

Greener Roadsides



When is an Invasive Plant a Noxious Weed?

Why Both are Important in Vegetation Management.

Federal Law now supports State Noxious Weed Law.

When your State Agriculture or Natural Resource Department and/or Legislature says so. That is how most pest plants are designated noxious weeds. So if an invasive plant is an alien plant whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health, what is a noxious weed? Most States use a definition of noxious weeds similar to that of the Federal Noxious Weed Law. The term “noxious weed” means any plant or plant product that can directly or indirectly injure or cause dam-

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age to crops (including nursery stock or plant products), livestock, poultry, or other interests of agriculture, irrigation, navigation, the natural resources of the United States, the public health, or the environment.

In the beginning of noxious weed law (in the 1800's) plants were designated weeds if they in any way threatened crops and/or livestock (agriculture). Later, plants that are of potential harm to human health and/or the environment have been added. Because noxious weed law is grounded in agriculture, understandably both native and nonnative plants were placed on State Weed Lists. These Lists have legal standing with most States inspecting private and public lands for these detrimental plants. When they are located, most States notify the landowner and direct them to eradicate those weeds within a certain time. If the landowner is noncompliant, the State or its designee (often County Weed Boards) can enter the property, treat the noxious weed, and bill the landowner.

Fines can be levied for noncompliance; but such enforcement is rare. These days, noxious weeds are likely to be controlled out of self-interest (crop production, property value, rangeland, etc.) and neighborhood pressure than by notification. Public awareness about noxious weeds and/or invasive plants has increased greatly in the past 10 years.

So what is an invasive plant? The definition was agreed to by 16 agencies who signed a cooperative Memorandum of Understanding in 1994 on Invasive Plants. The same definition became a part of the 1999 Executive Order on Invasives.

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When is an Invasive Plant a Noxious Weed? *continued*

The characteristics of an invasive plant are often synonymous or overlapping with that of noxious weeds. Invasive plants are described as being nonnative and the large majority of noxious weeds are also nonnative plants that were intentionally or accidentally introduced to this country and then went wild!!! So when an invasive plant becomes a noxious weed is when a State determines that an invasive could potentially harm agriculture, human health, and/or the environment. It seems strange that more invasive plants are not on State Weed Lists. However, every plant added to the State list currently goes through a long, sometime political, process and that takes time. Unfortunately, we do not have the time or especially the money to wait for some of these aggressive aliens to make the list. They need to be identified as quickly as possible and controlled on first sight. Waiting years to prevent their spread only gives an advantage to the weedy invasive plant, not to any of us vegetation managers. ●

Recently Congress passed SAFETEA-Lu which has a paragraph relevant to the above discussion. Section 6006 adds Section 329 to the US Code Title 23: (please refer to the page 7 for the full reprint of Section 6006 (attached).

Section 329 applies to allocations and activities of Maintenance, Landscape, Roadside Development, Environmental Services, Erosion Control and Turf, Ecological, Planning, Pre design, and Construction Design Units within each State Department of Transportation.



Widely Known Established Invasive Plants



The above ten “weeds to watch” have become well established. However, each is better known in certain regions. For example, the Knapweeds are well established in the West and are not considered threatening in the East. Yet there the plant is, along a roadside in Connecticut.

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Kudzu is likely the mother of all weeds, a mega flora, that catches attention. In the seventies, when I learned about this invasive plant, I scoffed at the thought that it would ever establish in the snow-belt. Yet it has! It is now in northern Illinois and Wisconsin guarding its borders. ALL WEEDS CONTINUE TO ADAPT AND MOVE.



Black locust is native to the southern Appalachians and the only native plant in the group. It was moved to the central plains for dust bowl plantings. Once established, and free of its natural competition, it formed monocul-

tures wherever it went. Now oak forests in Wisconsin are displaced by this apparently allelopathic tree.

