

## Our Mission:



Mojave Weed Management Area partners will cooperate and coordinate activities necessary for the prevention and control of weeds in the Mojave Desert. The emphasis of these activities shall be focused on the prevention of weeds, and their expansion, through education and control.

## Our Goals:

- Education, Awareness, and Outreach
- Prevention
- Survey, Inventory, and Mapping
- Control and Project Monitoring
- Funding and Finance

## What is a weed?

A weed is a plant species that is detrimental or destructive to agriculture, silviculture, native species, water resources, and/or ecosystem function.

Weed infestations in the Mojave Desert reduce the biological, agricultural, recreational, and economic value of the land and negatively impact natural ecosystems by suppressing native plant species.



## Mojave Weed Management Area

is coordinated by the

## Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District

### Our Partners Include:

Desert Mountain RC&D Council  
Mojave Water Agency  
San Bernardino County Farm Bureau  
California Department of Transportation, Dist. 8  
California Department of Fish & Game  
California State Parks, Mojave Desert Sector  
University of California Cooperative Extension  
Bureau of Land Management - Desert District  
Death Valley National Park  
Joshua Tree National Park  
Mojave National Preserve  
San Bernardino National Forest  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
US Geological Survey  
Edwards Air Force Base  
Marine Corps, Twentynine Palms  
National Training Center, Fort Irwin  
Quail Unlimited

### Online Resources

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/weedhome](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/weedhome)  
<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu>  
[www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)  
[www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)  
<http://tncinvasives.ucdavis.edu/>

For more information, please contact:

### Mojave Desert RCD

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# Mojave Weed Management Area



Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp)

Funding for this brochure provided by Mojave Water Agency

## White Horsenettle

### *(Solanum elaeagnifolium)*

A deep-rooted perennial, rarely reaching a height of more than 3 feet, with short, white or silvery starshaped hairs (or fuzz) on the leaves and stems. Foliage and berries are toxic when ingested by livestock or people. Dried plant material does not lose its toxicity.



John D Byrd, Miss. State Univ.

Chuck Barger, Univ. of GA

## Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)

Giant reed, also known as wild cane, is a tall, upright, perennial cane or reed-like grass, that can grow to over 20 feet high. Its fleshy, creeping rootstocks form compact masses from which tough, fibrous roots emerge that penetrate deeply into the soil. Giant reed chokes riverbanks and stream channels, crowds out native plants, interferes with flood control, and drastically increases fire potential.



N.Y. Botanical Gardens

2008 Dario

## Russian Thistle (*Salsola tragus*)

Russian thistle, also known as tumbleweed, is an annual herb that can grow up to 4 feet tall and 5 feet wide. Plants can extract deep soil moisture with roots nearly 5 feet deep and lateral shoots spreading the same width. This plant thrives wherever land use has disturbed the soil and under certain conditions, can become poisonous to sheep.



Steve Dewey, Utah State Univ.



Forest & Kim Starr, U.S. Geo. Survey

## Perennial Peppergrass (*Lepidium latifolium*)

A perennial that grows up to 6 feet tall with extensively creeping roots that can penetrate up to 10 feet deep. Plants are highly competitive and typically form dense colonies that displace native vegetation and wildlife. It has nonclasping leaves and small, white-petaled flowers in dense clusters near the stem tips. Flowering occurs from early summer to late fall.



Steve Dewey, Utah State University

## Tamarisk/Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp*)



A fire-adapted woody shrub or small tree that grows 5-20 feet in height forming dense thickets in areas where water is at or near the surface. They have long tap roots that allow them to intercept deep water tables monopolizing limited sources of moisture. Saltcedar outcompetes and replaces native plant species. The dark pink to almost white flowers crowd in slender spikes, forming dense masses at the top of the branches.

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## Halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*)

An erect winter to summer annual with small fleshy leaves about 1 1/2 feet tall. Halogeton can quickly invade disturbed or overgrazed sites, dry lakebeds, shrublands, and roadsides. It can prevent reestablishment of desirable species due to high salt accumulation in the plant tissues that eventually leach on to the soil surface. This salty, fleshy plant is poisonous to livestock.



Clinton Shock, Oregon State Univ.

## Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*)

Fountain grass is a highly aggressive, fire-adapted plant that out-competes many native plants and rapidly reestablishes after burning. Dispersed seeds remain viable in the soil for six years or longer making control extremely difficult.



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## Puncture-vine (*Tribulus terrestris*)

Puncture vine is sometimes called "goat head." It is a low-growing, mat-forming plant with small leaflets and 1/2" wide yellow flowers. Trailing stems may reach 1 to 6 feet long. Hard spiny burrs about 1/2" wide develop after flowering. These burrs can injure people and animals and puncture bicycle tires. Foliage is toxic to livestock.



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## Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)

An annual, sometimes biennial, that can grow to 6 feet tall. Plants are highly competitive and usually develop substantially dense, impervious stands that displace desirable vegetation. Thirsty taproots grow vigorously and up to 3 feet deep giving plants access to deep soil moisture during the dry summer months. Yellow flower heads have bracts with a stiff, sharp 0.75 inch thorn or spine. The long spine has more short spines at its base. Can be toxic to horses.



Charles Turner and Peggy Greb, USDA

## Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Tree of heaven is a rapidly growing medium-size tree, extremely tolerant of poor soil conditions and can even grow in cement cracks. Dense clonal thickets displace native species and can rapidly take over fields, meadows and harvested forests.



Richard Old, XID Services



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Conn.

## Sahara Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*)

A robust, fast-growing, drought-tolerant winter annual that prefers sandy soils. It readily invades newly burned areas, and is known to increase fire frequency and fuel load. It depletes soil of important nutrients, making native habitat recovery more difficult. The small yellow flowers are self-pollinating. Large plants produce up to 16,000 seeds.



Photos by Mark Dimmitt

## Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*)

The most drought resistant of the broom species, this perennial evergreen shrub can reach 6 to 10 feet tall. The leaves are simple and one-parted, short-lived, and less than 1" long. The flowers are approximately an inch long, fragrant and bright yellow. Highly invasive due to its aggressive seed dispersal. Poisonous if eaten.



John Randall, TheNatureConservancy