

Since 2009, stinkwort has been moving around the County on roadsides and is now invading parking lot edges and vacant lots - any place where the normal vegetation has been removed or the soil disturbed.

The photo below shows how it looks at the end of the season in full fruit before next year's seed disperse. At this stage mowing or pulling it could spread the seeds, so bag and clip it very carefully - do not leave dead plants on the roadside as the seeds will drop to the ground to produce a new crop the following spring.



If you have it, remove the plants before they start to flower by mowing, hoeing, pulling or spot treatment with an herbicide and monitor the area for regrowth. If they are starting to flower, pull them out and bag them up for disposal. Wear gloves as the plants may give you a rash. If seeds are present, carefully place a large bag over the plant, and then clip the base of the plant. Do not mow, or leave pulled plants on the ground as the seeds will drop off to increase the infestation next year. Moisten the plants in the bag, seal it up and place it in the sun to mold and kill the seeds.



Left—young stinkwort plant in early June
Right—plant in flower in mid-September

The Stinkwort Invasion of El Dorado County



You will probably first see *Dittrichia graveolens* or 'stinkwort' on the roadside as 1-2' tall pine-tree-shaped plants. It is able to grow in and expand cracks in the road. Around the middle of September it starts blooming; the flowers are small yellow daisies. Later in the season the whole plant dries out and thousands of seeds blow in the wind, or are shaken off to produce next year's plants.



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