



## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County



Flowers January-April

Onionweed is unpalatable and generally not eaten by herbivores.

## ONIONWEED

### *Asphodelus fistulosus*

#### [Known OC Sites & Current Status](#)

#### Distribution Map & Info:

- [calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calreclnum=758](http://calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calreclnum=758)
- [cal-ipc.org/paf/site/paf/262](http://cal-ipc.org/paf/site/paf/262)

#### Can Be Confused With:

*Allium* spp. & other onion family members.



Onionweed is an annual or short-lived perennial that grows in dry, sandy and rocky places, pastures, roadsides and similar disturbed sites.

It forms thick clumps that use up soil nitrogen, making it difficult for other plants, particularly grasses, to grow nearby.



## ONIONWEED, P. 2

How to tell onionweed from true onions.

### *Allium*

#### *haematochiton:*

- leaves flat-on one side,
- onion smell,
- individual stems grow from bulbs.

### *Asphodelus* *fistulosus:*

- leaves round in cross-section,
- no onion smell,
- tightly clumped stems grow from fibrous root mass.



### IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to [invasives@occnps.org](mailto:invasives@occnps.org).

Onionweed reaches reproductive maturity at 18 months, & produces an average of 2,325 seeds/plant/year; mature plants may produce up to 13,200 seeds.

Onionweed seeds readily stick to vehicles, machinery, clothing, fur and farm produce, thus are easily dispersed to new sites. Seeds remain viable in the soil for many years.