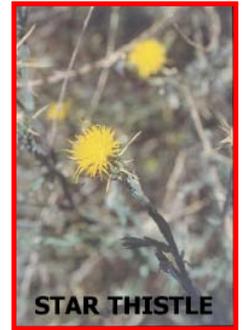
Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum spp.*

was determined to be a wetland pasture pest in Canada in the 1940's. It now grows in all 50 States. Never underestimate a wetland weed that can be dispersed by flooding, muskrat fur, and ducks' feet. And so it moved from wetland to wetland and through migratory routes. It is recommended that you carefully remove this plant when it is first sighted as an infestation of one plant per acre.



Starthistle already covers millions

of acres in the Northwest into California. Grazing becomes impossible on infected lands. Starthistle is moving eastward and is halfway across the country. This European annual tolerates a range of disturbed soils. Its basal leaves look much like those of a dandelion. Its 7 inch spines are unforgettable.



Tamarix or **salt cedar** quietly

moves through riverine areas and sucks up more than its share of dwindling water supplies in the West. It also changes the structure of lowland vegetation and habitat. Consider how well it might do in parts of the United States with higher precipitation and learn how to identify it!



Ailanthus or **tree-of-heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*.**

This fast-growing deciduous tree comes from China. Sometimes planted in urban areas, Ailanthus is now found coast to coast. It prefers

Widely Known Established Invasive Plants *continued*



disturbed soils, roadsides, woodland edges, and poor soils. Imagine my surprise when I found one trying to camouflage itself in my Sumac border. It is also mistaken for Black walnut because of its pinnately compound leaves. Unlike sumac, the leaves turn yellow in the fall. I have seen it from Maryland to Oregon to Minnesota.



Leafy spurge, *Euphorbia esula* is already a noxious weed in nineteen States! This chartreuse colored herb grows from 6-36" depending on the environment. Economic impacts of more than \$100 million annually in just four of the infested Great Plains States. This deep-rooted Eurasian perennial impacts grazing lands and natural areas. Watch for its earl

spring color and act quickly. It is unlikely to be contained in the West.



Russian Olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*. This small Eurasian tree was favored as an ornamental for its silver foliage, contrasting dark bark and tolerance of salt. Known for wilt afflictions which damage its appearance, but not its will to live, the Russian Olive has been spotted in grasslands, roadsides, and stream banks from Minnesota to

New Mexico. Because it is easy to pick out in a crowd of plants, control should be easy.

Knapweeds, *Centaurea spp.* includes: **Diffuse knapweed, *Centaurea diffusa***; **Spotted knapweed, *C. maculosa***; **Meadow knapweed, *C. pratensis***; **Russian knapweed, *C. repens***; **Squarrose knapweed, *C. virgata***; and possible subspecies, possibly a hybrid report-

ed in Minnesota. **Yellow starthistle, *C. solstitialis*** and **Bachelor's button, *C. cyanus*** are closely related.



Knapweeds are either annuals or short-lived, perennial herbs, native to Eurasia. Knapweeds were likely introduced accidentally as contaminants in forage seed. Spotted knapweed is on 15 State noxious weed lists and spreading. The white, pink-lavender flowers can be striking; but their fine gray-green foliage can be identified easily. They reproduce primarily by seed and their many seeds germinate throughout the growing season. Knapweed seeds are viable up to nine years. These taprooted plants replace plants with fibrous roots, and so compromises soil stability. Knapweeds have devalued rangelands and pastures throughout the West, and are moving eastward.

The **Thistles, Nodding, Plumeless, Musk, Canadian, Bull, or Scotch (*Carduus, Cirsium, Centaurea and Onoporuma spp.*)** group are Eurasian imports, likely seed contaminants more than a hundred years ago.

They degrade crops and pastures and spread easily into disturbed soils. Remember there are native thistles worth identifying and protecting.



