

# SPRING RETAIL NURSERY SURVEY 2014 FACT SHEET

## BACKGROUND

PlantRight works with California's nursery industry to promote the propagation, distribution, and sale of exclusively non-invasive plants throughout the state. To do this, PlantRight recommends commercially viable and environmentally safe alternatives to the most commonly sold invasive garden plants. With its annual nursery survey, PlantRight tracks the retail market for invasive garden plants in California. The results help inform PlantRight's strategy, monitor the effectiveness of its work, and keep its plant list relevant. This fact sheet highlights the undertakings and major findings of the 2014 Spring Retail Nursery Survey.

## METHODOLOGY

Each year, PlantRight randomly selects a sample of retail nurseries to survey from a total pool of over 2,000 stores operating across California. This year, trained volunteers, primarily UC Master Gardeners, collected data on the availability of select invasive plants at 226 nurseries in 35 counties. The list of plants included in the survey changes slightly from year to year, with some plants being removed and others added (see list at top right). Of the 14 plants surveyed this year, seven have been tracked since 2011, three since 2013, and four were added in 2014. Except where noted otherwise, results presented in this fact sheet reflect only the 10 plants that were surveyed in both 2013 and 2014 (Cohorts 1 and 2). In addition, results represent only the plants that were found in climate zones where they are considered invasive.

## RESULTS

- The percentage of nurseries carrying an invasive plant on PlantRight's original list (Cohort 1) decreased, from around 30% over the past three years to 18% this year. This was largely due to a drop in the availability of periwinkle (*Vinca major*) from 19% to 9%.
- The overall number of stores carrying one or more invasive plants increased to 44%, primarily due to the addition of Mexican feathergrass, a popular emerging invasive found at 38% of nurseries.
- *Chain Retailers* are the most likely type of store to sell an invasive species. Retailers in the *North & Central Coast*, *South Coast*, and *Central Valley* climate zones were all roughly as likely to have an invasive plant species for sale.

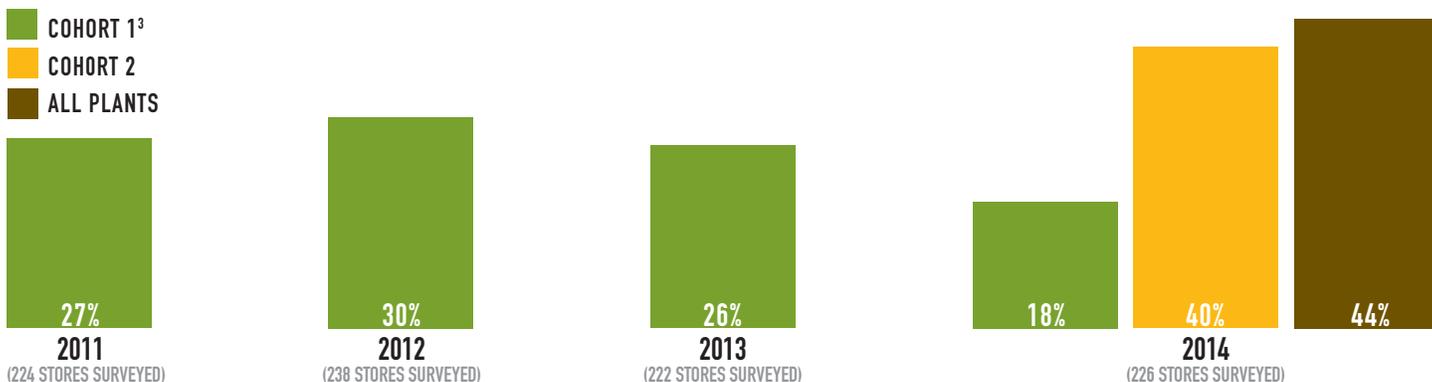
## INVASIVE PLANTS IN 2014 SURVEY

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>COHORT 1: PLANTS INCLUDED ON PLANTRIGHT'S LIST SINCE 2006</b>	
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Highway iceplant
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas grass
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch broom
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Green fountain grass
<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Chinese tallow tree
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle
<b>COHORT 2: PLANTS ADDED TO PLANTRIGHT'S LIST IN 2014</b>	
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water hyacinth
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow water iris
<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	Mexican feathergrass
<b>COHORT 3: NEW SPECIES EVALUATED BUT NOT APPROVED FOR PLANTRIGHT'S 2015 LIST<sup>1</sup></b>	
<i>Carex divulsa</i> <sup>2</sup>	Grassland sedge
<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	Southern catalpa
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Brazilian waterweed
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy



Left to right: green fountain grass, highway iceplant, grassland sedge, & periwinkle. Photos from left to right by: Ritu Goswamy, Carol Pancner, Bobbie Wright, & Kathy Ikeda.

