

Guidelines for Avoiding Invasive Plants in California Landscaping

This document provides a reference for avoiding the use of invasive plants in California landscaping. There are legal requirements, and there are voluntary measures. Three sources are referenced: the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, which regulates plants in the state; the PlantRight initiative, which brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including industry, to identify top-priority invasive plants used in horticulture and propose non-invasive alternatives; and the California Invasive Plant Council, which assesses environmental impact of plants for land managers.



The California Dept. of Food & Agriculture has authority to declare noxious weeds in California. These plants are illegal. See www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/IPC/index.html



PlantRight is a collaborative, science-based and voluntary program led by the nonprofit Sustainable Conservation, with a steering committee representing green industry, agencies, universities and environmental groups. PlantRight's list identifies top priority horticultural invasive plants available for sale in California, considering weed risk assessment data (such as that compiled in the Cal-IPC Inventory) and other factors. See www.plantright.org.



The California Invasive Plant Council is a nonprofit organization that assesses scientific information on invasive plants in California. Since 1996 Cal-IPC has maintained a list of environmentally harmful plants, primarily for guiding land management. Cal-IPC's assessment criteria only consider environmental harm, and listing decisions are made by an expert review panel. See www.cal-ipc.org.

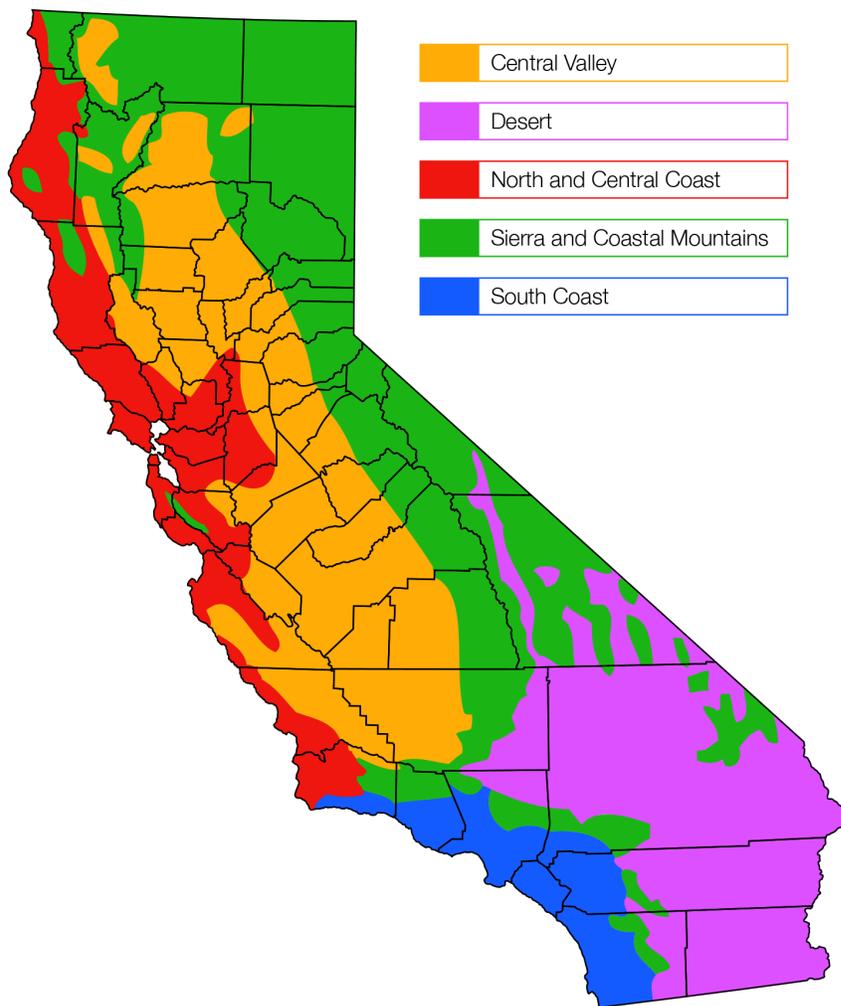
The following table presents those plants from each list that are known from horticulture (using the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, *Plant Finder*, and expert knowledge). All plants on PlantRight's voluntary list (except Mexican feathergrass) are also on the Cal-IPC Inventory, and are not repeated in the third section. These lists can be viewed as increasingly conservative, with the Cal-IPC Inventory representing

all plants that might be voluntarily avoided in landscaping to reduce potential for environmental harm. (Each plant is invasive in areas with suitable conditions, and may not be problematic in other areas.)

Regions

Regions based on Sunset Climate Zones were developed by PlantRight ([see source online](#)).