Bibliography:

Much of this information is from the experience of the author, Bonnie L. Harper-Lore, with these references by my side: Czarapata, Elizabeth J. 2005. *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. Whitson, Tom D., et. al. 1992. *Weeds of the West*. University of Wyoming, Jackson. ●

Sahara Mustard Workshop *continued*

The Silent Invaders

Like all invasive plants, they blend into a world of green vegetation which the ordinary passerby considers "a good thing". The most silent of the invasive plants in this scene are the exotic grasses. The grasses spreading quietly across the landscape often are unnoticed because all grasses look alike at first glimpse, until they flower. Grasses are simply difficult to identify, flowering or not. You have already heard of weedy Cheat grass, Johnson Grass, Medusahead rye and Smooth brome. Here are ten other grasses, you should get to know. Some have infiltrated the West and some have blended into the East; but all are spreading across the nation. Some State Departments of Transportation are planting one or two of these, but most are trying to eradicate them. Here are ten grasses to learn about and watch for!!!

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Chinese Silver Grass, *Miscanthus sinensis*. This grass originates in eastern Asia and has become a popular ornamental grass. It has escaped easily into highway corridors, woodland borders and wetland edges. This 4-8' perennial spreads by rhizomes and is on a number of "watch" lists. It is easily recognized in late autumn by its silvery plume-like panicles. It has been observed as far West as Minnesota.



Reed Canary Grass, *Phalaris arundinacea*. This 3-7' perennial came from Europe and Asia. It was introduced for its forage value and later planted for erosion control and naturalized. It grows in dense mats and spreads vegetatively and tolerates dry to wet soils. Unfortunately, it is said that a native species exists and the distinction between it and the exotic is complex. Because the Eurasian species crowds out native habitats, it is best not to plant the available commercial seed. This invasive wetland grass is abundant from coast to coast.

Giant Phragmites or Common Reed,

Phragmites australis. You cannot miss this 10-15' perennial. It spreads by seed and by rhizomatous runners and can reach 10 or more feet in a single season. It threatens wetland communities, changes hydrology, alters wildlife habitat and increases fire potential. This grass is often confused with a native, shorter, Phragmites that is a natural component of many undisturbed tidal and freshwater marshes. The robust Phragmites found in ditches and disturbed wetlands is likely the invasive. This grass was introduced on the Atlantic Coast in the 1900's.



Giant Reed, *Arundo donax*.

Known as giant reed because it can top 20', this perennial has creeping rootstocks and deep fibrous roots. This grass prefers moist places and tolerates saline soils as well as heavy clays and sands. It is thought to have been introduced from India in California in the early 1800's. It was widely planted as an ornamental and for erosion control. Historically this grass was used for basketry, woodwind instruments, fishing rods, etc. Primarily, it spreads vegetatively.



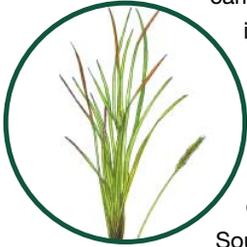
Fountain Grass, *Pennisetum setaceum*

comes from northern Africa. It is a small (2-3') perennial grass which grows in clumps. Its bristly, purplish inflorescences are attractive. This grass is a poor pasture grass and a serious weed in dry habitats. This grass not only tolerates droughty conditions, but a wide elevational range. In Hawaii it establishes on rangelands to bare lava flows. It is a wind-dispersed seeder and seeds remain viable six years or longer. Not only is this grass aggressive in natural communities, but it also raises fuel loads increasing the spread of wildfires.



Silent Invaders *continued*

Cogongrass, *Imperata cylindrical*. Cogongrass came from Southeast Asia. This perennial is rhizomatous and grows from 2-4' in height. The leaves are an inch wide with a prominent white midrib, ending in a sharp point. Cogongrass can invade and overtake disturbed ecosystems. Recent hurricanes in the South could speed up their spread. The grass is a threat to habitat and endangered species. It is tolerant of shade, salinity, and drought. It was accidentally introduced in Mobile, Alabama via packing materials. It was also introduced as forage grass and erosion control and is still sold as an ornamental grass. It is considered one of the world's worst weeds and is on the Federal Noxious Weed List.



Buffelgrass, *Pennisetum ciliaris*. Buffelgrass is one of the most common invited species turned invasive. The grass increases grass cover and the possibility of man-made fires. It is an perennial African bunch grass. It was introduced in the '30's for erosion control and forage. From there it was sold to ranchers in Sonora, Mexico.



