulgare

### **Bull Thistle**

- Native to Europe and Asia
- Reproduces by seed
  - Seeds dispersed by animals and wind
- Biennial Rosette first year, mature plant in second year
- Flowers: July September
- Seed Germinates: fall and winter

### **Bull Thistle**

Cirsium vulgare

#### Habitat

 Pastures, roadsides, anywhere soil has been disturbed

#### Control

 Hand Pulling and cutting off at soil surface

#### Herbicide

 2,4 –D, Triclopyr, Dicamba, Glyphosate, Transline or Milestone



Cirsium vulgare

#### **Dalmatian Toadflax**

- Native to the Mediterranean
- Came to U.S. in 1874 as an ornamental
- Yellow Toadflax is often sold as an ornamental "Butter and Eggs"
- Aggressive, highly competitive
- Produces 500,000 seeds a season
- Deep tap root can go
   1 meter in soil
- Lateral roots "Bud"



### **Dalmatian Toadflax**

Linaria dalmatica

#### Habitat

 Dry course soils in fields, pastures, roadsides, and croplands

#### Control

- For the home owner the best control is through herbicides Herbicide
- 2,4 –D Tryclopyr Dicamba, Glyphosate



# Knapweeds

 Spotted knapweed - A rated *Centaurea maculosa* Diffuse knapweed - A rated *Centaurea diffusa* Squarrose knapweed - A rated *Centaurea squarrosa*

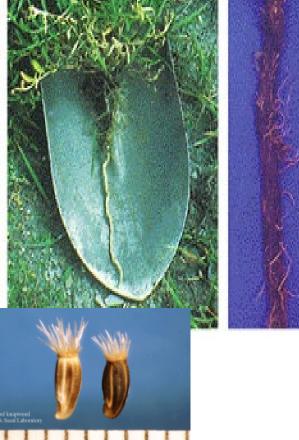




### Weeds of Concern in El Dorado County **Knapweeds Aggressive Reproduction** Spotted Knapweed 400,000 seeds per plant Lateral roots reproduce Diffuse knapweed Stems break off and

plants tumble dispersing seeds

Squarrose knapweed Seed heads



### **Knapweeds**

Spotted and Diffuse are biennials.
Squarrose is a

perennial.



*Centaurea virgata* ssp. *squarrosa* (Squarrose knapweed)



Centaurea diffusa (Diffuse knapweed)

# Spotted Knapweed



- Spotted knapweed arrived on the west coast in 1893.
- By 1920, had established itself in 24 counties, in 3 states
- Now, spotted knapweed has established itself in almost every county in the western U.S.
- In Montana alone 5 million acres have been invaded

# Diffuse Knapweed

#### Habitat

- Disturbed areas, roadsides, fields, does not like shade
   Control
- Hand pulling 2-4 times per year
- Mowing not effective, rosette too low???

#### Herbicide

 Herbicide if applied at seedling stage



Centaurea diffusa

# **Spotted Knapweed**

#### Habitat

 Disturbed areas, roadsides, fields, does not like shade

#### Control

- Hand pulling and mowing are effective
- No tilling

#### Herbicide

- Herbicide if applied on newly sprouted plants.
- Biological is being used to reduce populations



Centaurea maculosa

# Spurge

- Oblong spurge B rated *Euphorbia oblongata* Leafy spurge - A rated *Euphorbia esula*
- Infests more than 5 million acres in 35 States



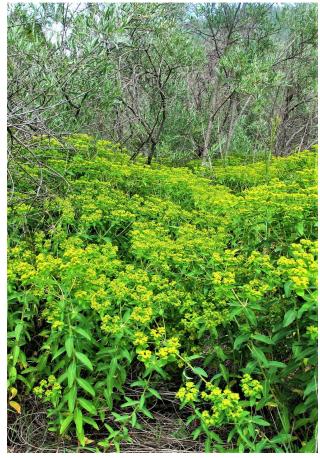




# Spurge

Extremely aggressiveExtensive creeping roots





 Latex sap is toxic to many animals and humans



### **Oblong Spurge in Camino**

### **Oblong Spurge**

Euphorbia oblongata

#### Habitat

# Roadsides, Fields and Pastures Control

 Manually remove plants before seed production

#### Herbicides

Imazapyr (Habitat, Polaris) is effective in controlling established plants and suppressing seed germination.



