

Prioritising weeds as targets for biological control in the Western USA

This survey is being undertaken by CSIRO (Dr. S. Raghu and Dr. Louise Morin) on behalf of the USDA-ARS' Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit (Dr. Paul Pratt). The goal of this survey is to better understand weed impacts with a view to prioritizing the weeds for development of biological control solutions for the Western USA.

Please use the following table to assist your with your responses on the Impact Level and Type for each weed. If you have any questions about this, please contact s.raghu@csiro.au or Paul.Pratt@ars.usda.gov

Impact Category	Economic impact	Environmental impact
Negligible	At worst a nuisance weed that doesn't significantly affect production or the management of an enterprise, and rarely requires specific targeted control effort.	Present in the environment, but is a relatively innocuous component of the flora of a site and is not seen spreading.
Low	Weed can cause at least minor enterprise-level production losses, or alter the way enterprises are managed. If serious impacts occur they are localised in extent within an enterprise* or to a few properties, are the result of extended periods of poor property management, and /or are readily and cost-effectively managed.	Present in the environment, and becomes apparent particularly when a site is disturbed. Some local spread, but is mostly restricted to a few sites.
Moderate	Weed can result in serious enterprise-level production losses, or substantially alter the way enterprises are managed, even when enterprises are relatively well managed, but affects relatively few properties regionally, and/or is readily and cost-effectively managed using existing approaches.	Locally abundant and appears to be threatening a few species or processes in the ecosystems in which it occurs.
High	Weed can result in serious enterprise-level production losses, or substantially alter the way enterprises are managed, even when enterprises are relatively well managed, across a broad geographic area. Not readily or cost-effectively managed using existing approaches.	Abundant and/or widespread; appears to invade/transform otherwise intact ecosystems and threatens multiple species or processes in the ecosystems in which it occurs.

* Where the weed affects the most productive parts of the landscape then it is limited in extent there.