Only salinity, clay, and poor drainage limit it. This grass now threatens the entire Sonoran Desert Bioregion on both sides of the border. For more information, read "Drought-Tolerant Exotic guffel-Grass and Desertification" by Alejandro E. Castellanos-V, et. al. in the 2002 *Weeds Across Borders* proceedings.

Japanese stiltgrass, *Microstegium vimineum*.

Originally from Asia, this is an annual grass that averages 3' in height. It grows in a branching, sprawling, mat-like manner. Its pale green leaves are alternate along a branched stalk, stalk, resembling a small, delicate bamboo.



A easy characteristic to catch is a pale, silvery stripe of hairs along the midrib of the upper leaf surface. The flower spikes appear in September and go to seed by early October. The grass tolerated shady and moist envi-

ronments. Typical habitats invaded by stiltgrass include forested wetlands, moist forests, old fields, rights-of-way, and river corridors. It is now found in most Eastern States.

Pampas Grass, *Cortaderia selloana* is a perennial clump grass from South America. Pampas grass has light violet to silvery white plumes. Its cousin, Jubata grass, *Cortaderia jubata*, Its brownish or purplish plumes are might taller. Jubata flowers in late summer, long after Pampas grass. It has been used both as erosion control and as an ornamental. Because it establishes rapidly on bare soils, it is no longer recommended for highway plantings. Both *Cortaderias* were purposefully introduced. Both threaten native ecosystems.



Tall Fescue, *Lolium arundinaceum*. This grass is native to Europe and North Africa. It is a cool season, perennial bunchgrass. Tall fescue invades native grasslands, savannas and woodlands. It was spread in misguided conservation plantings and pasture forage. Many ground-nesting birds like Bobwhite quail cannot use this grass for food and shelter. At this time this grass is scattered in States like, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin. It is found in grasslands and disturbed sites and is thought to be allelopathic as well as poisonous to cattle and other herbivores.



Bibliography:

These grasses were described with the help of the following references:
 Randall, John M. and Janet Marinelli, Editors, 1996. *Invasive Plants, Weeds of the Global Garden*. Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Inc., New York
 Czarapata, Elizabeth J., 2005. *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest*. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison.
 Swearingen, Jil, Ongoing. *Weeds Gone Wild*. The Plant Conservation Alliance, Washington D.C. ●

Sahara Mustard Workshop, Caltran's Partnership to Overcome a Desert Threat

Prior to the winter of 2004-2005, the spread of Sahara mustard from the Sonoran Desert through the Mojave Desert and into the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau had been noted and studied by a few scientists and land managers in southwestern North America. High biomass production by Sahara mustard caused by record rainfall during the past winter brought this species to the attention of a wider range of people who are very concerned about the potential ecological effects of this species. As a result, various proposals were circulating to develop control programs and to initiate new research projects to learn more about this species.

There was a need to bring all interested people together for a workshop to discuss the state-of-knowledge about this species. The Desert Managers Group in the area developed the concept and Caltrans and FHWA provided the funding to make it happen. Why? Sahara mustard as well as other invasives are a spreading conservation problem, reported by highway users. After all, roadways provide transportation to more than just people and goods. We need to develop partnerships with **all** involved in order to make any difference. This workshop was held to help guide the effective development of regional control programs and new research projects.

The steering committee included: along with Caltrans, US Geological Survey, National Park Service, California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District, California

Department of Food & Agriculture and the Desert Managers Group of the Bureau of Land Management. The workshop was a multi-state, regional effort with 108 attendees from



photo by Mark Dimmitt

Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Washington DC, and Germany.

The agenda covered background on the plant's invasion history, basic ecology, potential ecological effects, and control strategies. Experiences from the attending states were shared. The reports varied widely on status and rank as well as current control efforts. A discussion of shared goals ended the day: Some of the next steps agreed upon include:

- Complete a range survey to define the extent of the infestation, including roadsides.
- Develop a regional plan for management of Sahara mustard (Steering Committee)
- Follow ongoing research and evaluate control methods for Sahara mustard.

