

Invasive Plant Checklist for California Landscaping

2017.09.07

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.

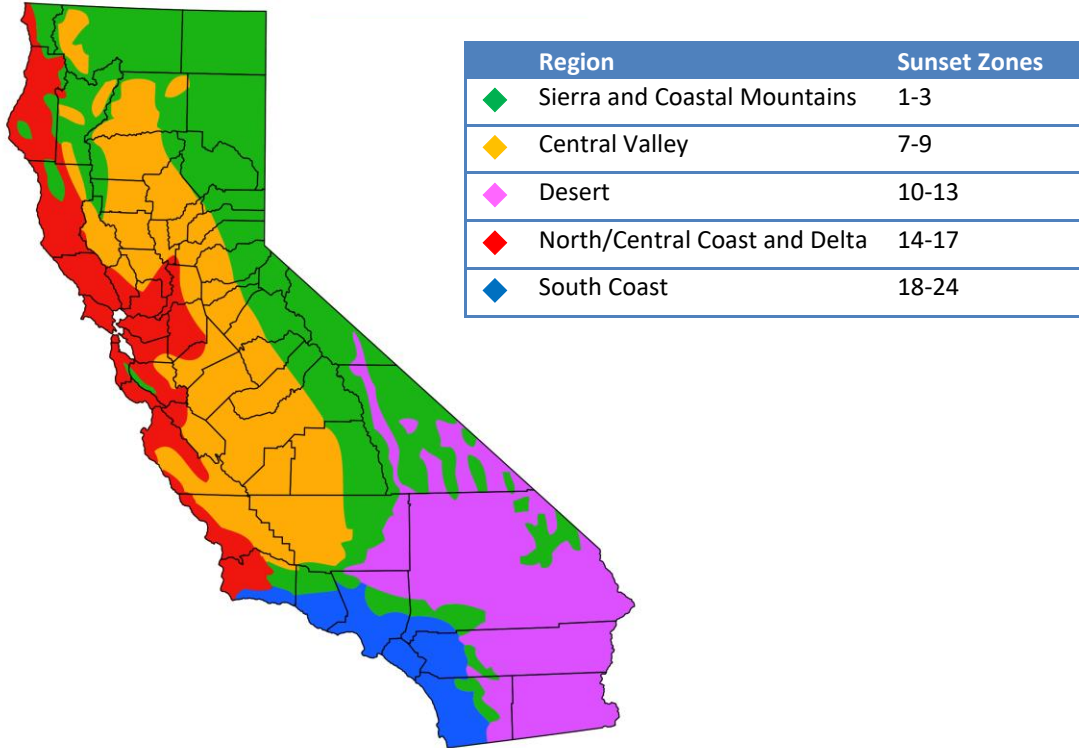


The California Invasive Plant Council is a nonprofit organization that maintains a list of environmentally harmful plants based on a transparent science-based criteria system. Cal-IPC supports land managers working to stop the spread of invasive plants, but also supports landscape professionals in preventing 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](#)).



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

X - illegal per CDFA regulation

X - on PlantRight's voluntary list

E – edible

F – forage

T – turfgrass

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

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

X - illegal per CDFA regulation

X - on PlantRight's voluntary list

E – edible

F – forage

T – turfgrass

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

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

X - illegal per CDFA regulation

X - on PlantRight's voluntary list

E – edible

F – forage

T – turfgrass

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

Record of Changes

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

X - illegal per CDFA regulation
X - on PlantRight's voluntary list

E – edible
F – forage
T – turfgrass

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

Prepared by California Invasive Plant Council, www.cal-ipc.org