#### **Perennial Pepperweed**

- Native to Southern Europe and Western Asia
- Out-competes native vegetation and row crops
- Forms dense weedy plots
- Produces by seed but seed not long lived in soil
- Also reproduces by underground rhizomes in early spring

Lepidium latifolium



#### **Perennial Pepperweed**

Lepidium latifolium

#### Habitat

Wet areas on roadside and waterways, dry areas such as road cuts and fills

#### Control

Mechanical control can actually spread the plant, burning not effective due to underground rhizomes. Mowing combined with herbicide treatment is most effective.

#### Herbicide

Herbicide is most effective combined with mowing



# **Purple Loosestrife**

Lythrum salicaria

- Introduced mid 1800
- Used as an ornamental
- Established in 40 states
- Costs approximately \$45 million/year in control



#### **Purple Loosestrife**

#### Aggressive reproduction

#### **Purple Loosestrife**

Lythrum salicaria

#### Reproduces from Seeds, shoots, and roots



Produces up to 300,000 seeds per plant, per year

# Purple Loosestrife Lythrum salicaria

#### Habitat

Moist or marshy sites, ponds, meadows, streams, and ditches

#### Control

- Biological agents have been used effectively – weevils (2) and beetles.
- Hand removal effective
- Cutting and burning may increase infestation



#### **Herbicide**

Herbicides are effective but since plant grows in wetlands, care must be taken

#### Tocolate Malta Napa Maltese Thistle

Centaurea melitensis

- Native to Southern Europe
- Introduced in the late 1700s
- 1 to 60 seeds per head.
- 1 to 100 heads per plant
- Annual or biennial
- Reproduces by seed
- Most seeds germinated after the first fall rain



#### Tocolate



Centaurea melitensis

#### Habitat

- Open and disturbed areas, rangeland, cultivated fields
   Control
- Cultural strategies used to control yellow star thistle (YST) are likely to control this thistle as well. Timing of control methods, as with YST, is important to success. Control current population, suppress seed production and establish competitive vegetation
   Herbicide
- Clopyralid or Aminopyralid

### Stinkwort Dittrichia graveolens

- Native to North Africa and Mid East
- Introduced about 1984
- Grows to about 3 feet
- Annual
- Rapidly invading
- Seeds spread by wind, water, animals and machinery





- Sticky hairy foliage
- Aromatic
- Touching it can cause dermatitis, itching, and blisters
- Renders land unsuitable for grazing, hiking or other activities
- Each plant can produce 25,000 to 35,000 seeds

### **Stinkwort**

Dittrichia graveolens





- Can taint milk and meat of livestock
- Seedheads can get imbedded in the intestinal wall of livestock causing kidney disease or sudden death!

### Stinkwort

Dittrichia graveolens

#### Habitat

 Disturbed areas, roadsides. fields, woodlands

#### Control

- Hand pull prior to flowering in September to December be sure to wear gloves!
- Cutting and burning may increase infestation



#### Herbicide

- Herbicides have limited effect due to oily/waxy coating on leaves that inhibits absorption
- Best time to apply herbicides is on young plants. It is less effective on older plants where it can stimulate seed production

### Part II

### Common Weeds of Concern in the Home Landscape and Garden

- Cheeseweed
- Field Bindweed
- Tar Weed
- Puncture Vine
- Spotted Spurge
- Purslane
- Bermuda Grass
- Crab Grass
- Fox Tail
- Nut Sedge
- Yellow Woodsorrel
- Storksbill
- Hedge Parsley
- Cutleaf Geranium
  - Female Fluvellin



Tribulus terrestris (Puncture vine)

