

Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare var. dulce*)

Also known as sweet fennel, anise, and finocchio.

Listed noxious weed in Washington. Listed as invasive in San Mateo County, California.

Threat: This plant has become a problem in disturbed areas

- Can form dense monocultures in dry areas.

Description: Perennial herb • Anise-scented, finely cut green leaves, similar to those of dill • Flat-topped clusters of small yellow flowers • Grows up to 6 feet tall • Member of the carrot family • Often planted in gardens and commonly used as food or flavoring • Strong licorice/anise odor is a good indicator • Bulb-forming variety is not considered invasive.

History: Native to Europe • Escaped from gardens and invaded world-wide.

Spread: Reproduces from the crown year after year

- Reproduces from crown or root fragments that are dispersed by high water, excavating equipment, or yard and agricultural debris • Freely reproduces from seed • Water-borne seed dispersal is common.

Control: Fennel roots grow deeply and can be difficult to remove • Deep digging, via shovel or mattock, has proven successful but labor-intensive • Revegetation is necessary after removal efforts to prevent reinfestation • Some herbicides are successful in treating fennel • Garden crops should be monitored closely.

Alternatives: Be sure that the variety of fennel in the garden is Florence fennel, the bulb-forming variety.



courtesy of Tom Forney, OR Dept of Agriculture

For more information:

National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior- www.nps.gov/plants/alien/common.htm

The Nature Conservancy, Invasive Species Initiative- <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>



4 COUNTY
Cooperative Weed
Management Area