Sunset Zones	Region
1-3	Sierra and Coastal Mountains
7-9	Central Valley
10-13	Desert
14-17	North/Central Coast and Delta
18-24	South Coast



California Noxious Weeds

(From CDFA; only those plants known to be in horticultural use; these plants are illegal to sell or use in California)

<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-heaven
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	fertile capeweed
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	onionweed
<i>Centaurea debeauxii</i>	meadow knapweed
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	jubatagrass
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	artichoke thistle
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom
<i>Delairea odorata</i>	Cape-ivy
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	leafy spurge
<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	oblong spurge
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom
<i>Hypericum canariense</i>	Canary Island St. Johnswort
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	klamathweed
<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	dyer's woad
<i>Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica</i>	Dalmatian toadflax
<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>	creeping waterprimrose
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Scotch thistle
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed
<i>Retama monosperma</i>	bridal veil broom
<i>Saccharum ravennae</i>	ravennagrass
<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>	Mediterranean sage
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	scarlet wisteria
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	smallflower tamarisk
<i>Tamarix ramosissima, T. gallica, T. chinensis</i>	saltcedar

PlantRight

(Nursery partners agree these plants should be phased out in favor of superior alternatives)

		Sunset Zones
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	highway iceplant	14-24
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	pampasgrass	7-9, 14-24
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water hyacinth	7-9, 14-24
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellowflag iris	7-9, 14-24

<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	green fountain grass	1-3, 10-24
<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Chinese tallow tree	7-9
<i>Stipa tenuissima</i>	Mexican feathergrass	statewide
<i>Vinca major</i>	bigleaf periwinkle	statewide

Retired Plants:

(Nursery surveys show that these plants are sold at <1% of retail nurseries)

<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	Portuguese broom	1-3, 14-24
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	statewide
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Tasmanian bluegum	14-24
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	crystalline iceplant	14-24
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	ngaio tree	14-24

Cal-IPC Inventory (See notes at end)

(In addition to the plants listed above, these plants have been determined to cause environmental harm to natural areas in California and to be in horticultural use)

<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	silver wattle	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	blackwood acacia	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> ^T	creeping bentgrass	statewide
<i>Arctotheca prostrata</i>	South African capeweed	7-9, 14-24
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	bridal creeper	7-9, 14-24
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Australian saltbush	7-9, 14-24
<i>Briza maxima</i>	big quakinggrass	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Carpobrotus chilensis</i>	iceplant	14-24
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	garland chrysanthemum	14-24
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	giant dracaena	14-24
<i>Cotoneaster franchetii</i>	cotoneaster	14-24
<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>	Parney's cotoneaster	14-24
<i>Cotoneaster pannosa</i>	silverleaf cotoneaster	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	common brassbuttons	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	English hawthorn	1-3, 7-9, 14-17
<i>Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora</i>	montbretia	7-9
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> ^T	Bermuda grass	statewide
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	beggar's-lice	1-3
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> ^F	orchard grass	statewide
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	common teasel	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Echium candicans</i>	pride-of-Madeira	14-24
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian egeria	1-3, 7-9, 14-17
<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Spanish heath	14-17

<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	filaree	statewide
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	red gum	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> ^T	alta fescue	statewide
<i>Ficus carica</i> ^E	edible fig	statewide
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> ^E	fennel	statewide
<i>Gazania linearis</i>	gazania	14-24
<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Algerian ivy	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>	licorice plant	14-24
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Mediterranean mustard	statewide
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	common velvet grass	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English holly	1-3, 14-17
<i>Kochia scoparia</i> ^F	kochia	statewide
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	yellow toadflax	1-3, 14-17
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alyssum	statewide
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> ^F	Italian ryegrass	statewide
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	creeping waterprimrose	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	horehound	statewide
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	pennyroyal	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Myosotis latifolia</i>	common forget-me-not	1-3, 14-17
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	parrotfeather	statewide
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	tree tobacco	statewide
<i>Olea europaea</i> ^E	European olive	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	hardinggrass	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	common pokeweed	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	buckhorn plantain	statewide
<i>Poa pratensis</i> ^T	Kentucky bluegrass	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	cherry plum	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i> , <i>P. crenulata</i> , <i>P. coccinea</i>	firethorn	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	1-3, 7-9, 14-17
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	black locust	statewide
<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	statewide
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	sheep sorrel	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	bouncing-bet	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian pepper tree	7-9, 14-24
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian pepper tree	7-9, 14-24
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk thistle	1-3, 7-9, 14-24

<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	athel	statewide
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	common tansy	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	wooly mullein	1-3, 7-9, 14-24
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm	7-9, 14-24
<i>Watsonia meriana</i>	watsonia	7-9
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	calla lily	1-3, 14-24

Notes		
E	Edible	This plant species has edible fruit and is grown for human consumption. Though birds may spread seeds, these plants can be grown relatively safely if fruit is harvested. Particular care should be taken near riparian areas. Fruitless varieties may be available for landscaping, and can be grown safely.
F	Forage	This plant species is used for forage and is already widespread in California. Additional use is unlikely to increase the plant's spread.
T	Turfgrass	This plant species is used for turfgrass and may be used safely for sports fields and landscaping if properly tended within borders.

Prepared by the California Invasive Plant Council, 2015. Reviewed by CDFA and Sustainable Conservation/PlantRight.