



Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project

Plants we'd like to eradicate from the preserve



Italian thistle

Italian thistle is one of the most prevalent and invasive species in the preserve. In 2004 we will concentrate on removing it while it is still in the rosette stage, before it sets seed. Italian thistle seeds are viable for at least 8 years, which makes our job more difficult. Our goal is to minimize and control the spread of Italian thistle.



Yellow star thistle

Recognized throughout the state as a serious threat to our landscape and native vegetation, yellow star thistle spreads via the vast amount of seeds it produces per plant (700–10,000). For the past three years we have been releasing a bio-control called the hairy weevil, which attacks the reproductive success of this plant. Numbers of plants appear to be significantly less than in previous years.



Purple star thistle

A painful reminder of how thistles get their names, the purple star thistle can give you a nasty prick which can cause bruising. Easier to remove and less invasive than the other two thistles, the purple star thistle is targeted for eradication on the 609 acres of the preserve.



Poison Hemlock

Poison hemlock is another noxious weed we would like to eradicate from the preserve. A potion of poison hemlock was used to kill Socrates. Supposedly the distinguishing red spots on its stems are the drops of blood from Socrates body. Be careful not to touch it without gloves, as it is poisonous and will give you a rash.



Common teasel

Common teasel was originally introduced to tease or bring up the nap on woolen fabrics, a process known as “fulling” or “brushing.” It grows between 1–6 feet tall on stout, spiny stems. We have been mowing the teasel for five years and also pulling by hand. We expect to start seeing an impact in the next couple of years.



Harding grass

Harding grass is a perennial that tends to grow along rivers and creek banks. It spreads via rhizomes and seeds, and can form thick tussocks. It was introduced to the u.s. from Australia as a forage plant for sheep but has become naturalized in California. We hope to eventually eradicate this species from the preserve altogether.

∞
california
invasive weed
week
july 20–26
∞

GET INVOLVED

Join Arastradero's stewards every 2nd and 4th Saturday to help remove these non-native invasive plants that threaten our native plant species and animal habitat.

Arastradero Preserve is located near Highway 280 in Palo Alto, about a half-mile from the Page Mill exit. From 280, head west (away from Palo Alto), and make your first right, onto Arastradero Road. The preserve parking lot is about a half-mile up the road, on the right.

For more info call 650-962-9876 ext.347 or visit us online at www.Acterra.org

ABOUT ACTERRA

Acterra is a Bay Area-based nonprofit that mobilizes volunteers to protect and restore our local natural habitat through stewardship, information, and leadership programs.

► For details visit www.Acterra.org