



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



To Protect and Preserve Natural Habitat

**HARBOR REGIONAL 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 **HARBOR REGIONAL PARK**.

## MAIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS BOOKLET

- 1) Support and restore the natural ecosystem found in **Harbor Regional Park** through the management and control of invasive plants.
- 2) To establish an Integrated Pest Management Program specific to **Harbor Regional 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.

**HARBOR REGIONAL PARK**  
***“DIRTY DOZEN”***

Here is a list of the 12 weeds that have been determined to be of concern at **HARBOR REGIONAL 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**

*Arundo donax*

giant reed

*Fraxinus uhdei*

ash trees

*Ludwigia peploides*

creeping water primrose

*Ricinus communis*

castor bean

*Salsola iberica*

Russian thistle

*Nicotiana glauca*

tree tobacco

*Cirsium vulgare*

bull thistle

*Foeniculum vulgare*

sweet fennel

*Xanthium strumarium*

common cocklebur

*Raphanus sativus*

wild radish

*Sonchus oleraceus*

annual sowthistle

*Chenopodium album*

common lambsquarters

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Arundo donax*  
COMMON NAME: giant reed



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Fraxinus uhdei*.

COMMON NAME: ash trees seedlings



NOTES: *Fraxinus velutina*, velvet ash and *Fraxinus dipetala*, foothill ash are California native plants which can be confused with the weed species. DO NOT ERADICATE NATIVE SPECIES!!! Be certain of the identity of the plant before removing it.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ludwigia peploides*  
COMMON NAME: creeping water primrose



NOTES: Creeping water primrose is a California native plant. DO NOT ERADICATE!!! Control plant to allow mosquito control and boat access.

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



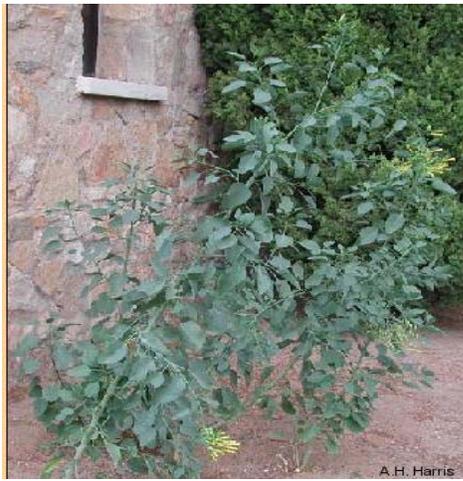
NOTES:

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



NOTES:

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



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cirsium vulgare*  
COMMON NAME: bull thistle



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Foeniculum vulgare*  
COMMON NAME: sweet fennel



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Xanthium strumarium*  
COMMON NAME: common cocklebur



NOTES:

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



NOTES:

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



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Chenopodium berlandieri*  
COMMON NAME: netseed lambsquarters



NOTES:

## **HARBOR REGIONAL PARK HISTORY OF THE PARK**

South of Los Angeles by the San Pedro harbor, stands one of the most prominent park settings that provides a rich habitat for wildlife with many species of plants and trees. Under the influence of the Dominguez Channel and Los Angeles Harbor watershed, the 231 acres of Harbor Regional Park offers a rare opportunity to enjoy park-like atmosphere and admire wildlife.

Uniquely, the natural habitat through the park is represented in different plant communities: willow scrub, mule fat scrub and coastal/valley fresh water marsh. The establishment of exotic species along the banks of the lake, sometimes suffocates and overpowers the natural habitat and has to be controlled to preserve the native flora and to encourage the growth of native species that provides shelter and nesting sites for more than 300 species of local and migrating birds.

## REFERENCES

Tom D. Whitson, Larry C. Burrill, Steven A. Dewey, David W. Cudney, B.E. Nelson, Richard D. Lee, and Robert Parker. 2000. Weeds of the West. 9th edition. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Davis Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project. 1994. Pests of landscape, trees and shrubs: An Integrated Pest Management Guide. IPM Educations and Publications. Photos downloaded from University of California Berkeley website at:  
[Http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/dams/](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/dams/)  
Virginia Tech Weed I.D. guide  
[www.gov.on.ca/omafra/ontweeds/htm](http://www.gov.on.ca/omafra/ontweeds/htm)  
[www.agro.iastate.edu](http://www.agro.iastate.edu)  
<http://plants.usda.gov>  
[www.weedalert.com/weed\\_pages\\_hm](http://www.weedalert.com/weed_pages_hm)  
[www.s-weeds.net/heptacon/0723.html](http://www.s-weeds.net/heptacon/0723.html)  
<http://usgssrv1.usgs.nau.edu>  
University of Manitoba - Agriculture and Food: Pest Management-Weed control.