

WEED REVIEW JUL 1

Yellow Star Thistle:



The California Invasive Plant Council has a vivid description of YST and the efforts to control its spread: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/management/yst.php>

Bronwyn explains the OHA campaign – a campaign that is labor intensive but quite successful over the years:

“The Yellow Star Thistle at the top of the ridge is waiting to be pulled. The crop this year is much less than in years past, though still needs our help to eradicate it. I've been working on it though physically can't any more.

The patch in question is reached by hiking up the hill to the Seaview Gate, hanging a right, marching up through the mustard (used to be Star Thistle) and arriving at "the patch" just below the crest of the hill. Probably about four to six hours of work remain. If anyone is keen to get this done and would like an escort to the patch, please let me know and I can take you to it most any day around 5pm. Gloves and an empty feed bag are all you need. Its a great job for anyone who is eager to combine dog walking (up the trail from the gate at Long's) with work hours. If you are coming from Berkeley its quicker to get to the patch from the Big Springs parking area on South Park.

So you know, seeds from this patch are poised to be blown down into our pasture and diligent work on this patch is a big reason why OHA has managed to stay almost Star Thistle free. We work every summer to pull it from the bluff over the pond in addition to this "mother" patch on the ridge. Please pull any you see in the course of riding in the pasture, or let me know where you see it and I'll try to organize its removal.

Apart from being very painfully spikey, Star Thistle is a cumulative neurotoxin for our horses.”

We have also found some YST plants on the slope above the pond and in the Forest Meadow, so keep your eyes peeled – pull any plants that you find.

Teasel:



Wait until the top of the flower stalk starts to bloom, cut the flower/seed head into a bucket or bag for disposal off the pasture. Then cut the stalks to the ground. Start work with the outlying plants to limit spread.

Most plants, when they have invested in developing stalk and full bloom, will not be able to regrow a stalk, flower, and develop viable seed - if the stalk is cut to the ground. However, most plants can regrow successful seed heads if they are cut before the stalk has bloomed - they may even send up multiple stalks.

The plant dies at the end of the season it has flowered. Our goal is to limit the production of seed and prevent the plants from spreading.

Tools

- Hand pruner
- lopper or machete
- Gloves
- Bucket & Bags for collecting teasel heads as you work

Flowering Seedheads left on stalks can produce viable seed – take them out of the pasture.

Liz & Jerome have quietly gone about a highly successful teasel campaign over the last two years – Liz reports how it's going: "I believe our JnL plan on the teasel surrounding the water tanks and the left side of UpperHorseTrail in the Upper Sullivan

pasture the last two years has worked well. There's more teasel in Sullivan further back from the road that we'll target this year. I think we're in maintenance mode with the first two patches. We like working the teasel as our process seems pretty successful manually clip all heads, carefully bag, and remove. Then whack the stocks so the horses can get in there and stomp about..”