A review of the evaluation forms indicated a tremendous positive response to the workshop. The agenda — both content and selection of speakers — was considered excellent. Some of the attendees stated that this was the best (or one of the best) one-day workshops they had ever attended. Attendees included 108 representatives from federal, state, and local agencies with several non-governmental organizations including researchers, conservancies, plant associations, and more.

Caltrans will continue partner and be involved with the group and the next steps. We already are doing roadside surveys with the aid of Cal-IPC. While we will participate in the mapping that needs to be completed and in determining the best strategies for tackling this problem, we will also be developing training for our personnel, on identification and response for not only this invasive, but other top priority weeds. For more information, contact Sheree Edwards, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) at (916) 654-5784. ●



photo by Mark Dimmitt

Federal Highway Administration Recent Research Grants

HAWAII - In a State where control invasive plants are a priority, what to plant after control became critical. The State DOT requested support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa to study possible native seed mixes for Hawaii's dryland roadsides. Also the use of hydroseeding as the planting method will be explored. The findings will aid decision-makers in the DOT to specify, install, and maintain future native grass plantings as erosion control.

CALIFORNIA* - Due to emerging concern about the invasive plant, Sahara mustard, *Brassica tournefortii*, along Caltrans highways, funds were provided for an all day workshop about the plant, its impacts, its biology, and control. The Caltrans Maintenance Department partnered with the USGS, USFWS, NPS, BLM, California Invasive Plant Council, California Department of Agriculture, and the Desert Land Managers to put together this training day. The education and partnership will provide California a foundation to train mapping crews to further inventory the spread of Sahara mustard and then take management action. Adjacent States and agencies were involved.

ALASKA - This grant will allow the Alaska Department of Transportation and the Alaska Department of natural Resources to ground survey or inventory vegetation along the Richardson

Highway between Valdez and Fairbanks, about 360 miles. The information gathered will be used in future vegetation management planning and use of herbicide application and/or other invasive plant control methods. This inventory will serve as a baseline for measurement of success.

WASHINGTON - Funding will allow Washington State and British Columbia to continue an unprecedented partnership. Their international coordinated weed management area will focus on weeds of mutual concern especially through highway corridor 97, Okanogan County. Part of their work includes shared training of crews, and increased public awareness efforts.

ARIZONA - This research grant is part two of a unique partnership between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona DOT, and Mexico to prevent the movement of Buffelgrass through U.S. Highway 85 corridor and Mexico's Highway 2. In order to control the invasive plant, a corridor survey on both sides of the border is necessary to plan mutual management of the weed infestation. The cost is a small investment to reduce the threat of Buffelgrass movement throughout the Southwest region. An extra bonus is that the results and management recommendations will be available in Spanish and English in a bilingual how-to manual to serve both sides of the border.

***NOTE:** For more information about Sahara mustard, the Caltrans workshop, and future partnership goals, visit

www.desertmuseum.org/invaders. ●

Sampling of Technical Information Centers

Each of the following regional and national Centers and their websites are packed with practical information. Each offers not only specific vegetation management information but available grants, research opportunities, identification guides, other useful links and resources to answer your questions. What you need to know is more about their missions and purpose. Here are some of the details.

REGIONAL

CENTER FOR INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT (CIPM)– www.weedcenter.org

“Working toward desired plant communities”

The CIPM promotes the ecological management of *invasive plants in the West* through education, by facilitating collaboration among researchers, educators, and land managers, and by funding research projects and weed management areas. Their goal is to advance the ecological management of invasive plants by serving as an information clearinghouse, providing examples of ecological management, and delivering implementation tools and products to land managers. CIPM is a committed, action-oriented clearinghouse. The Center is guided by a private-public sector Steering Committee as well as a Science Advisory Council of experts.

In 2005, the Center developed The Invasive Plant Resource Guide, a Big Book for a Big Problem. If you could only have one book on your shelf about weeds, this would be the one! Do not be surprised when you see your copy of the Big Book, for it is stuffed with 3” of the big picture, resources at risk, tools of the trade, how-tos, and more! It is heavy with applicable information you can begin using immediately! It is gathered in a sturdy three-ring binder and ready to go to work for you! Whether you have questions about the threat to western waters, soil conservation, fire as a tool, best management practices, or how to work with communities, this book covers that ground and more.

