

UCSC Non-Reserve Site Stewardship

Students working here can expect a hands on experience in both preventative and restorative ecosystem management. The exact content of this program varies seasonally. Autumn usually is spent on greenhouse work, seed processing, and some invasive plant removal. Winter places a focus on restoration planting while the soil is suitably moist. Spring is composed mostly of invasive plant removal and seed collection for the following year's restoration planting. Interns will learn about the campus' ecosystem with a focus on the colonization and culling of invasive species. In doing this, the participants will also become familiar with the current system in place for maintaining the campus' ecosystem. Students with interest in plant biology or ecology may find this internship opportunity particularly interesting. Bill Reid, internship supervisor, hopes to utilize the interns from this class to rid the campus of a major percentage of the campus' weed species. Even with unlimited resources, some of the invasive species would prove to be too well established for eradication and can only be managed.



Invasive species

A non-indigenous plant or animal that compromises the biodiversity of the ecosystem that it is introduced to.

Grassland Monitoring, right

A biannual data collection of native grassland population data (pictured on right).

French Broom, left

(*Genista monspessulana*)

- Mediterranean native brought to the Bay area in the 1800s
- Covers approx. 100,000 acres
- Alters soil conditions
- Contains poisonous alkaloids in its leaves capable of poisoning large animals
- Fire hazard when left unmanaged
- Long lived seedbank makes it difficult to manage
- UCSC has an established broom population that requires constant management