**Common Weeds of Concern in the Home Landscape and Garden** 

#### Cheeseweed

- Germinate first fall rains
- Deep tap root, difficult to remove
- Reproduce by seed
- Seed long lived in soil
- Can host whiteflies and thrips
- Can vector viruses into garden plants
  - Tomato yellow leaf curl
  - Tomato spotted wilt

#### **Common Mallow**

Malva neglecta











## Cheeseweed

#### Control

- Mowing not effective
- Hand pull young plants with four or fewer leaves
- Mulch at least 3" deep
- Must maintain mulch depth

#### Herbicide

- Not effective; including Glyphosate
- 2,4 D may provide limited control if applied on very young plants

## **Field Bindweed**

Convolvulus arvensis



- Native to Eurasia
- Introduced to California
   1884
- Perennial spread from root or seed
- Has both deep and shallow roots
- 70% of roots in top 2 feet
- Deep roots can reach 20 feet or more

## **Field Bindweed**

Convolvulus arvensis



- Root and Rhizome mass up to 2 ½ - 5 tons per acre
- Roots can bud from as deep as 14 feet
- Root and Rhizome fragments produce new plants, lateral stems can root
- Average plant produces
   550 seeds
- Seeds viable as long as 60 years

## **Field Bindweed**

#### Control

- Cultivation and hoeing effective but only 3 – 4 weeks after germination
- Heavy plastic mulch can suppress

#### Herbicide

- Effective but repeated applications necessary
- Pre-emergents also effective



Convolvulus arvensis



## **Tarweed/Spikeweed**

Hemizonia pungens

- California native
- Annual grows to 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 3 feet tall
- Spread by seed
- Flowers late June through summer
- Exudes a strong scented resin
- Livestock avoid it
- Young plants soft
- Mature plants stiff and spikey

## **Tarweed/Spikeweed**

Hemizonia pungens

#### Habitat

 Dry grasslands, roadsides, rangeland, fields, and seasonal wetlands

#### Control

 Hand pulling small populations, when plant is young and soft

#### Herbicides

 2,4-D, Dicamba, Trychlopyr, Glyphosate





## **Puncturevine**

Tribulus terrestris

- Native to Southern Europe
- Summer annual
- Thrives in hot, dry conditions
- Good soil, moisture and warmth necessary for germination
- Deep tap root
- Typical plant produces 200 to 5000 seeds viable up to 5 years
- Toxic to sheep
- Not recommended for other grazing livestock



#### Herbicides 2,4-D, Dicamba, Glyphosate

Tribulus terrestris

#### Habitat

 Orchards, pastures, ditches and fields

#### Control

- Hand pulling and hoeing effective
- Two weevil species introduced providing some control
- Mulches 3" deep
- Remove seeds that fall from plant by raking or patting ground with old piece of carpet
- Check shoes, tires, etc

## **Spotted Spurge**

Euphorbia maculata



- Native Eastern United States
- Annual
- Spreads by seeds
- Can produce seed 5 weeks after germination
- Plant can produce several thousand seeds
- Tap root can extend 24" deep
- Sap is an eye and skin irritant
- Poisonous to sheep

## **Spotted Spurge**

Euphorbia maculata

#### Control

- Primary control is preventative
- Once present control is difficult
- Hand pulling
- Mulches 3" deep
- Solarization 4 to 6 weeks

#### Herbicides

- Pre-emergent if applied before soil temp 55-60°F at 1" depth
- Post-emergent: 2,4-D, Triclopyr, Glyphosate,
  - 2, 4-D Less effective on mature plants



## **Common Purslane**

Portulaca oleracea



- First seen in the US in Massachusettes in 1672
- Summer annual

- Edible, excellent and crunchy in salads
- Dense matting
- Prolific seed producer up to 240,000 seeds/plant
- Seeds viable 5 to 40 years
- Seed germinate when soil temperature is 60 F
- Seeds can ripen up to one week after plant is pulled

## **Common Purslane**

Portulaca oleracea



Germinated plants produce seed within a few weeks Fleshy stems remain viable a few days after cultivation and can re-root if moisture is available

