Suggested Alternatives for Invasive Garden Plants

PlantRight's 2019 list of horticultural invasive plants identifies the highest priority invasive plants available for sale in California. If one of these plants is invasive in your climate zone, they should not be used in gardens or landscaping. Instead, consider one of the beautiful, non-invasive alternatives below.

Thank you for joining us to protect California's environment by Planting Right!

Legend

- Sierra & Coastal Mtns. *(Sunset Zones 1-3)*
- Central Valley *(Sunset Zones 7-9)*
- Desert *(Sunset Zones 10-13)*
- North & Central Coast *(Sunset Zones 14-17)*
- South Coast *(Sunset Zones 18-24)*

Low water

CA native or cultivar

Invasive Grasses	Suggested Non-invasive Alternatives	Featured Information	Suitable Climates
Green fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) Invasive in climate zones:	**Oriental fountain grass** (*Pennisetum orientale*)	Compact, floriferous, cold hardy, very similar aesthetic and habit.	
	Pennisetum 'Fireworks','Skyrocket' & 'Fairy Tails' (*Pennisetum* x *advena*, often mislabeled as *P. setaceum* cultivars)	Cultivars, similar aesthetic and habit. 'Fireworks' is magenta striped with green and white. 'Skyrocket' is green with white edges, and 'Fairy Tails' is solid green.	
	Mendocino reed grass (*Calamagrostis foliosa*)	Cool-season grass 1 ft. tall & 2 ft. wide. Arching flower heads spring through fall.	
	California fescue (*Festuca californica*)	Shade tolerant grass, needs good drainage, tolerates mowing.	
	Pink muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'Regal Mist')	Fluffy pink cloud-like blooms, frost tolerant, needs drainage, good en masse.	
Mexican feathergrass (*Stipa/Nassella tenuissima*) Invasive in climate zones:	**Blue grama grass** (*Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition')	Attractive flowerheads, best when cut back in early spring, cultivar of a CA native.	
	Alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*)	Excellent for hot, dry areas. Fine-textured. Tolerates wide range of soil conditions.	
	Purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*)	Fine-textured leaves that blow in the breeze. Thrives in sunny, dry locations.	
	White awn muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'White Cloud')	Fluffy white cloud-like flower heads. Great for mass plantings. Deer resistant.	
	Autumn moor grass (*Sesleria autumnalis*)	Neat clumper, good en masse. Can use under trees or in full sun as ground cover.	
Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and cultivars Invasive in climate zones:	**Foerster's reed grass** (*Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster')	Stately golden plumes that grow tightly vertical, durable and showy.	
	Deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)	Smaller than *M. rigens* with simple, clean plumes. Easy to grow.	
	Lomandra hystrix 'Katie Belles' and 'Tropicbelle'	Tidy, tough, 3-5 ft. with late spring/summer flowers. Will not reseed.	
	Lindheimer's muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*)	Graceful plumes to 7 ft., 3-4 ft. foliage, tough, evergreen.	
	Giant sacaton grass (*Sporobolus wrightii*)	Showy, feather-like seed heads. Deep rooted and good for dry, alkaline sites.	

Invasive Water Plants	Suggested Non-invasive Alternatives	Featured Information	Suitable Climates
Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) Invasive in climate zones:	**King of Siam water lily** (*Nymphaea* 'King of Siam')	Large, double purple flowers, floating leaves, roots in bottom soil.	
	Pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*)	Similar flowers, not free-floating, good in ponds, winter dormant, spreads vegetatively.	
	Cape pondweed (*Aponogeton distachyos*)	Bright fragrant flowers, foliage floats on water, dormant in winter.	
Yellow water iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) Invasive in climate zones:	**Canna species** (*Canna* hybrids)	Many colors and sizes available, robust in ponds, may need to be wintered indoors.	
	Japanese iris (*Iris ensata* and cultivars)	Best on pond margins, not to be submerged, showy flowers.	
	Laevigata iris (*Iris laevigata* and cultivars)	Grows in shallow water, available flower colors are purple, red or white; poisonous.	

