



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



*To Protect and Preserve Natural Habitat*

**SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN  
“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 **SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN**.

## MAIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS BOOKLET

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

**SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN**  
***“DIRTY DOZEN”***

Here is a list of the 12 weeds that have been determined to be of concern at **SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN**. 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

*Ricinus communis*

castor bean

*Ailanthus altissima*

tree of heaven

*Centaurea solstitialis*

yellow starthistle/ tecolote

*Sorghum halepense*

Johnsongrass

*Fraxinus uhdei*

shamel ash

*Phalaris tuberosa*

harding grass

*Foeniculum vulgare*

common fennel

*Conium maculatum*

poison hemlock

*Marrubium vulgare*

white horehound

*Silibum marianum*

milkthistle

*Xanthium strumarim*

common cocklebur

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



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ricinus communis*

COMMON NAME: castor bean



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ailanthus altissima*  
COMMON NAME: tree of heaven



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Centaurea solstitialis*  
COMMON NAME: yellow starthistle/ tecolote



NOTES

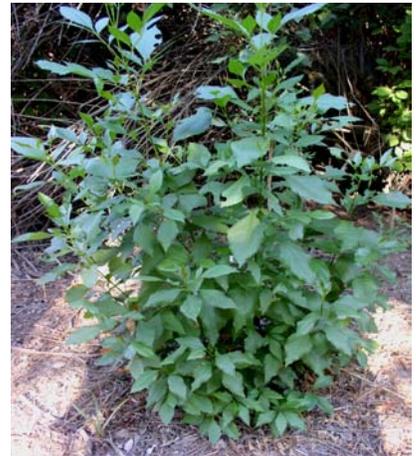


SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sorghum halepense*  
COMMON NAME: Johnsongrass



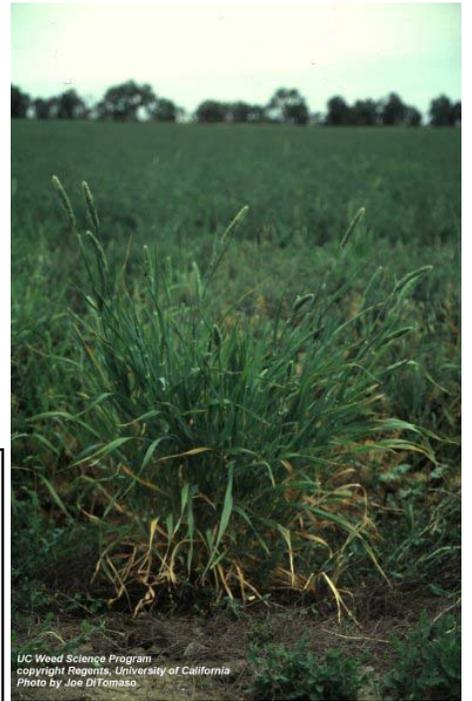
NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Centaurea solstitialis*  
COMMON NAME: yellow starthistle/ tecolote



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: *Phalaris tuberosa*  
COMMON NAME: harding grass



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NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Foeniculum vulgare*.  
COMMON NAME: common fennel



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Conium maculatum*  
COMMON NAME: poison hemlock



NOTES:

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



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sylibum marianum*  
COMMON NAME: milkthistle



NOTES:

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



NOTES: Cocklebur is a native plant, but is often consider an undesirable plant due to its sharp, spiny seed pods and its invasive nature in wet, disturbed areas.

## **SEPULVEDA BASIN DAM GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA**

Ringed by mountains, rivers and streams, the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve is haven of rest for wildlife and humans alike, a welcome oasis within an urban setting. It is here where the visitor of today can get a sense of what this part of the San Fernando Valley might have been like before agriculture and urban settlement forever changed the Valley floor:

- The leaves of willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores glistening in the breeze;
- The calls of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds such as ducks, Canada geese, herons, and egrets penetrating the stillness as they take flight after resting and foraging at the wildlife lake;
- The musty scent of mulefat, sages, and mugwort heavy in the air after a winter's rain; and activity of small birds such as the goldfinch, woodpecker, and oriole as they search for food and shelter amongst the oak savannah.

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