## PERCENTAGE OF STORES SELLING A LOCALLY INVASIVE PLANT



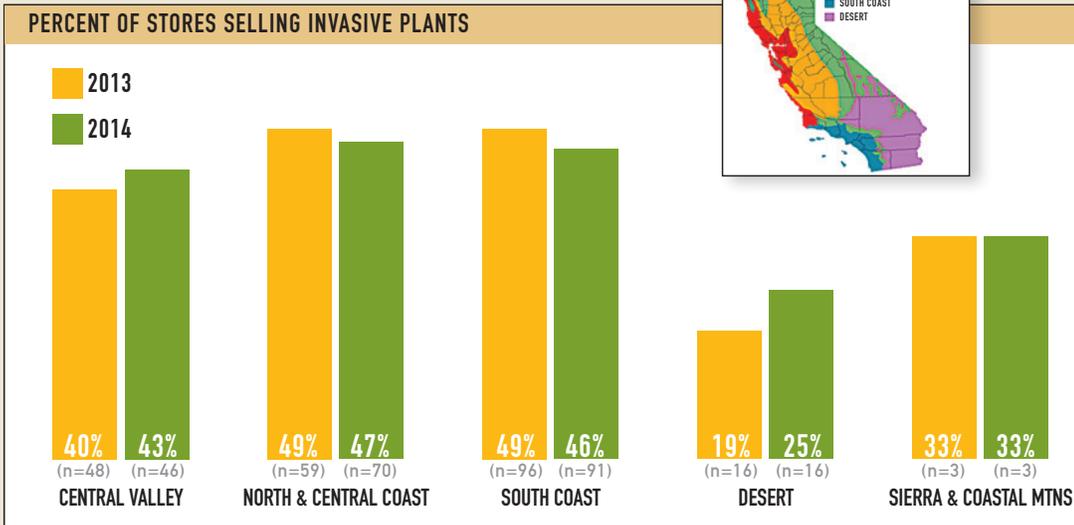
<sup>1</sup> Cohort 3 plants are not included in charts on this fact sheet.

<sup>2</sup> Often sold as Berkeley sedge (*Carex tumulicola* Hort.).

<sup>3</sup> See box at top right for a description of each cohort.

## RESULTS BY CLIMATE ZONE

Locally invasive plants were most often found in the *North & Central Coast* (47% of stores), *South Coast* (46%), and *Central Valley* (43%) climate zones. Because the survey sample included only a few stores in the *Desert* and *Sierra & Coastal Mountain* climate zones (16 and 3 stores respectively), we cannot assume that the results accurately represent these two regions. Stores in the three remaining climate zones all had comparable results.



## PERCENT OF STORES SELLING INVASIVE PLANTS



## RESULTS BY RETAIL TYPE

*Chain Retailers* were most likely to sell locally invasive plants, with 50% of stores selling them. While *Chain Retailers* and *Independent Retailers* saw a small drop in the prevalence of stores selling locally invasive plants, *Box Stores* saw an increase from 31% in 2013 to 42% in 2014.

**NOTE:** This survey looks at whether invasive plants were for sale at stores and does not capture the volume of plants sold. However, we assume that *Box Stores* sell the largest volume of plants, and *Independent Retailers* the smallest.

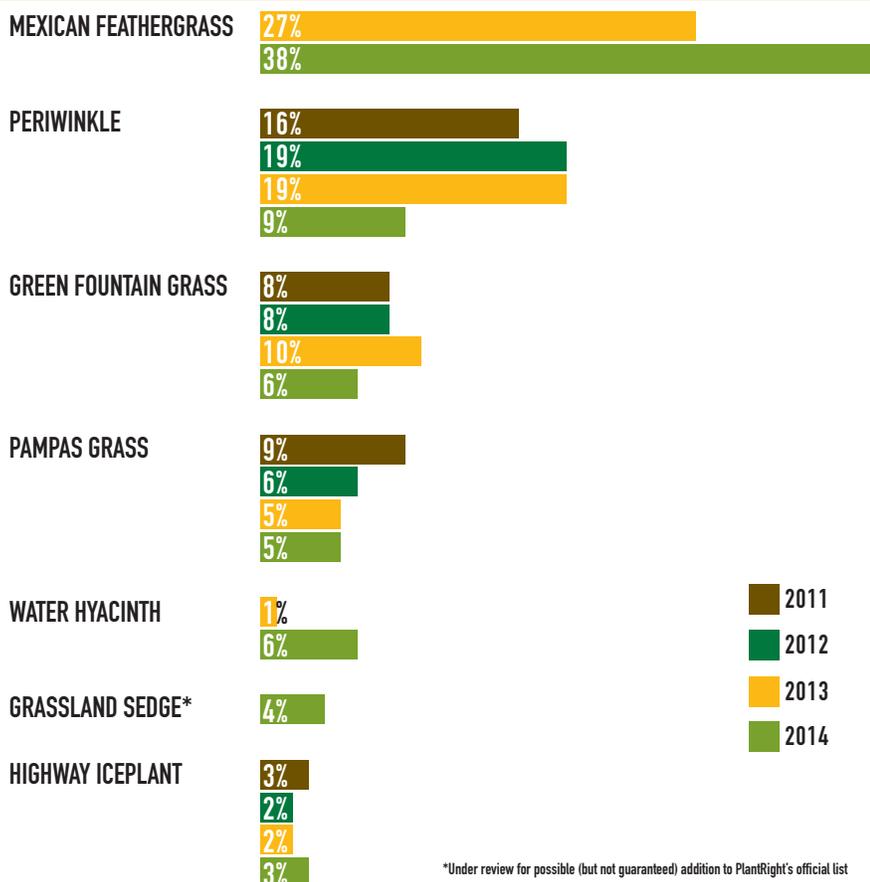
## RESULTS BY PLANT SPECIES

Eleven of the 14 surveyed plant species were found for sale in 2014. Four of these species were found at 1% or fewer nurseries (Chinese tallow tree, southern catalpa, yellow water iris, and Brazilian waterweed), and three species were not found at all (French broom, ox-eye daisy, and Scotch broom). As a result, these plants are not included in the chart.



Mexican feathergrass was the most commonly found invasive plant in 2014, at 38% of nurseries. Photo by: Christine Weber.

## PLANTS FOUND AT MORE THAN 1% OF STORES



\*Under review for possible (but not guaranteed) addition to PlantRight's official list