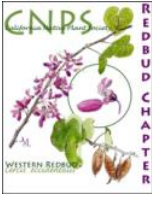


Invasive Species You Should Never Plant in Nevada and Placer Counties, CA.



by the Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society

Most of us assume that when we visit a garden center or plant nursery to purchase some plants for our gardens, or hire a landscape designer or contractor to install them for us, that we can rest assured that the plants are not what is termed 'invasive'. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and the horticulture trade has been a major pathway for the introduction of invasive species into California. It is up to all of us to educate ourselves, refuse to purchase these invasive plants and instead purchase and plant only non-invasive species. In particular, select some of our beautiful California native plants, which evolved here, are adapted to our climate and soils, and provide the most environmental benefits.

Invasive species are those that not only can escape gardens and naturalize in the wild, but also spread aggressively, outcompeting native plants and thus reducing our biodiversity as well as creating maintenance nightmares and often increasing wildfire risk. If you already have any of these invasive plants growing on your property, the wise thing to do is to remove them, as they will continue to spread and create problems for you, your neighbors and the environment.

Following is a compilation of non-native species that are currently invasive threats within our two counties. These plants, or their seeds, may be available from garden centers and nurseries, and they should be avoided by home gardeners, herbalists, designers and landscapers. For California native plant alternatives, refer to our Redbud CNPS Chapter's document: "*Recommended California Native Plants for Nevada and Placer County Landscapes*".

Invasive Trees:

Ailanthus altissima – Tree of Heaven
Crataegus monogyna – English Hawthorn
Ficus carica – Common Fig (invasive in riparian habitats-monitor for escapees)
Robinia pseudoacacia – Black Locust
Triadica sebifera – Chinese Tallow Tree

Invasive Shrubs:

Cytisus scoparius – Scotch Broom
Cytisus striatus – Portuguese Broom
Contoneaster lacteus – Parney's Cotoneaster
Spartium junceum – Spanish Broom
Genista monspessulana – French Broom
Pyracantha species – Firethorn
Rubus armeniacus – Himalayan blackberry

Invasive Perennials:

Cynara cardunculus – Artichoke Thistle
Cynoglossum officinale – Common Houndstongue
Digitalis purpurea – Foxglove
Dipsacus fullonum – Fullers' Teasel
Euphorbia oblongata – Eggleaf Spurge
Foeniculum vulgare – Sweet Fennel
Hypericum perforatum – St. John's Wort, Klamath Weed
Isatis tinctoria – Dyer's Woad
Lathyrus latifolius – Perennial Sweetpea
Leucanthemum vulgare – Oxeye Daisy
Lepidium latifolium – Perennial Pepperweed
Linaria spp. – Toadflax

Invasive Groundcovers and Vines:

Hedera helix – English Ivy

Hedera canariensis – Algerian Ivy
Sesbania punicea – Scarlet Wisteria
Vinca major & Minor – Periwinkle & Dwarf Periwinkle

Invasive Grasses and Sedges:

Agrostis stolonifera – Creeping Bentgrass
Briza maxima – Big Quaking Grass
Cortaderia jubata – Andean Pampas Grass
Cortaderia selloana – Uruguayan Pampas Grass
Cynodon dactylon – Bermuda Grass
Dactylis glomerata – Orchard Grass
Festuca arundinacea – Reed Fescue, Tall Fescue
Holcus lanatus – Common Velvetgrass
Pennisetum setaceum – Green Fountain Grass

Saccharum ravennae – Ravennagrass, Hardy Pampas Grass
Stipa tenuissima – Mexican Feathergrass

Invasive Aquatic Plants:

Arundo donax – Giant Reed
Eichhornia crassipes – Common Water Hyacinth
Egeria densa – Brazilian Water Weed
Hydrilla verticillata – Hydrilla
Iris pseudacorus – Yellowflag Iris
Ludwigia hexapetala – Six Petal Water Primrose
Lythrum salicaria – Purple Loosestrife
Myriophyllum aquaticum – Parrot’s Feather
Myriophyllum spicatum – Spike Watermilfoil

For photos and more information on these and other invasive plants, for alternative plants that are not invasive, and for state-wide invasive plant mapping, visit these websites:

- <https://plantright.org/about-invasive-plants/plant-list/>
- <https://www.cal-ipc.org>
- <https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/prevention/landscaping/dpp/?region=foothills>
- <https://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/specieslist.cgi?namesoup=&countylist=NEV&countylist=PLA&calipc=1&plantcomm=any&format=photos&orderby=taxon>
- <https://calscape.org/>

Broom Busters: Scotch, French, Spanish and Portuguese Broom are all extremely invasive and **highly flammable**, so if you have any of these growing on your property, eliminate them. This process takes several years, as broom seed pods explode, sending seeds flying far and wide and the seeds can be viable for up to 30 years. Nevada County Fire Safe Council provides use of their brush and weed wrenches/ extractigators for removing larger broom and other noxious shrubs. Small broom seedlings can be pulled by hand when the soil is moist. Never allow a broom plant to set seed; when you see those yellow broom flowers appear, get pulling immediately! There are opportunities to join in group broom pulls in both counties via the California Native Plant Society, the Fire Safe Council and Firewise Community Efforts.

Flowers of typical broom plant



Older plants are **very flammable**



Pulling broom with weed wrenches

