

# WANTED (DEAD, Not Alive)

## YELLOW STARThISTLE

(a.k.a. *Centaurea solstitialis* L.)

**HELP RID BIDWELL PARK OF THIS PAINFUL INVASIVE PLANT!!**

### Background on Yellow Starthistle

Humans and animals are the primary Yellow Starthistle (YST) seed transportation method within Bidwell Park. Most seed falls within 2-3 feet of the plant. YST flowers from late May through September. The time period from flower initiation to the development of mature viable seed is only eight days (DiTomaso, Yellow Starthistle Management Guide, 2006).



The good news -- the seed is viable for only 3-4 years, thus, it is possible to control & even eradicate small populations.

*Because YST is a problem to passage on park trails and is popping up in new places, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission has agreed to allow park users to remove YST whenever they encounter it. The removal of other plants must be approved by the Park Division under the guidelines of the Vegetation Management Priorities for Bidwell Park 2007.*



### How You Can Help Get Rid of this Pest:

- Wear heavy gloves when removing starthistle. There are sharp thorns & plant toxins can soak into the skin (chemicals are not known to harm humans but can be tasted on the hands).
- To handpull, grasp the plant at the base of the stem and pull steadily, straight up. If you can't pull the plant, cut it or twist it off at the base. As an annual plant most of the taproot can be left in the ground.
- Small plants can be pulled & the larger ones cut off at ground level, either with pruners or a sharp hoe.
- *Cut plants should be bagged & discarded in a trashcan, but can be placed in areas off trail where other YST exists. Do not place in compost green waste cans & please DO NOT place cut YST where this plant does not already exist.*
- Lastly, thanks so much for your help!



For More Information: Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Park Division, City of Chico at 530-896-7831 or via email: [lspeters@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:lspeters@ci.chico.ca.us) Mail: Park Division, P.O. Box 3420, Chico, CA 95927  
Or Contact Friends of Bidwell Park at 530-892-1666