Despite all the weeds currently infesting Humboldt County, there are literally hundreds of new weeds lurking on its borders. The weeds on this poster are of particular concern because they are known to spread rapidly, cause damage to desirable habitats and be difficult to control. The best approach for these weeds is early detection and rapid response. This involves diligent monitoring for new invasions and prompt action to eliminate them. The maps are shaded to provide current abundance information for each species: NOT KNOWN  RARE  COMMON.
African rue (Peganum harmala): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 2 feet tall and bushy; leaves alternate, bright green and deeply divided; leaflets linear and fleshy; flowers have five white petals and a yellow center; seed pod a small, round capsule with two to four chambers and can be green, orange or brown; woody taproot. Other: Grows best in dry, disturbed sites; often infests roadsides, waste areas, washes and desert areas; all plant parts poisonous to livestock and humans.

Black henbane (Hyoscyamus niger): Annual or biennial. I.D.: Up to 3 feet tall; stems, leaves and seed pods covered with sticky hairs; leaves alternate, lance-shaped to oblong, with prominent, pale leaf veins; leaf margins lobed or toothed; lower leaves have a short petiole, upper leaves have no petiole; flower funnel-shaped with a purple center and five fused petals with purple veins; seed pods are vase-shaped. Other: Often infests roadsides, waste areas, field borders and pastures; toxic to humans and livestock but rarely consumed by animals due to foul odor and taste.

Common St. Johnswort (Hypericum perforatum): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall with a woody stem; leaves opposite, oval to linear, prominent veins, smooth (hairless) and no petioles; margins are smooth and lower surface is lined with small black dots; upper surface covered with tiny transparent dots that can be seen by holding the leaf up to the light; flowers have five yellow petals that have tiny black dots around the edges. Other: Grows best on coarse-textured, gravelly, well-drained soils; ingestion causes skin irritation and weight loss in white-haired animals.

Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica): Perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem and leaves smooth and waxy; leaves alternate, dense, lancet- to heart-shaped, have smooth margins and are blue-green; leaves clasp the stem; flowers yellow, sometimes with an orange-bearded throat and a long spur; look like snapdragons. Other: Often infests rangelands, waste areas and roadsides; may be toxic to livestock if ingested in large quantities.

Diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa): Biennial (sometimes annual or perennial). I.D.: Up to 2 feet tall; stem has downward-turned prickles; leaves grow in a basal rosette for the first year; rosette leaves look wrinkled and have prominent veins and spines on the midrib; stem leaves lance-shaped and have fused bases; flowers purple with spine-like bractlets; bracts at the base of flower heads are longer than the flower head. Other: Often found along irrigation ditches, moist habitats and disturbed sites.

Dyer’s woad (Isatis tinctoria): Biennial, sometimes annual or perennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem and leaves smooth and waxy; leaves alternate, dense, lance- to heart-shaped, have smooth margins and are blue-green; leaves clasp the stem; flowers yellow, sometimes with an orange-bearded throat and a long spur; look like snapdragons. Other: Often infests rangelands, waste areas and roadsides; dry, mature plants often break off and tumble in the wind to spread seed.

Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale): Biennial (sometimes annual or perennial). I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; stem covered with long hairs; leaves alternate, lance-shaped; with a rough texture and covered with long hairs; only lower leaves have petioles; leaves decrease in size from bottom to top of plant; flowers purplish-red with five petals and occur in clusters; seeds turn brown when mature and are covered with short prickles that can attach to clothing or animal fur. Other: Grows best in moist areas; often found in pastures, roadsides, fence lines, waste areas and along waterways; toxic to livestock, especially horses; has a distinctive odor that may cause animals to avoid it.

Jointed goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrica): Annual. I.D.: Grass, 15 to 30 inches tall; leaves are alternate and simple; auricles at leaf base are hairy; flower stalk a long, cylindrical spike; long awns protrude from either side of the spike. Other: Found mostly in wheat fields, but also grows on roadsides, waste areas, alfalfa fields and pastures; a common contaminant of wheat seed.

Mediterranean sage (Salvia officinalis): Biennial. I.D.: 1 to 3 feet tall; leaves gray-green, covered with dense, white hairs, particularly on new leaves and underside of older leaves; leaves triangle-shaped, margins have rounded, irregular teeth; leaves have a strong aroma when crushed; flowers yellow to white, consist of two lips, the upper lip is arch-shaped, the lower lip is smaller and has three lobes. Other: Often infests rangeland, roadsides and waste areas; dried plants detach and “tumble,” which disperses seeds.

Spotted knapweed (Centaurea biebersteinii): Biennial. I.D.: Up to 4 feet tall; leaves alternate, gray-green, pinnately divided, dotted with resin and sometimes covered with small grayish hairs; upper leaves smaller and narrower with few to no lobes; flowers white to purple; base of flower is covered with bracts with dark, comb-like tips that give the appearance of spots. Other: Grows best on dry, well-drained soils; often infests rangelands, waste areas and roadsides.

Weed Impacts
All weeds impact their environment by replacing desired vegetation and reducing forage availability and habitat quality. Impacts for specific weeds are stated when they are more severe. (e.g., they are toxic to animals).

Weed Management
Weed management decisions are dependent on habitat and surrounding vegetation, and are not listed in this publication. For those recommendations, please reference the Nevada Noxious Weed Field Guide (http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/nv/10/10sp001.pdf) or the Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook (http://usupest.org/pnw/weeds).

Contact
If you have seen these weeds, contact your local University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, BLM, USFS or conservation district office: http://www.unce.unr.edu/contact/personnel.

References:
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