

What: Ludwigia Species Field Tour

Who: The tour will be lead by Brenda Grewell, USDA botanist and Ludwigia expert.

When: Monday August 13 9:30-2:30 (?)

Summary: This should be a good overview of the Ludwigia species you should expect to find in Mendocino County. Also Brenda will bring a potted specimen of Ludwigia palustris (another native species), and will discuss known populations in the area. We can watch for it on the tour.

Bring: Lunch, Water, Handlens

RSVP: to Tara Athan, 485-1198, coord@imcwma.org

Schedule:

1. RUSSIAN RIVER AT COMMISKY STATION (Hwy 101, West side, 3 mi north of Mendocino County line. There is public river access and Ludwigia that is very easy to get to and examine here. There is a green highway sign that says "Kommisky Station" turn west off the highway, stay on the paved road and go down the hill, we will pull off and meet where the road veers to the left (south). This is a one -way road in to the site, and there is a big turnaround at the far end. We will see the Uruguayan primrose-willow here. This is our primary invasive Ludwigia in the Russian River Basin.
2. RUSSIAN RIVER AT ASTI summer crossing bridge (Washington School Road). Exit Hwy 101 at Asti. Turn RIGHT (South) on Asti Road. Turn LEFT (East) on Washington School Road (watch for sign to KOA campground). Follow Washington School Road down to the river - we will pull over along the wide shoulder on the right side before we come to the summer crossing bridge. It is a very short walk to the Ludwigia (Uruguayan primrose-willow) along the river, and you can see a growth form typical of an area with both shade and faster current.
3. RIVERFRONT PARK (SONOMA COUNTY PARK) From Stop 2, return to Asti Road and travel south to Hwy 101 exit. Proceed south on Hwy 101. Exit at WINDSOR. Proceed west on Windsor River Road to Eastside Road. Turn LEFT (south) on Eastside Road, Riverfront Park, 7821 Eastside Rd, Healdsburg, CA 95448 The 300-acre park is located adjacent to the Russian River. Formerly a gravel quarry site, the former gravel pits are now recreational fishing ponds (invaded by Ludwigia). I have a site license/permit for research here. Don't stop and pay to enter - just wait at the gate and then follow me in. We will park and walk down for a great look at invasive Ludwigia in yet another environment - a deep flooded gravel pit. There is a redwood grove with picnic tables, and port-a-john restrooms here.
4. RUSSIAN RIVER AT WOHLER BRIDGE: (ONLY if Time/schedule Allows) Optional stop at Sonoma County Water Agency facility just upstream of Wohler Bridge. Invasive Ludwigia in Wohler pool, the 7 mile impoundment of the Russian River upstream of the inflatable dam at Mirabel. We have research going here, and you can see Ludwigia in understory and also creeping out into the river.
5. SPRING LAKE (SONOMA COUNTY PARK) Directions to park: Hwy 101 south to Hwy. 12 east, left at Farmers Lane (Hwy. 12), right on Montgomery Drive, right on Channel Drive, right on Violetti Drive. Rather than go into the entrance by the Environmental Center off of Violetti Drive, we will likely park along Montgomery Drive just below the dam and walk to the first population site (most efficient, and also free parking here). Here we will see two additional species of Ludwigia: native Ludwigia peploides ssp. peploides (creeping water primrose) AND Ludwigia peploides ssp. montevidensis (native to South America). It is important to distinguish between these Ludwigia species, and all 3 species seen on this tour can be expected in Mendocino County WMA.