



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



**GRAFFITH PARK**  
**“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 **GRIFFITH PARK**.

## **MAIN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS BOOKLET**

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

## **GRIFFITH PARK** *“DIRTY DOZEN”*

Here is a list of the 12 weeds that have been determined to be of concern at **GRIFFITH PARK**. It was prepared as an aid for anyone who will become involved in the preservation of the native flora within the Park.

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	fountain grass
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree of heaven
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	tree tobacco
<i>Brassica spp.</i>	wild mustards
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	poison hemlock
<i>Chamaesyce maculata</i>	spotted spurge
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	common purslane
<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	large crabgrass

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pennisetum setaceum*  
COMMON NAME: fountain grass



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ailanthus altissima*

COMMON NAME: tree of heaven



NOTES:

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



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ricinus communis*

COMMON NAME: castor bean



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Nicotiana glauca*  
COMMON NAME: tree tobacco



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Brassica spp.*  
COMMON NAME: wild mustards



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Toxicodendron diversilobum*  
COMMON NAME: poison oak



NOTES: Poison oak is a California native plant of specific value to wildlife. DO NOT ERADICATE!! Control plant in working locations and in areas accessible to the public only.

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Urtica dioica*  
COMMON NAME: stinging nettle



NOTES: Stinging nettle is a California native plant. DO NOT ERADICATE!!!  
Control plant in areas accessible to the public only.

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



NOTES:

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Chamaesyce maculata*  
COMMON NAME: spotted spurge



NOTES:

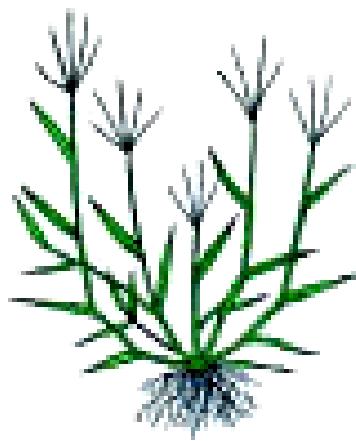
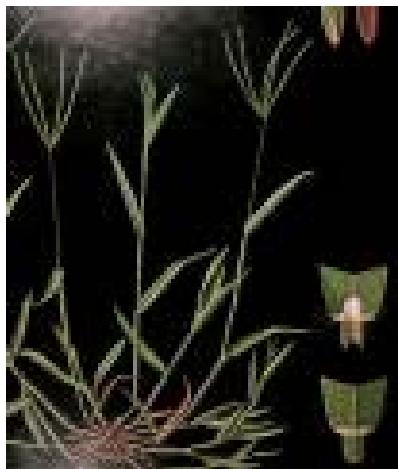
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Portulaca oleracea*  
COMMON NAME: common purslane



NOTES:



SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Digitaria sanguinalis*  
COMMON NAME: large crabgrass



NOTES:

## GRIFFITH PARK HISTORY

Over the years Los Angeles has become a blooming metropolis with dramatic changes, but one aspect of our city remains the same: the beauty and majesty of *Griffith Park*.

As part of the Santa Monica Mountains range and within Los Angeles River watershed, the park offers a diverse topography and countless animal and plant species.

Each year, millions of visitors come to the park for recreation or relaxation, to hike the many nature trails or enjoy the grassy fields. Each of us will find different activities and attractions for every age and interest. Young people and the young at heart can spend countless hours exploring their favorite sites; visiting the animals at Los Angeles zoo, play a round of golf at Wilson/Harding Golf Course, or view the constellations from Griffith Observatory.

From every neighborhood in our city, from every walk of life, Angelinos come in droves to the urban oasis we called *Griffith Park*. The Park is over 100 years old, and there is no doubt the park is indeed a Los Angeles treasure. To know and understand its past will help us in the present to plan and preserve such a magnificent icon for the future.

## REFERENCES

- Tom D. Whitson, Larry C. Burrill, Steven A. Dewey, David W. Cudney, B.E. Nelson, Richard D. Lee, and Robert Parker. 2000. Weeds of the West. 9th edition. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Davis Statewide Integrated Pest Management Project. 1994. Pests of landscape, trees and shrubs: An Integrated Pest Management Guide. IPM Educations and Publications. Photos downloaded from University of California Berkeley website at:  
[Http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/dams/](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/dams/)
- Mike Eberts1996. Griffith Park, A Centennial History. The historical society of Southern California. Los Angeles, California.
- Virginia Tech Weed I.D. guide  
[www.agro.iastate.edu](http://www.agro.iastate.edu). Bruce Battles  
[www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed\\_id/plama.htm](http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/plama.htm)  
[www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed\\_id/plama.htm](http://www.ppws.vt.edu/scott/weed_id/plama.htm)  
[www.weedalert.com/weed\\_pages.htm](http://www.weedalert.com/weed_pages.htm)  
[www.ucdavis.edu.org](http://www.ucdavis.edu.org)  
[www.clunet.edu/wf/chap/flowers/fwr-188.htm](http://www.clunet.edu/wf/chap/flowers/fwr-188.htm)  
[www.ci.sunnyvale.ca.us/bylands/diverse/radish.htm](http://www.ci.sunnyvale.ca.us/bylands/diverse/radish.htm)  
[www.s-weeds.net/heptacon/0723.html](http://www.s-weeds.net/heptacon/0723.html)