

Most Invasive

The following species have been documented as aggressive invaders that may establish even from distant plantings to displace natives and disrupt natural habitats. Many have been designated as 'Most Invasive in Wildlands' by the California Invasive Plant Council. (Cal-IPC). These plants spread easily over long distances via wind, water, and/or wildlife. All plants categorized as 'Most Invasive' have been observed in multiple sites throughout the county. Using these plants in any landscape is strongly discouraged. Click on plant name to access information sheet.

Severe Ecological Impact

Highly invasive

Wide ecological distribution of each species

Botanical Name

Common Name

		LOCATION KNOWN TO INVADE							METHODS OF INVADING					
		Coastal Habitat	Coniferous Woodland	Oak Woodland	Chaparral	Riparian/Wetland	Grassland	Desert	Coastal Sage	Seed	Root Sprouts	Vegetatively	Wildlife	Water/Storm Drainage
<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Coastal Wattle, Cyclops Acacia	X			X	X			X	x				
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape Weed	X			X	X			X	X	X			X
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed, Arundo	X			X					X	X			X
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Florist's-smilax, Bridal creeper, Smilax	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X		
<i>Asphodelus fistulosa</i>	Hollow-stem Asphodel, Onionweed	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Australian Saltbush	X		X	X	X			X	X			X	
<i>Carpobrotus edulis, Carpobrotus chilensis</i>	Hottentot Fig, Sea Fig, Highway Iceplant	X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Garland or Crown Daisy	X			X	X			X	X				
<i>Cortaderia selloana, Cortaderia jubata</i>	Pampas Grass (C. selloana), Jubata Grass (C. jubata)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			
<i>Cytisus scoparius, Cytisus striatus</i>	Scotch Broom (C. scoparius), Portuguese Broom (C. striatus)	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	
<i>Delairea odorata (Senecio mikanioides)</i>	German Ivy, Cape Ivy				x	X				X	X	X	X	X
<i>Dimorphotheca sinuata</i>	Blue-Eye Cape Marigold, African Daisy, Cape Marigold				X	X	X	X	X	X			x	
<i>Ehrharta calycina, E. erecta, E. longiflora</i>	Purple Veldt Grass, Panic Veldt Grass, Long-Flowered Veldt Grass	X		X	X	X			X	X				
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Red Gum, River Red Gum				X				X					
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum				X				X					
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Sweet Fennel, Wild Fennel	X			X	X			X	X	X		X	
<i>Genista spp.(Genista monspessulana)</i>	Broom, French Broom, Genista			X	X	X			X	X	X		X	
<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Algerian Ivy			X	X				X	X	X		X	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	X			X	X			X				X	X
<i>Melinis repens, (Rhynchelytrum repens)</i>	Natal Grass, Natal Ruby Grass, Red Top	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
<i>Myoporum laetum (Myoporum perforatum)</i>	Ngaio, Myoporum, Mousehole Tree	X			X				X	X			X	
<i>Pennisetum ciliare (Cenchrus ciliare)</i>	Buffelgrass	X		X	X	X			X	X				
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum (Cenchrus clandestinum)</i>	Kikuyu Grass	X		X	X	X			X	X				
<i>Pennisetum setaceum (Cenchrus setaceum) and cultivars</i>	Fountain grass	X		X	X	X			X	X				
<i>Pennisetum villosum (Cenchrus villosus)</i>	African Feathertop	X		X	X	X			X	X				
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Date Palm				X				X				X	X
<i>Retama monosperma</i>	Bridal Veil Broom, Broom				X				X	X				
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Bean	X			X				X					
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian Pepper Tree	X			X				X	X		X	X	X
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom			X	X	X			X	X			X	X
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	Tamarisk, Salt-cedar				X			X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden Nasturtium	X			X				X				X	X
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican Fan Palm				X				X				X	X

