Invasive Plant Checklist for California Landscaping

2018.05.08

California's Model Water-Efficient Landscaping Ordinance and the CALGreen Building Standards strongly discourage the use of invasive plants in landscaping. This checklist is designed to serve as a reference to help landscape designers in California avoid the use of invasive plants. Three sources are referenced: the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), which regulates plants in the state; the PlantRight initiative, which brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including the nursery and landscaping industry, to prevent the use of invasive plants in horticulture; and the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), which assesses the environmental impact of invasive plants.

The California Dept. of Food & Agriculture has authority to designate noxious weeds in California. These plants are illegal. See www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/IPC. In general, CDFA is restricted from listing horticultural plants as noxious weeds.

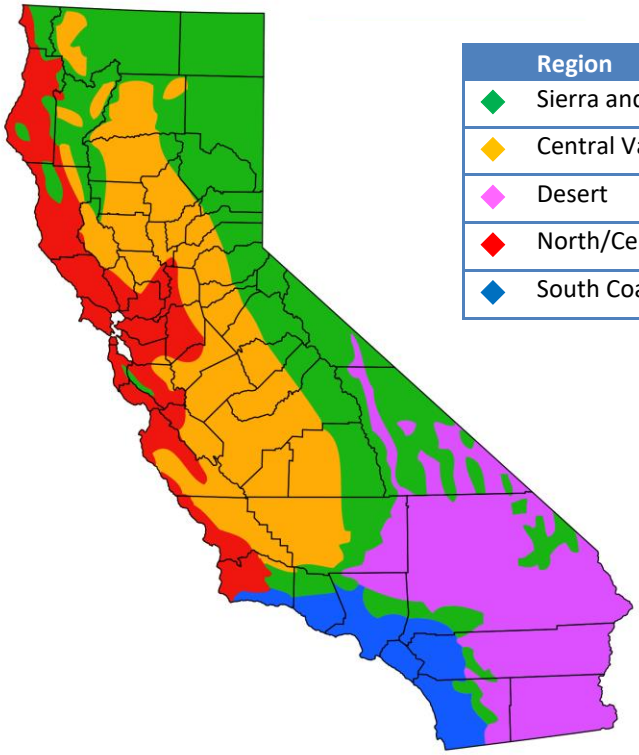
PlantRight is a collaborative, science-based, and voluntary program led by the nonprofit Sustainable Conservation, with a steering committee representing the green industry, agencies, universities and environmental groups. PlantRight's list is entirely voluntary. It includes plants from the Cal-IPC Inventory that all stakeholders agree should not be used in landscaping in regions where they cause environmental damage. See www.plantright.org.

The California Invasive Plant Council is a nonprofit organization that maintains a list of environmentally harmful plants based on a transparent science-based criteria system. Cal-IPC supports land managers working to stop the spread of invasive plants, but also supports landscape professionals in preventing horticultural introductions of invasive plants. Cal-IPC listing is for informational purposes and carries no any regulatory authority. See www.cal-ipc.org.

The following checklist includes all plants from each list that are known from horticulture. Plants from the CDFA Noxious Weed List are illegal and marked with a red **X**. Plants for which PlantRight has reached

consensus with all partners including the nursery industry are marked with a green **X**. All other species are only listed by Cal-IPC.

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



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

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.

Checklist of Invasive Plants

			Regions
Acacia dealbata	silver wattle		◆◆◆◆
Acacia melanoxylon	blackwood acacia		◆◆◆◆
Agrostis stolonifera[T]	creeping bentgrass[T]		◆◆◆◆◆
Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-heaven	X	
Arctotheca calendula	fertile capeweed	X	
Arctotheca prostrate	South African capeweed		◆◆◆
Arundo donax	giant reed	X	
Asparagus asparagoides	bridal creeper		◆◆◆
Asphodelus fistulosus	onionweed	X	
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian saltbush		◆◆◆
Briza maxima	big quakinggrass		◆◆◆◆
Carpobrotus chilensis	iceplant		◆◆
Carpobrotus edulis	highway iceplant	X	◆◆
Centaurea debeauxii	meadow knapweed	X	
Chrysanthemum coronarium	garland chrysanthemum		◆◆
Cordyline australis	giant draceaena		◆◆
Cortaderia jubata	jubatagrass	X	◆◆◆◆◆
Cortaderia selloana	pampasgrass	X	◆◆◆
Cotoneaster franchetii	cotoneaster		◆◆
Cotoneaster lacteus	Parney's cotoneaster		◆◆
Cotoneaster pannosa	silverleaf cotoneaster		◆◆◆◆
Cotula coronopifolia	common brassbuttons		◆◆◆◆
Crataegus monogyna	English hawthorn		◆◆◆
Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora	montbretia		◆
Cynara cardunculus	artichoke thistle	X	
Cynodon dactylon[T]	Bermuda grass[T]		◆◆◆◆◆
Cynoglossum officinale	beggar's-lice		◆
Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom	X	
Cytisus striatus	Portuguese broom		◆◆◆
Dactylis glomerata[F]	orchard grass[F]		◆◆◆◆◆
Delairea odorata	Cape-ivy	X	
Digitalis purpurea	foxglove		◆◆◆◆
Dipsacus fullonum	common teasel		◆◆◆◆
Echium candicans	pride-of-Madeira		◆◆◆
Egeria densa	Brazilian egeria		◆◆◆

