

New Weed Discovered in California Rice Fields

Cass Mutters, UCCE Butte County

Winged primrose willow (*Ludwigia decurrens*) was recently discovered in a rice field near Richvale. This is the first documented occurrence of winged primrose willow (WPW) west of Texas. Native to South America, WPW is highly competitive and considered to be an invasive weed species. WPW is an annual, which can behave like a perennial in moderate climates. It produces vast quantities of seeds and survives under a range of hydrological and climatic conditions. Plants must be destroyed before the seed pods mature. To prevent WPW from becoming established in the rice fields requires a strong, concerted effort by the community. Inspect and clean up your fields.

A field survey is currently underway to determine the extent of the infestation. At present, WPW has been found south of Richvale on both sides of the Midway and extending south on Riceton Road almost to Afton Road principally along field edges, levies, and ditch banks (Fig A). The Agriculture Commissioner is coordinating an eradication effort. If you suspect that you have WPW in your fields or need more information, call:

Butte County: Cass Mutters, UCCE (530-521-6670)
 David Khan, Ag Commissioner's Office (530-370-8723)
 Mike Stewart, Ag Commissioner's Office (530-521-8545)

Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento, Placer Counties: Chris Greer, UCCE (530-822-7515)

Colusa, Glenn, Yolo Counties: Luis Espino, UCCE (530-458-0570)

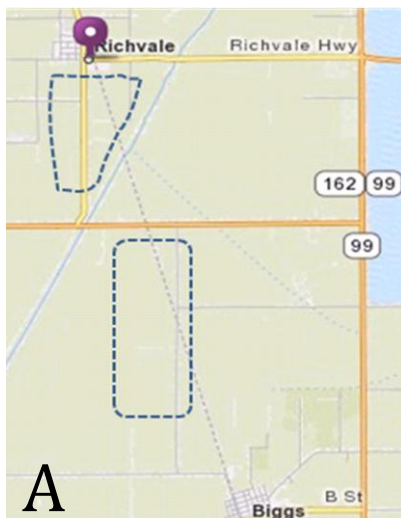


Figure A. Current known distribution of winged primrose willow (WPW) in Butte County.

Figure B. WPW can reach 6 to 7 feet in height.

Figure C. WPW can be found out in a field, as well as along field edges, levies, and ditch banks.

Figure D. WPW is currently flowering. The yellow flowers open by mid-morning.



Figure E. WPW flower has 4 petals.

Figure F. The seed capsule is four-sided about 3/4 inch long. Many are approaching maturity.

Figure G. Each seed capsule produces 100's of seeds.

More information: <http://plants.esda.gov/java/profile?symbol=LUDE4>

Photos courtesy of CCIA, RES, UCCE, and USDA.



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