## **Common Purslane**

Portulaca oleracea

#### Control

- Best control is prevention
- Once present control is difficult
- Destroy young plants by pulling, hoeing, cultivate before seed production
- Mulch 3" thick
- Solarization 4 to 6 weeks



Herbicides2,4-D, Dicamba, Glyphosate

## **Bermudagrass**

Cynodon dactylon



- Native to Africa
- Introduced about 1751
- Reproduces via seed, stolons, and rhizomes
- Seeds remain viable for about 2 years
- Rhizomes usually in the top 1-6" of soil
- Cut and left to lie on moist soil, both rhizomes and stolons can root

## Bermudagrass

Cynodon dactylon

#### Control

- With hold water, not completely drought tolerant
- Cultivation to 6" and leave rhizomes and stolons to dry out (no moisture as they will re-root)
- Black plastic to exclude all light
- Solarization 6 weeks in July and August
  - Mulch alone not effective



#### Herbicides

- Grass selective use Ornamec or Grass-be-Gone
- Non selective use of Glyphosate
- Tryclopyr merely suppresses it

## Crabgrass

- Introduced from Eurasia
- Annual grass
- Germinates from seed
- Seed germinates early to mid-March, soil temp 50-55
   °F for 3 consecutive days
- Seed viable at least 3 years
- Smooth crabgrass usually found in lawns
- Hairy crabgrass does not tolerate mowing
- Frequent, shallow watering encourages crabgrass as lawn will be weak and sparse



Digitaria ischaemum smooth crabgrass

Digitaria sanguinalis hairy crabgrass

## Crabgrass

#### Control

- Keep lawn thick
- Mow to proper height
  - Kentucky blue 1.5" 2.5"
  - Tall fescue 2" 3"

#### Herbicide

- Use pre-emergent herbicide before germination
- Use post-emergent herbicide while plants are small, 1-3 leaf stage
- Grass-B-Gone and Glyphosate



## Foxtail

- Originated in Europe
- Green foxtail is most common here
- Summer annual grass
- Reproduces by seed
- Seed viable 1 to 2 years
- Matures within 40 days of germination
- Germination best from shallow depths of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> -1"
- Grows in both moist and dry conditions
- Germinates throughout summer
- Dangerous for pets in eyes, nose, mouth



Setaria pumila yellow foxtail



Setaria viridis green foxtail

Foxtail

#### Habitat

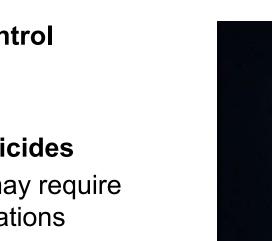
 Gardens, roadsides, pastures, croplands, and disturbed areas

#### Control

Hand pulling

#### **Herbicides**

- Glyphosate, may require several applications
- Pre-emergents but must be re-applied



Setaria viridis green foxtail



Setaria pumila yellow foxtail

## **Yellow Nutsedge**

Cyperus esculentus



- Perennial dies back in winter
- Starts in waterlogged soil caused by poor drainage, frequent irrigation, or leaky sprinklers
  - Once established tolerates drought

- Reproduces by seed or more commonly by tubers on underground rhizomes
  - Tubers are sometimes referred to as "nuts"
  - Rhizomes about 8 -14" deep
  - Buds on tubers sprout to form new plants



## **Yellow Nutsedge**

Cyperus esculentus

#### Control

- Best control is prevention
  - Eliminate causes
  - Remove small plants before they form tubers
- Once established, hard to control
   Herbicide
- Glyphosate: applied to young plants



## **Yellow Woodsorrel**

Oxallis stricta

- Native to North America
- Usually herbaceous perennial
- Spreads by seeds and rhizomes
- Seed pods explode at the slightest touch when ripe
- Seeds are thrown up to 8 -10 feet
- Forms colonies
- Most plants green, some purple cast



## **Yellow Woodsorrel**

Oxallis stricta



#### Habitat

 Thin lawns, playfields, open areas, especially if lightly shaded and moist, woods

#### Control

- Prevention is best
- Not easy to control once established
- Hand pulling often leaves behind parts of roots/rhizomes which re-roots

