



INVASIVE PLANTS

Across California, invasive plants damage wildlands. Invasives displace native plants and wildlife, increase wildfire and flood danger, consume valuable water, degrade recreational opportunities, and destroy productive range and timber lands.

Most of the plants used in gardens and landscaping do not invade or harm wildland areas. But a few vigorous species can - and do - escape from cultivation into open landscapes where they cause a variety of ecological problems. They crowd out native plants, insects and animals, clog waterways, and can lead to increased flooding, fire and crop losses.

When an aggressive plant is introduced to a new environment, the predators that would normally limit their growth in their home environment may not be present. This allows them to proliferate, spread, and take over natural habitats. Each invasive plant has its own strategy for growth and dispersal. Some have seeds that are spread by the wind, like pampas grass, whose seeds can be blown up to two miles away. Others have seeds that are carried by water or eaten by birds and animals that deposit them far from the parent plant. There are also species that reproduce vegetatively, like Arundo that sprouts new shoots from fallen stalks and plant fragments.

Invasive species are a leading threat to biodiversity, second only to habitat destruction. And the economic cost is as significant as the ecological cost: in California, more than \$80 million goes to fighting invasive plants every year.

The plants listed in the first column are invasive in this region of California. They should not be used in landscape areas. The second column lists suggestions for beautiful, non-invasive, drought-tolerant or low water need alternative plants that will not endanger California's wildlands. Common names listed first, with botanical names in parentheses.

INVASIVE PLANTS	ALTERNATIVES
Arundo, giant reed (<i>Arundo donax</i>)	New Zealand Flax (<i>Phormium tenax</i>)
Blue Gum Eucalyptus (<i>Eucalyptus globules</i>)	Nichol's Willow-leaved Peppermint (<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>), Spinning Gum (<i>E. perriniana</i>), and Silver Mountain (<i>E. pulverulenta</i>)
Scotch broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>), striated broom (<i>Cytisus striatus</i>), French broom (<i>Genista monspessulana</i>), bridal veil broom (<i>Retama monosperma</i>), Spanish broom (<i>Spartium junceum</i>)	Yellow bush daisy (<i>Euryops pectinatus</i>), Jerusalem Sage (<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>), California Flannel Bush (<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i> , F. cultivars)

Capeweed (<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>)	Dymondia (<i>Dymondia margaretae</i>), Manzanita groundcovers (<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.)
Green fountain grass (<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>)	Deer Grass (<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>), California Fescue (<i>Festuca californica</i>)
Iceplants: crystalline iceplant (<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>), highway iceplant (<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>)	Myoporum Groundcover (<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> 'Prostratum'), Non-invasive iceplant (<i>Delosperma cooperi</i>)
Myoporum (<i>Myoporum laetum</i>)	Toyon, Christmas Berry, California Holly (<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>),
Pampas grass (unnamed cultivars of <i>Cortaderia jubata</i> and <i>selloana</i>)	Canyon Prince Giant Rye (<i>Leymus condensatus</i> 'Canyon Prince'), Deer Grass (<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>), pink muhly grass (<i>Muhlenbergia capillaries</i>), Lindheimer's Muhly Grass (<i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>)
Periwinkle (<i>Vinca major</i>)	Serbian Bellflower (<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>), Creeping Barberry (<i>Berberis repens</i>), Evergreen Currant (<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>)
Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)	Arizona Cypress (<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>), Desert Willow, Desert Catalpa (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>), Fruitless Olive (<i>Olea europaea</i> 'Swan Hill' [®] , 'Majestic Beauty' [®] , 'Little Ollie' [®] , 'Wilsoni'), Coffeeberry (<i>Rhamnus californica</i>)
Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>)	Australian Willow, Geijera (<i>Geijera parviflora</i>), Desert Willow, Desert Catalpa (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>), Western Redbud (<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>), Coyote Brush (<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>)
Scarlet wisteria (<i>Sesbania punicea</i>)	Brazilian Flame Bush (<i>Calliandra tweedii</i>), Gold Medallion Tree (<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>), Island Bush Snapdragon (<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>)