

SPRING RETAIL NURSERY SURVEY 2013 FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

PlantRight works with California's nursery industry to voluntarily stop the propagation, distribution, and sale of ornamental invasive plants. In addition, PlantRight promotes alternative plants that are regionally appropriate, commercially viable and environmentally safe. With its Spring Nursery Survey, PlantRight tracks the retail market for invasive garden plants in California each year. Data collected from this survey helps to inform PlantRight's strategy, and allows it to monitor the effectiveness of its work over time. This fact sheet highlights the collective undertakings and major findings of the 2013 Spring Retail Nursery Survey.

METHODOLOGY

PlantRight randomly selected 311 retail nurseries to survey in 2013, from a total pool of over 3,000 stores operating across California. One-hundred thirty-six volunteers, many of whom are UC Master Gardeners, surveyed 223 of these nurseries in 38 counties. Data was collected on the availability of 18 known invasive plants (see list at top right). Six of these 18 plants were new to the survey this year, and are under review as potential additions to PlantRight's official list. Twelve of the 18 were also tracked in the 2011 and 2012 PlantRight surveys and, except where noted otherwise, the below results represent only these 12 plants. The results also reflect only the plants that were found in climate zones where they are considered invasive.

RESULTS

- 74% of the nurseries were not selling invasive plants. Of the stores selling invasive plants, most (67%) sold only one type of invasive. This is similar to what was found in 2011 and 2012, and should be thought of as essentially stable over the last three years.
- As was the case in 2012, *Independent Retailers* are the most likely type of store to sell an invasive species. However, the percentage of *Independent Retailers* selling an invasive species dropped from 39% in 2012 to 29% in 2013.
- Mexican feather grass (*Nassella tenuissima*), one of the plants under review, was the most commonly found plant, followed by big leaf periwinkle (*Vinca major*). These were found at 27% and 19% of stores respectively.

INVASIVE PLANTS IN 2013 SURVEY

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
EXISTING SPECIES ON PLANTRIGHT'S LIST:	
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Capeweed
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Highway iceplant
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Crystalline iceplant
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Myoporum
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Green fountain grass
<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Chinese tallow tree
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Vinca major</i>	Big leaf periwinkle

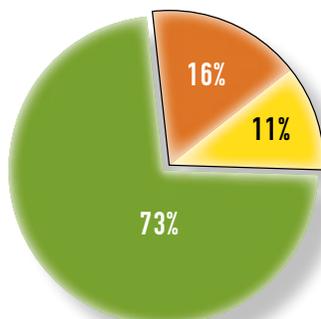


Left to right: Mexican feather grass, periwinkle, water hyacinth, and pampas grass

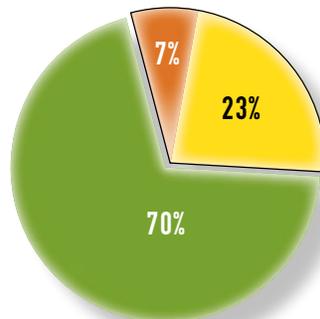
NEW SPECIES UNDER REVIEW FOR PLANTRIGHT'S LIST:

<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	Mexican feather grass
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow water iris
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water hyacinth
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Victorian box
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian peppertree

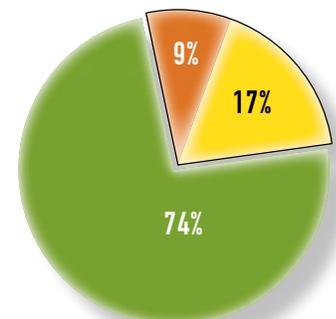
2011 (224 STORES SURVEYED)



2012 (238 STORES SURVEYED)



2013 (222 STORES SURVEYED)