#### Herbicides

- Pre-emergent can be effective Scotts
   Turf Builder with Halts, Surflan, Ronstar
- Post-emergent- Glyphosate (E), Dicamba (G), 2,4,D (F) Tryclopyr (F) Clopyralid (F-G)
- ▶ Usually must re-spray 5 6 times

## Storksbill, fiddle neck

Filaree

- Native to Mediterranean and Asia
- Geranium family
- Introduced in the 1700s
- Annual
- Young plant form rosettes close to ground
- Mature plants may be low and spreading or more erect up to about 2 feet
- Reproduces by seed- 2400 to 9900 per plant
- Seed viable in soil 1-3 years or longer



## Storksbill

Filaree



#### Habitat

- Roadsides, pastures, grasslands, cultivated areas, and landscapes
- Found at elevations to 3300 feet (white stem) and 6600 feet (red stem)

#### Control

- Hand pulling is difficult as plant is prostate. Must be very early while soil is moist.
- Hoeing
- Mulching, must be at least 3 inches deep
   Herbicides
- Post-emergent- Glyphosate (E), Dicamba (G), 2,4,D (F) Triclopyr (F)

## **Hedge Parsley**

Turilis Arvensis

- Native to Southern Europe and Eurasia
- Annual
- Spread by Seeds
- Seeds are small and covered with barbed hook-tipped bristles that stick to everything
- Seeds fall near the plant or are spread by animals and humans
- Has a long tap root
- Seeds viable in soil for 3-5 years



## **Hedge Parsley**

**Turilis Arvensis** 



#### Habitat

 Common in foothills, oak woodlands, disturbed areas, roadsides

#### Control

- Hand pulling early while soil is moist and before the tap root penetrates deep
- Hoeing done early

#### Herbicides

 Post-emergent- Glyphosate (E), Dicamba (G), 2,4,D (F) Triclopyr (F)

## **Cutleaf Geranium**

Geranium Dissectum

- Part of cranes-bill geraniumsbut not the one you want
- Native to Europe
- Annual
- Invasive
- Forms dense mats
- Can be prostate or vertical
- Reproduces by seed
- Seeds viable in soil up to 10 years



## **Cutleaf Geranium**

Geranium Dissectum



#### Habitat

- Roadsides, pastures, landscaped areas, orchards, and disturbed areas
- Found up to 3,900 feet

#### Control

- Hand pulling and hoeing effective
- Mulching, but must be at least 3 inches deep

#### Herbicides

 Post-emergent- Glyphosate (E), Dicamba (G), 2,4,D (F) Triclopyr (F)

## **Female Fluvellin**

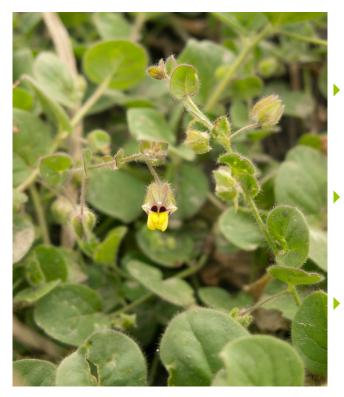
Kickxia Spuria

- Native to Europe
- Annual but can over winter in warmer areas
- Very quick grower
- Vining to form a very dense mat
- In landscape areas, will grow up and through plants to mat over them.
- Very heavy seed producer, will quickly take over an area
- Seeds viable in soil up to 20 years



## **Female Fluvellin**

Kickxia Spuria



#### Habitat

Roadsides, landscaped areas, gardens and disturbed areas

#### Control

Hand pulling very effective when young or soil is moist

#### Herbicides

Post-emergent- Glyphosate (E), Dicamba (G), 2,4,D (F) Triclopyr (F)

## **Web Sites**

California Invasive Plant Council http://www.cal-ipc.org/

CDFA – Encycloweedia <u>http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/</u> <u>encycloweedia/encycloweedia\_hp.htm</u>

UC Davis Weed Research and Information Center http://wric.ucdavis.edu/index.htm

Google the weed you are interested in.

# THANK YOU!

for the privilege of your time