



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION



To Protect and Preserve Natural Habitat

**ALISO CANYON PARK
“DIRTY DOZEN” WEEDS IDENTIFICATION**

THIS BOOKLET WAS CREATED TO ASSIST DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARK STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMATIC WEEDS. THE NAME “*DIRTY DOZEN*” WAS GIVEN TO THE TWELVE PLANTS THAT PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIVE FLORA DUE TO THEIR HIGH REPRODUCTIVE RATE AND ACCELERATED GROWTH. THE “*DIRTY DOZEN*” ARE IDENTIFIED, ILLUSTRATED, AND LISTED IN THE ORDER THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM OF **ALISO CANYON PARK**.

MAIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS BOOKLET

- 1) Support and restore the natural ecosystem found in **Aliso Canyon Park** through the management and control of invasive plants.
- 2) To establish an Integrated Pest Management Program specific to **Aliso Canyon Park**.
- 3) Build valuable resources for Department of Recreation and Parks staff and the public.

Some exotic plants, as well as native vegetation, with aggressive qualities may be considered a weed if it adversely affect the sustainability of the natural areas and encroaches into developed landscapes. Weed problems can be largely avoided by careful landscape design, soil preparation before planting, and adequately scheduled irrigation and mulching. Weed control can be achieved through a combination of the following five control methods:

PREVENTIVE: Preventive method is defined as keeping the weeds from entering or becoming established in the area. Monitoring the area for early detection of unwanted plants is crucial for the preventative methods to work. If a new weed is discovered, immediate actions need to be taken in order to prevent seed production and establishment.

CULTURAL: Cultural method is defined as maintenance practices that will make it difficult for weeds to grow or become established, (i.e., select proper plants for the location, irrigation management, and pruning).

BIOLOGICAL: Biological method is defined as the usage of living organisms for weeds control. Some of the organisms used for biological control include fungus, bacteria, nematodes, and beneficial insects. When available, biological methods are very effective in weed control.

CHEMICAL: Chemical method is defined as the usage of a synthetic or natural toxic product called herbicide for weed control. Selective herbicides are designed to control a specific group of plant. Non-selective herbicides such as 'Round Up' will control all plants. When using a chemical herbicide, it is mandatory to read and always follow what the label instructs.

MECHANICAL: Mechanical method is defined as the usage of physical force to injure, remove, and control weeds. Mechanical methods can be achieved through the usage of mowers, hand-pulling, hoeing, and burning.

ALISO CANYON PARK
“DIRTY DOZEN”

Here is a list of the 12 weeds that have been determined to be of concern at **ALISO CANYON PARK**. It was prepared as an aid for anyone who will become involved in the preservation of the native flora within the Park.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

COMMON NAME

Toxicodendron diversilobum

poison oak

Salsola iberica

Russian thistle

Ricinus communis

castor bean

Brassica spp.

wild mustards

Nicotiana glauca

tree tobacco

Sonchus oleraceus

annual sowthistle

Conyza bonariensis

hairy fleabane

Datura spp.

jimsonweed

Raphanus sativus

wild radish

Oryzopsis miliacea

smilgrass

Marrubium vulgare

white horehound

Cucurbita foetidissima

calabazilla

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Toxicodendron diversilobum*
COMMON NAME: poison oak



NOTES: Poison oak is a California native plant of specific value to wildlife. DO NOT ERADICATE!! Control plant in working locations and in areas accessible to the public only.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Salsola iberica*
COMMON NAME: Russian thistle



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ricinus communis*
COMMON NAME: castor bean



NOTES:

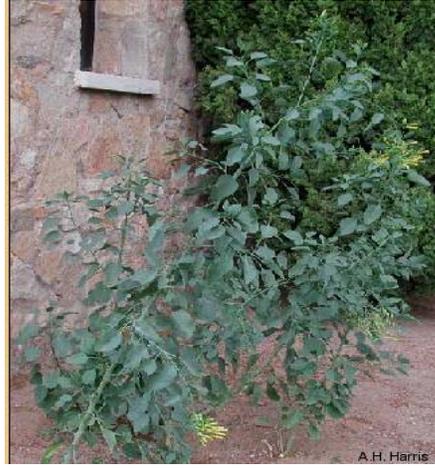
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Brassica spp.*
COMMON NAME: wild mustards



NOTES:



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Nicotiana glauca*
COMMON NAME: tree tobacco



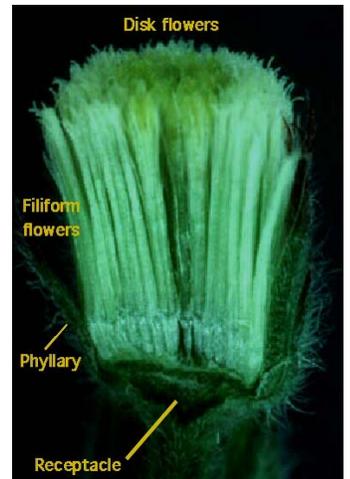
NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sonchus oleraceus*
COMMON NAME: annual sowthistle



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Conyza bonariensis*
COMMON NAME: hairy fleabane



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Datura spp.*
COMMON NAME: jimsonweed



NOTES: *Datura innoxia* is a California native plant. Do not eradicate!! Be certain of the identity of the plant before removing it.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Raphanus sativus*
COMMON NAME: wild radish



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Oryzopsis miliacea*
COMMON NAME: smilo grass



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Marrubium vulgare*
COMMON NAME: white horehound



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cucurbita foetidissima*
COMMON NAME: calabazilla



NOTES: Calabazilla is a California native plant of specific value to wildlife. DO NOT ERADICATE!! Control plant in working locations only.

ALISO CANYON PARK HISTORY OF THE PARK

Right at the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains range, and under the influence of the Santa Clarita watershed at the North end of the San Fernando Valley, Aliso Canyon Park was a vacant lot previously used as a horse ranch.

The land is relatively level, located within a canyon and surrounded by hilly terrain. The slopes are covered with a diverse array of natural plant communities that are relatively undisturbed and provide aesthetic beauty and vital wildlife habitat.

The vegetation at the parks goes from annuals, perennials and a limited number of three species among which one can find cottonwood, willows, sycamores, some pine species and along the stream the common riparian plant material providing food and shelter for many species of wildlife.

The weed population in the park is relatively under control with some aggressive species covering some of the slopes and level terrain of the park. Please refer to page 7 for a list of the most aggressive weed material found in the park.

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