X - illegal per CDFA regulation
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E – edible
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Eichhornia crassipes	water hyacinth	X		◆		◆	◆
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Erica lusitanica	Spanish heath					◆	
Erodium cicutarium	filaree		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	red gum		◆	◆		◆	◆
Eucalyptus globulus	Tasmanian bluegum					◆	◆
Euphorbia esula	leafy spurge	X					
Euphorbia oblongata	oblong spurge	X					
Festuca arundinacea[T]	alta fescue[T]		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Ficus carica[E]	edible fig[E]		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Foeniculum vulgare[E]	fennel[E]		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Gazania linearis	gazania					◆	◆
Genista monspessulana	French broom	X					
Hedera canariensis	Algerian ivy		◆	◆		◆	◆
Hedera helix	English ivy		◆	◆		◆	◆
Helichrysum petiolare	licorice plant					◆	◆
Hirschfeldia incana	Mediterranean mustard		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Holcus lanatus	common velvet grass		◆	◆		◆	◆
Hypericum canariense	Canary Island St.	X					
Hypericum perforatum	klamathweed	X					
Ilex aquifolium	English holly		◆			◆	
Iris pseudacorus	yellowflag iris	X		◆		◆	◆
Isatis tinctoria	dyer's woad	X					
Kochia scoparia[F]	kochia[F]		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Leucanthemum vulgare	ox-eye daisy		◆	◆		◆	◆
Linaria genistifolia ssp. Dalmatica	Dalmatian toadflax	X					
Linaria vulgaris	yellow toadflax		◆			◆	
Lobularia maritime	sweet alyssum		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Lolium multiflorum[F]	Italian ryegrass[F]		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Ludwigia hexapetala	creeping waterprimrose	X					
Ludwigia peploides	creeping waterprimrose		◆	◆		◆	◆
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	X					
Marrubium vulgare	horehound		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Mentha pulegium	pennyroyal		◆	◆		◆	◆
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum	crystalline iceplant					◆	◆
Myoporum laetum	ngaio tree					◆	◆
Myosotis latifolia	common forget-me-not		◆			◆	
Myriophyllum aquaticum	parrotfeather		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

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Olea europaea[E]	European olive[E]		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle	X						
Pennisetum setaceum	green fountain grass	X	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Phalaris aquatic	hardinggrass		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island date palm		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Phytolacca Americana	common pokeweed		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Plantago lanceolata	buckhorn plantain		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Poa pratensis[T]	Kentucky bluegrass[T]		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese knotweed	X						
Prunus cerasifera	cherry plum		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Pyracantha angustifolia, P. crenulata, P.	firethorn		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup		◆	◆		◆		
Retama monosperma	bridal veil broom	X						
Ricinus communis	castor bean		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan blackberry		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Rumex acetosella	sheep sorrel		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Saccharum ravennae	ravennagrass	X						
Salvia aethiopis	Mediterranean sage	X						
Saponaria officinalis	bouncing-bet		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper tree			◆	◆	◆	◆	
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian pepper tree			◆	◆	◆	◆	
Sesbania punicea	scarlet wisteria	X						
Silybum marianum	milk thistle		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom	X						
Stipa tenuissima	Mexican feathergrass	X	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Tamarix parviflora	smallflower tamarisk	X						
Tamarix aphylla	athel		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Tamarix ramosissima, T. gallica, T. chinensis	saltcedar	X						
Tanacetum vulgare	common tansy		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Triadica sebifera	Chinese tallow tree	X			◆			
Verbascum thapsus	wooly mullein		◆	◆		◆	◆	
Vinca major	bigleaf periwinkle	X	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm			◆		◆	◆	
Watsonia meriana	watsonia			◆				
Zantedeschia aethiopica	calla lily		◆			◆	◆	

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Record of Changes

2017.09.07 – Corrected *Cordyline australis* regions. Updated Cal-IPC description and logo.

2018 05.08 – Corrected *Crocosmia* regions.

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