




## COMMON INVASIVE SPECIES


### Danger! Red-listed


 Purple Loosestrife  
*Lythrum salicaria*


### Warning! A-listed


 Pampas grass  
*Cortaderia selloana*

 Scotch broom  
*Cytisus scoparius*

 French broom  
*Genista monspessulana*

 Himalayan Blackberry  
*Rubus discolor*

 Pennyroyal  
*Mentha pulegium*











 Cotoneaster  
*Cotoneaster pannosus*


### Caution! B-listed

 English ivy  
*Hedera helix*

 Periwinkle  
*Vinca major*

## NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

-  Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
-  Calif. strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)
-  Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*)
-  Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
-  Oaks of Sonoma County (valley, coast-live, black, garry, etc.)
-  California grape (*Vitis californica*)
-  Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)
-  Calif. blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*)
-  Wild rose (*Rosa californica*)
-  Gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*)

 Spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*)

## MORE INFORMATION

### The U.S. National Arboretum

[www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html](http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html)

### California Invasive Plant Council

[www.caleppc.org/](http://www.caleppc.org/)

Cal-IPC

1442-A Walnut St., #462

Berkeley, CA 94709

### US Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources

#### Conservation Service

[http://plants.usda.gov/cgi\\_bin/topics.cgi?earl=noxious.cgi](http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=noxious.cgi)

### Native Plant Society

[www.cnpsmb.org/](http://www.cnpsmb.org/)

CNPS Milo Baker Chapter

PO Box 892

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

### Union of Concerned Scientists

[www.ucsusa.org/global\\_environment/invasive\\_species/index.cfm](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_environment/invasive_species/index.cfm)

### Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/maia/html/intro-species.html](http://www.epa.gov/maia/html/intro-species.html)

### CalWEED Database

[www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weeded/education/GeneralInfo/caweedb.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weeded/education/GeneralInfo/caweedb.htm)

Department of Food & Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Room A-357

Sacramento, CA 95814

### Plant Conservation Alliance

[www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm)

### The Nature Conservancy

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

# INVASIVE SPECIES

Is your garden a threat to the environment?



French Broom



City of Santa Rosa  
Utilities Department

What is an invasive species?

Invasive species have the ability to thrive and spread aggressively outside of their natural range. Plants imported to new habitats have the ecological advantage of being introduced without their natural predators. The insects, diseases, parasites and foraging animals that prey on them are no longer present.

Why are they a problem?

There are almost 6000 plant species in California. Native species, occurring naturally without the influence of human activity, account for 75% and the introduced or exotic plants represent 25% or one out of four plant species.

Some exotics prove to be more invasive than others. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) keeps a list of dangerous plants and their relative severity. Red-listed species are the worst, and should be immediately reported to Cal-IPC, County Agricultural Commissioner or California Department of Food and Agriculture. A-listed and B-listed species are both serious threats, but are slightly easier to contain.



Pampas Grass



Periwinkle

Invasive plants are not all equally invasive. Some only colonize small areas and do not crowd out natives. Others may spread and dominate large areas in just a few years, putting extreme pressure on native plants and animals that depend on them. Species whose populations are already threatened may succumb to this pressure. Ultimately, invasive plants reduce biodiversity and may alter the physical environment by modifying nutrient cycling, lowering the groundwater table, and altering fire regimes among other impacts.

In some cases, invasive plants appear purely by accident, as seed in agricultural products, or on shipments from overseas. Most exotics (73%)

have arrived as a result of the nursery trade. Plants that are hardy, fast growing or drought tolerant are popular for gardens. Unfortunately, plants selected for their resilience may be invasive because of their adaptable nature.

## What can you do?

🌱 Learn to identify invasive species and do not plant them. Be aware when buying seeds for your garden, especially by internet or mail order—what is safe to plant in one area may be disastrous where you live.

🌱 Avoid planting “wildflower” seed mixtures, unless you can verify the safety of the source. These mixes often contain invasive species.

🌱 Don’t dump your aquarium water into local waters or dispose of unwanted plants and clippings in a nearby natural area. Invasive species can spread from plant fragments, berries, and seeds.

🌱 Learn to identify and remove invasive weeds from your yard to prevent their spread.

🌱 Landscape your garden with native plant species. Natives can provide advantages such as food, cover, or nesting sites for butterflies and birds. Native plants also require less water and fertilizer.

🌱 For an extended list of native alternatives for your garden, go to: <http://www.nccn.net/~cnps/design1deas.htm#sec1>

🌱 Call or visit your local nurseries, specializing in native plants.

🌱 Compiled by Denise Cadman, Natural Resource Specialist, and Nicolette Hayes, Intern, City of Santa Rosa. For more information or copies contact [dcadman@ci.santa-rosa.ca.us](mailto:dcadman@ci.santa-rosa.ca.us) (707) 543-3408