MIDWEST INVASIVE PLANT NETWORK (MIPN) – www.mipn.org

Addressing the problem of non-native invasive plants and their threat to the Midwest economy, environment, and human health by providing leadership, facilitating information development exchange, and coordinating regional efforts.

The MIPN, a newer center serving the Midwest region (including Ohio and Ontario), was initiated in 2002 and also is guided by a private-public sector Board of Directors. Its Advisory Council is made up of University experts, federal agencies, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and The Nature Conservancy. The Center continues their Network approach to connect information with people who can use it. Their website provides grant information and website links for more information. At this point in time, they are focusing on early detection and rapid response, education, prevention, research and management issues in their growing efforts and their expanding partnerships. This Center is also a committed, go-to staff, ready for action.

NATIONAL

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC) – www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu

The Global Invasive Species Initiative is The nature Conservancy’s response to abating the damage caused to native biodiversity by the human-facilitated introduction of non-native, harmful invasive species.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has become an international conservation organization. Here in the United States they manage thousands of acres. Their decades of experience in land management have been captured in an electronic handbook, *Weed Control Methods Handbook: Tools and Techniques for Use in Natural Areas*. Do not let the title deter you from opening this book as soon as possible. It applies to all land managers. The handbook is loaded with all the methods of vegetation management, including herbicide properties. This 2001 handbook should make it to your reference

Sampling of Technical Information Centers *continued*

shelf as soon as possible.

The Nature Conservancy website posts many other needed resources. Here you can find photographs of invasive plants and other invasive species. You can peek at the global weed list for a glimpse of potential invaders. Remote sensing is a relatively new tool in our war on weeds and is highlighted on this site. Perhaps the key to success for roadside vegetation managers is mapping or inventorying rights-of-way vegetation to improve management planning. The Nature Conservancy's mapping and data-sharing system, Weed Information Management System (WIMS) is explained. Technical and training opportunities for the WIMS system could be possible through your States TNC office.

PLANT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (PCA) –
www.nps.gov/plants/faq

To protect native plants by ensuring that native plant populations and their communities are maintained, enhanced, and restored.

The PCA began in 1994 to promote on-the-ground conservation with targeted public outreach to protect and restore native plants. The PCA is a consortium of ten federal agencies and more than 220 non-federal cooperators representing various disciplines like: biologists, horticulturists, resource management consultants, scientists, concerned citizens, gardeners, and non-profit organizations with an interest in native plants. Work groups within PCA include Restoration, Pollinator, Medicinal Plant, Public Outreach and Alien Plant groups. To protect native plants, we all quickly learned that we had to prevent and control the invasion of aliens or nonnative plants.

Weeds Gone Wild is a respected, web-based project of the Plant Conservation Alliance. This site provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers, and others on the serious threat

and impacts of invasive plants to native flora, fauna, and ecosystems of the United States. The fact sheets for each invasive plant provide plant descriptions, range, distribution and habitat in the United States, with related links to more information. This is truly a first stop when learning about a new weed in your neighborhood. Fact sheets are available for invasive herbs, vines, shrubs, trees, and aquatics. More resources and benefits can be found on the website.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (NISC)
– www.invasivespecies.gov

The National Invasive Species Council is an inter-Departmental council that helps to coordinate and ensure complementary, cost-efficient and effective Federal activities regarding invasive species. The Council was established February 3, 1999 by Executive Order 13112. Council members include three co-chairs: the secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior with the secretaries of State, Defense, Homeland Security, Treasury, Transportation, Health and Human Services with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In January of 2001, the Council released the well known National Invasive Species Management Plan. The Council is guided by an Invasive Species Advisory Committee, established to advise the federal government on the issue of invasive species.