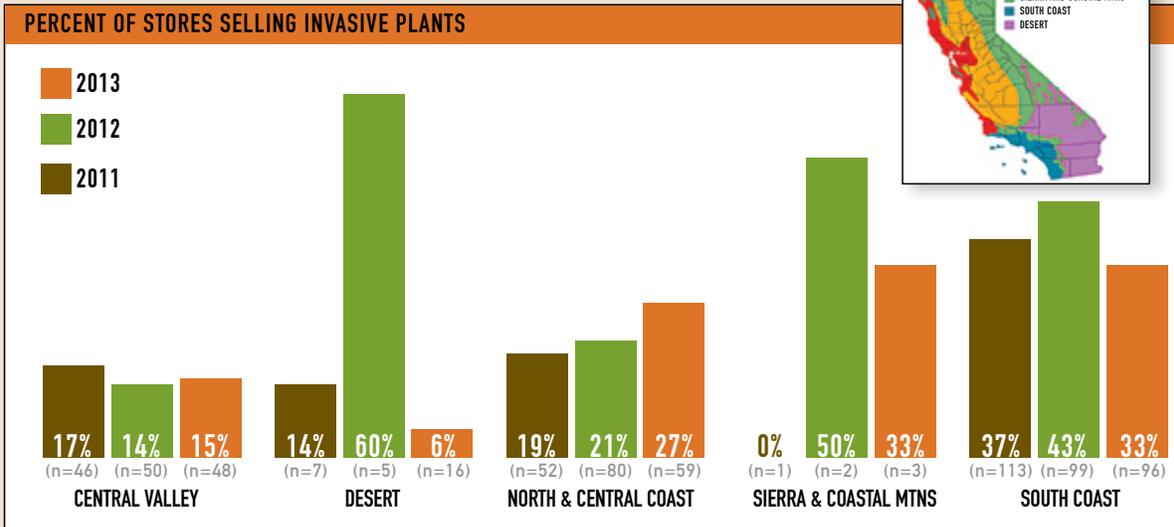
■ STORES WERE NOT SELLING INVASIVES

■ STORES WERE SELLING > 1 TYPE OF INVASIVE PLANT

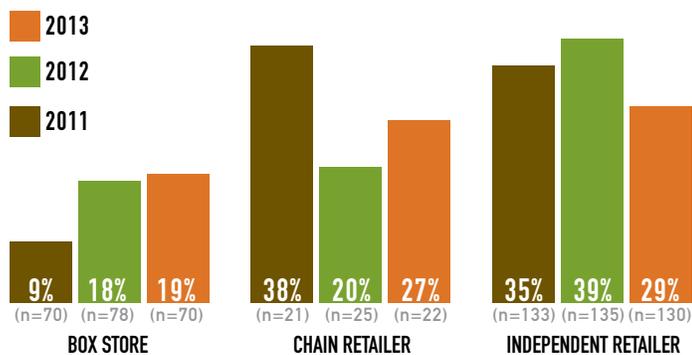
■ STORES WERE SELLING ONLY 1 TYPE OF INVASIVE PLANT

RESULTS BY CLIMATE ZONE

As only a few stores were surveyed in the *Desert* and *Sierra & Coastal Mountain* climate zones (16 and 3 stores respectively), it is unwise to consider all stores in these regions to be represented by the survey results. Excluding those two climate zones, the invasive plants on PlantRight's list continue to be most prevalently sold in the *South Coast* region.



PERCENT OF STORES SELLING INVASIVE PLANTS



RESULTS BY RETAIL TYPE

Independent Retailers were most likely to sell locally invasive plants: 29% of *Independent Retailers* had at least one species of invasive plant for sale. They were only slightly more likely to have locally invasive plants than were *Chain Retailers* (27%).

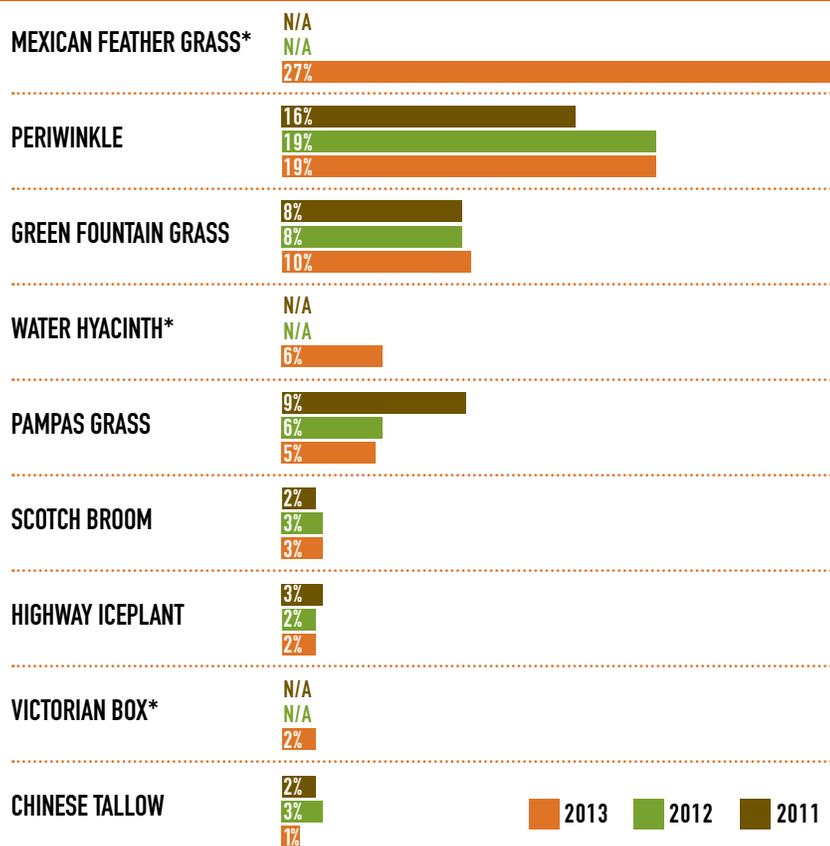
Note: This survey looks at whether invasive plants were for sale at stores and does not focus on the volume of plants sold.

RESULTS BY PLANT SPECIES

Twelve of the 18 species were found for sale. Three of these were found at 1% or less of stores and are not included on the graph: Yellow Water Iris, Brazilian Pepper Tree, and Spanish Broom. Six species were not found: Capweed, Crystalline Ice Plant, Flowering Rush, French Broom, Myoporum, and Russian Olive.



PLANTS FOUND AT MORE THAN 1% OF STORES



*Under review for addition to PlantRight's list.