

Vegetation Distribution Categories

Written by Giselle Block (USFWS – San Pablo Bay NWR, CA)

When mapping a Weed Assessment, under the Stats tab, one of the data fields that are asked for is plant distribution. The following is a brief description and example of each.

Distribution Categories

1. Isolated. An isolated distribution of weeds usually refers to one or a couple of plants in an area that is otherwise devoid of that plant.

A few examples of this distribution are: a single multi-flora rose in an open field, a small clump of purple loosestrife (two or three plants) in the wetland, or an Autumn Olive tree along the edge of the woodlot.

2. Linear. A linear distribution of weeds refers to a patch of weeds where the area covered by the weed is linear or straight in shape.

An example of a linear distribution is a patch of garlic mustard along the side of the dike. The shape of the weed patch is a long rectangle.

3. Monoculture. A monoculture distribution of weeds refers to an area where a specific weed is the dominant plant growing in that area.

A few examples of this distribution are: a large patch of purple loosestrife within the marsh where very little if any other plants are present, or a patch of garlic mustard beneath the oaks where no other plants are growing.

4. Satellite. A satellite distribution of weeds refers to weeds that are near a weed patch or monoculture but are not a part of that patch.

An example of a satellite distribution is a few sparse purple loosestrife plants about 50 feet away from the outer edge of the monoculture or weed patch that you have just mapped.

5. Uniform. A uniform distribution of weeds refers to the presence of a specific weed that can be readily found throughout a specific area.

An example of a uniform distribution is the presence of multi-flora rose bushes that can be found evenly spread throughout the open prairie.