The NISC website provides the national direction of the invasive species issue. For in depth references, use the new website, managed by the National Agricultural Library:

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov, a gateway to Federal and State invasive species activities and programs with more information about impacts of invasive species, government response, and links to related information. ●

SAFETEA-LU: Section 6006,
Adds Section 329 to the US Code Title 23,

COMING SOON: Federal Highway Administration Guidelines

“§ 329. **Eligibility for control** of noxious weeds and aquatic noxious weeds and establishment of native species

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—In accordance with all applicable Federal law (including regulations), funds made available to carry out this

H. R. 3–730 section may be used for the following activities if such activities are related to transportation projects funded under this title:

“(1) Establishment of plants selected by State and local transportation authorities to perform one or more of the following functions: abatement of stormwater runoff, stabilization of soil, and aesthetic enhancement.

“(2) Management of plants which impair or impede the establishment, maintenance, or safe use of a transportation system.

“(b) *INCLUDED ACTIVITIES.*—The establishment and management under subsection (a)(1) and (a)(2) may include—

“(1) right-of-way surveys to determine management requirements to control Federal or State noxious weeds as defined in the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) or State law, and brush or tree species, whether native or nonnative, that may be considered by State or local transportation authorities to be a threat with respect to the safety or maintenance of transportation systems;

“(2) establishment of plants, whether native or nonnative with a preference for native to the maximum extent possible, for the purposes defined in subsection (a)(1);

“(3) control or elimination of plants as defined in subsection (a)(2);

“(4) elimination of plants to create fuel breaks for the prevention and control of wildfires; and

“(5) training.

“(c) *CONTRIBUTIONS.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to paragraph (2), an activity described in subsection (a) may be carried out concurrently with, in advance of, or following the construction of a project funded under this title.

“(2) *CONDITION FOR ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN ADVANCE OF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION.*—An activity described in subsection (a) may be carried out in advance of construction of a project only if the activity is carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations) and State transportation planning processes.”.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 23 is further amended by adding after the item relating to section 327 the following:

“328. Eligibility for environmental restoration and pollution abatement.

“329. Eligibility for control of noxious weeds and aquatic noxious weeds and establishment of native species.”.

Coming Soon— Three New Sequels

Roadside Control of Invasive Plants, the sequel to *Roadside Use of Native Plants* (2000) is in the works! Patterned after the first reference, this handbook will also offer essays by experts on the topics of prevention, control, restoration and restoration. The core of the book will be customized for each State containing: each State Weed List, an analysis of State Weed Law, and each States experts and resources to contact. The book is a cooperative effort between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Highway Administration. All three agencies know that the war on weeds takes place on the ground within each State. We believe this quick reference will make that work easier. Due Spring, 2006.

Alternatives to Invasive Ornamentals, a sequel to *Invasive Plants, Weeds of the Global Garden* (1996) from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This practical reference will provide alternative plant choices, mostly native, for those invasive trees, shrubs, herbs, and vines we have traditionally planted, but are now considered invasive. We can not afford to spend taxpayer dollars on plants we know do not stay put and can do potential harm to agriculture, natural resources, and/or human health. This book offers thoughtful, well-researched, choices from an author the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Federal

Highway Administration in turn chose carefully. The author, Colston Burrell is expert in both horticultural and native plants. Due Spring, 2006

Invasive Plants, Changing the Landscape of America II, is a forthcoming sequel to what was commonly known as the federal fact book on invasive plants, but named, *Invasive Plants, Changing the Landscape of America* (1998). Randy Westbrooks and the Federal Interagency Committee for the management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) are updating the 1998 "facts". This important reference should be available in late 2006. ●



The third **WEEDS ACROSS BORDERS CONFERENCE** sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will be on May 25-28, 2006 in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. For information visit the conference website: www.desertmuseum.org/borderweeds

El tercer **CONGRESO MALEZAS SIN FRONTERAS** patrocinado por la Administración de Carreteras Federales de E.U. y el Museo del Desierto Arizona-Sonora se llevará a cabo los días 25 al 28 de mayo del 2006 en Hermosillo, Sonora, México. Para mayor información visite el sitio web del congreso: www.desertmuseum.org/borderweeds

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Greener Roadsides is a quarterly publication of the Federal Highway Administration, Office of Planning, Environment and Realty. If you would like to submit letters, comments, or articles, please address them to:

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