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Inventing Native Grassland Ecological Restoration technologies since 1992.**

Craig's weed-grass management Haiku—

**“Mow weeds high when green,
And soon, no weeds will be seen!
Wildflowers return!”**

The usual summer fire and weed management plan in California, has been to mow once a year at the end of spring when the weed grasses have fully grown and turned brown, and have already made a new crop of seeds for you to fight these grass weeds and thistles again, the next year.

However, that single late spring mowing, does not lower the fire hazard around your home during the summer and fall, because that mowed straw is still on the surface, and can still carry fire and burn your home to the foundations, as what happened in the rural areas of Santa Rosa and Paradise.

So, instead of mowing only one time a year, have your mowing crew start mowing monthly--start in February and only mow 6-8 inches high, so you do not accidentally cut any wildflowers or poppies that are trying to sprout. Then mow twice in March, then twice again in April, and make sure to cut all of the weed grass seedheads as they appear.



Left: Weed grasses carrying the fire, not native trees. Right: Eucalyptus tree, a 100-foot tall torch.

When you start to peel back the weed grass layer, in Portola Valley and Woodside, the **Miners Lettuce** should be the first native to grow back and cover your property as a “primer coat.” So always avoid mowing any miners lettuce, because it is going to be your best friend, since gives off natural herbicides that keep the weed grasses out. And you can eat it too, like they do in the fancy restaurants in Europe.



Your new best friend, the Miner's Lettuce.

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