

Bigleaf crownbeard

Verbesina dissita



About me: I live only in a small part of the Laguna Beach area, but I am more common in northwestern Baja California, Mexico. I can grow up to be 3 to 6 feet tall.

Why I'm rare: My California home is popular with humans and the increasing development of residential areas threatens to eliminate my habitat. In Mexico, areas that I call home are being destroyed to make way for agriculture.

My story: Researchers are learning more about me. My seeds germinate readily, but I also spread by underground horizontal stems called rhizomes. These rhizomes help me survive and continue to grow after fires.

How you can help: When gardening, emphasize plants that are native to your area and avoid non-natives that can become invasive in natural areas. Invasive plant species compete with native plants like me for resources and can increase the frequency and severity of fires.



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