

# RED ALERT

"A" RATED NOXIOUS WEED

CAPEWEED

[ARCTOTHECA CALENDULA (L.) LEVYNS]

FOUND IN STANISLAUS COUNTY, CA

NEAR HAWKINS & KEYES ROADS



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Rosette-forming **perennial** with **creeping stolons** or **winter annual**, to 11.81 inch tall. **Capeweed** is often grown as an ornamental groundcover. Seed-bearing plants typically colonize open sites with exposed soils. **Capeweed** is perennial in areas with a mild frost-free Mediterranean climate, such as coastal California. Seed-bearing plants are annual elsewhere, including **capeweed's** native range and southern Australia, where it is an abundant pasture weed. Certain **capeweed** populations in Australia have developed resistance to bipyridylum herbicides. Handling plants can cause contact dermatitis on sensitive individuals. Introduced from South Africa.

**SEEDLINGS:** Cotyledons spoon-shaped, glabrous. First leaves appear opposite, narrowly oblong with deeply lobed margins. Lobes broadly acute to rounded. Terminal lobe larger than lateral lobes, typically rounded. Upper surfaces sparse to moderately covered with white hairs. **Lower surfaces densely covered with white woolly hairs.** Subsequent leaves alternate, similar to first leaves.

**MATURE PLANT:** Rosette leaves +/- oblanceolate, deeply pinnate- to +/- bipinnate-lobed, 1.96-9.84 inch long, .78-2.36 inch wide. Lobes irregularly toothed to lobed, teeth and lobe apices +/- acute, often tipped with a short bristle. Upper surfaces glabrous to moderately covered with fine white cobweb-like hairs. **Lower surfaces white, densely covered with white woolly hairs.** Leaves on flowering stems 0-few, alternate, much reduced, sessile, clasping stem, pinnate-lobed to nearly entire.

**ROOTS and UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES:** **Stolons creeping, rooting at nodes, often vigorous.** One plant can spread to cover up to 200 sq ft in 1-2 years.

**FLOWERS:** Most of year, peaking March-June. Heads +/- 1.96 inch in diameter, solitary on hairy stalks ~ 5.9-7.87 inch long. Receptacle flat, **lacks chaff** (bracts). Phyllaries **strongly overlapping** (imbricate) **in 3-6 rows**, green, with membranous margins and tips curved backwards (reflexed), covered with woolly hairs. Ray flowers sterile, less than 20. Ray corollas .59-.98 inch long, pale **yellow** in upper half, sometimes darker yellow below, **purple or greenish at the base.** Disk flowers **dark purplish or yellow**, numerous. Pappus **scales** 6-8, +/- 1 mm long.

**PROPAGATION/PHENOLOGY:** **Reproduces by seed and/or vegetatively from stolons.** Seedlings tolerate dry conditions.

**MECHANICAL CONTROL:** Some resprouting will occur from missed tubers or crowns, so a follow up removal will likely be necessary. Broken stems may root if left on the soil surface in moist areas. Where possible, tractor mounted scraper blades may also be used to remove dense infestations. However, this results in complete disturbance of the plant community, but may be efficient in badly infested areas.

**If found do not disturb or remove the weed, please contact the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioners Office at (209) 525-4730 / Office: 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358**

Acknowledgement:

Capeweed found near Hawkins & Keyes by Aaron Wentzel, a Botany Student at CSU Stanislaus

