

## **Where the Weeds Are: Prioritizing Regional Response to Invasive Plants Using CalWeedMapper**

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### **Abstract**

Land managers need to devise strategic management plans in order to address invasive plants effectively with limited funding. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) interviewed experts throughout California on the abundance, spread and current management of 204 invasive plant species at the USGS 7.5' Quadrangle scale. These expert knowledge data are linked to existing online databases from Calflora and the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH) and displayed in a new online mapping tool, CalWeedMapper. This website is designed to increase the effectiveness of invasive plant management by providing landscape scale maps that serve as the basis for setting regional priorities, tracking progress and justifying funding. Land managers can see management opportunities for their region divided into surveillance, eradication or containment targets. These reports are derived from maps of current distribution combined with projected suitable range for 2010 and 2050 climate conditions. Some species show likely range expansion with climate change, while others contract or shift their ranges. In other cases, the projected range does not change but the level of suitability does. In addition to providing recommendations for regional management opportunities, CalWeedMapper allows land managers to generate maps of individual species distribution and to explore and update USGS quadrangle data, through an update interface or by submitting occurrence information. We are working with stakeholder groups and agencies to apply CalWeedMapper to their invasive plant management. Check us out at [calweedmapper.calflora.org](http://calweedmapper.calflora.org)!

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