

# Most Common Non-Native, Invasive Weeds in Pittman Wash, Henderson Nevada



## A few facts about non-native, invasive plants.

Non-native, invasive plants have many of the following characteristics and needs:

- These are plants which tend to produce a lot of seeds;
- Seeds are easily dispersed by the wind or other means;
- Most of these plants require moist soil to germinate;
- Most require full sun (that is sunlight hitting the ground for an extended period of the daylight hours) for germination and early growth. Once growing, full sun may no longer be required;
- Most of these plants require a disturbed site for the seeds to germinate;
  - Disturbances may be natural such as from floods, fires, or other natural events;
  - Disturbances may be from man-made disturbances, such as clearing vegetation, opening the tree/shrub canopy to allow sunlight to hit the ground, construction activities, and/or roadways.

Many non-native plants are not invasive in some habitats, such in drier upland areas, landscapes, or yards, but become invasive in their preferred habitats, such as stream corridors, washes, or wetlands.



### **Tamarisk or Salt Cedar**

**Identification:** Evergreen scale-like needles, frequently with reddish or pinkish flower clusters, turning white to dull yellow.

**Control Method:** For plants larger than 18 inches tall - Cutting at the base and injecting with stump with appropriate herbicide, such as Garlon. Removal of the cut plants is recommended to reduce fire hazard. For seedlings or plants less than 18 inches tall – pulling the plants out which includes getting the roots out is the best method. Seedlings established one year can grow 4-5 feet the second year and will start flowering, producing more seeds. Seedlings which are 8 inches tall may have a root that is 2 feet long or longer!

**Note:** Each tamarisk tree or shrub produces thousands of seeds each year. For tamarisk to establish, the seedlings need full sun and exposed sands or gravels that are moist near the surface.

Disruptions to sites by removing native trees or shrubs which shade the ground, or by disturbances to the soil surfaces will prepare a seed bed for next year's seedlings of salt cedar.





### **Mexican Fan Palms and California Fan Palms**

**Identification:** Obvious, except for seedlings which have only a single leaflet (like one part of a frond).

**Control Method:** Cutting at the base. Most palms do not resprout. For young palms which have not formed a trunk, cutting just below the ground is recommended, as these plants may resprout.





### **African Sumac**

**Identification:** A shrub ranging from 1 foot to 20 feet tall. Each leaf has 3 long narrow leaflets.

**Method of Removal:** Cut shrub to remove the root crown, just below the soil surface.



### **Fountain Grass**

**Identification:** A grass generally around 20 inches tall, with thin leaves, growing from out from the root crown.

**Method of Removal:** With the applicator nozzle placed into the center of the leaves, spray an approved herbicide into the root crown where the new leaves are forming. Note: It is not necessary to spray the entire plant!





### **Russian Thistle (Commonly called Tumbleweeds when dry)**

**Identification:** Shrubby, round plant, frequently with a reddish stem or with red lines along the stems with mature. The leaves are tipped with a needle-like tip. Flowers are very small, with a white circle around a reddish center. **These plants are annuals, and must grow from seeds every year.**

**Method of Removal:** The best and most economical way to remove these plants is to **pull them out by the roots before they are a foot tall** (before they are old enough to flower). Most of these plants are concentrated in several locations in Pittman Wash. **Using leather gloves, pull the small plant out by the roots, and just lay these plants on dry ground.**



### **Chaste Tree**

**Identification:** Shrubs up to 8 feet tall with 6 to 9 leaflets (generally 7). Flowers clusters are at the top of the stem and are blue to purple in color (white to light gray when in bud).

**Method of Removal:** Cut shrub to remove the root crown, just below the soil surface.