Find your Sunset climate zone: http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones. Water needs information from WUCOLS. Depends on region.

www.PlantRight.org

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Why using non-invasive plants matters:

When invasive plants spread into natural areas, they push out native plants and wildlife. This impairs waterways, increases fire severity, harms ecosystems and reduces biodiversity. It also creates financial burden on taxpayers: in California, over $80 million and countless hours of painstaking labor is spent each year addressing invasive plants. This does not include financial losses from reduced agricultural yields, land values, and recreational opportunities.

By Planting Right you are protecting our natural resources, local ecosystems and our economy.

Invasive Groundcovers	Suggested Non-invasive Alternatives	Featured Information	Suitable Climates
Highway iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) Invasive in climate zones:	**Trailing iceplant** (*Delosperma cooperi*)	Showy pink flowers, low maintenance, cold-hardy. Many cultivars available.	
	Wild strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)	Edible, best in sandy or well-drained soil, tolerates drought and moderate water.	
	Seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*)	Purple flowers bloom most of the year, attracts native bees, deer resistant.	
	Prostrate coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis* 'Twin Peaks' or 'Pigeon Point')	Easy care, habitat plant, drought tolerant on coast, reliably deer-proof, good for slope stabilization. A male plant that does not seed.	
	Blue chalksticks (*Senecio serpens, S. mandraliscae*)	Succulent with cylindrical, blue-gray leaves. Serpens is smaller, spreading 1 ft. wide.	
	Prostrate grevillea (*Grevillea* x *gaudichaudii*)	Colorful, easy-care, best in part shade, spreads to 10 ft. wide. Do not give phosphate.	
Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) Invasive in climate zones:	**Ground morning glory** (*Convolvulus mauritanicus/sabatius*)	Lavender-blue flowers bloom from summer to fall. Grows 1-2 ft. high and 3 ft. wide.	
	Hardy geranium (*Geranium* 'Rozanne')	Reliable spring to early summer blooms, medium water, hardy, 2 ft. tall x 3 ft. wide.	
	Serbian bellflower (*Campanula poscharskyana*)	Similar flowers in spring to early summer, low water, fast growth, 8" tall, spreading.	
	Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides)* **or Asian jasmine** *(Trachelospermum asiaticum*)	Both species have fragrant and abundant flowers, shrub-like, grow as a mat or on trellises. Climbs 18 to 20 ft. tall. 1 to 2 ft. tall as a groundcover.	
	Ceanothus groundcovers (*Ceanothus* spp.)	Blue flowers, low water, slow growing, native w/ many varieties; ask for local options.	
	Bee's Bliss sage (*Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss')	Attracts pollinators with purple flowers, excellent for slopes, fast-growing.	
	Taiwan raspberry (*Rubus pentalobus*)	Dense, mild autumn color, creeps over rocks, tough groundcover, slower growing.	

Looking for more California native plants? Visit a PlantRight Retail Nursery Partner for great, local planting ideas – view locations near you at PlantRight.org/nursery-partners. PlantRight encourages gardeners to see what native plants do great in your neighborhood at: calscape.cnps.org. Find your local California Native Plant Society Chapter at cnps.org.

Do Not Use

PlantRight has 'retired' the following invasive plants from this list as retailers have largely phased them out of California's nursery trade. These should not be used in gardens or landscaping. For information on these retirees, visit **www.PlantRight.org**.

- Capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*)
- Arundo, giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*)
- Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- Portuguese broom (*Cytisus striatus*)
- Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
- Blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*)
- French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)
- Crystalline iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*)
- Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*)
- Bridal veil broom (*Retama monosperma*)
- Scarlet wisteria (*Sesbania punicea*)
- Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*)
- Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*)
- Chinese tallow tree (*Triadica sebifera*)

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Have feedback? Contact us at info@plantright.org