

Los Angeles Regional Invasive Plant Guide

Most Invasive

Severe Ecological Impact
Highly Invasive
Widely Distributed

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 documented as invasive in multiple sites in Southern California. Using these plants in any landscape is strongly discouraged.

ECOSYSTEM KNOWN TO INVADE

METHOD OF INVASION

Botanical Name	Common Name	Coastal Habitat	Coniferous Woodland	Oak Woodland	Chaparral	Riparian/Wetland	Grassland	Desert	Coastal Sage	Seed	Root Sprouts	Vegetatively	Wildlife	Water/Storm Drainage
Acacia cyclops	Coastal Wattle, Cyclops Acacia	X			X	X			X	X				
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Arctotheca calendula (seeding or fertile varieties)	Cape Weed	X				X	X			X	X			X
Arundo donax (A. donax 'variegata')	Giant Reed, Arundo	X				X					X	X		X
Asparagus asparagoides	Florist's-smilax, Bridal Creeper, Smilax	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X	
Asphodelus fistulosus	Hollow-stem Asphodel, Onionweed	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian Saltbush	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			X	
Carpobrotus edulis, Carpobrotus chilensis	Hottentot Fig, Highway Iceplant, Sea Fig	X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Chrysanthemum coronarium	Garland or Crown Daisy	X				X	X		X	X				
Cortaderia selloana, Cortaderia jubata	Pampas Grass, Jubata Grass	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Cynara cardunculus	Artichoke Thistle	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			X	
Cytisus scoparius, Cytisus striatus	Scotch Broom (C. scoparius), Portuguese Broom (C. striatus)	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Delairea odorata (Senecio mikanoides)	German Ivy, Cape Ivy	X		X		X				X	X	X		X
Ehrharta calycina, E. erecta, E. longiflora	Purple Veldt Grass, Panic Veldt Grass,	X		X	X	X	X		X	X				
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Red Gum, River Red Gum					X				X				
Eucalyptus globulus	Blue Gum					X				X				
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel, Sweet Fennel, Wild Fennel	X				X	X		X	X			X	
Genista canariensis, G. linifolia, monspessulana	Broom, French Broom, Genista			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
Hedera canariensis	Algerian Ivy, Canary Ivy			X		X				X	X		X	
Iris pseudacorus	Pale Yellow Iris	X				X				X	X	X		X
Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife	X				X	X			X			X	X
Myoporum laetum (Myoporum perforatum)	Ngao, Myoporum, Mousehole Tree	X				X			X	X			X	
Pennisetum clandestinum (Cenchrus clandestinum)	Kikuyu Grass	X			X	X	X		X	X				
Pennisetum setaceum (Cenchrus setaceum)	Fountain Grass	X			X	X	X		X	X				
Retama monosperma	Bridal Veil Broom, Broom				X	X	X		X	X				
Ricinus communis	Castor Bean	X				X				X				
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian Pepper Tree	X			X					X	X		X	X
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom			X	X	X			X	X			X	X
Tamarix spp.	Tamarisk, Salt-cedar					X		X		X	X	X		X
Tropaeolum majus	Garden Nasturtium	X				X				X			X	X
Vinca major	Greater Periwinkle, Periwinkle, Big-leaf Periwinkle			X		X					X	X		X
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican Fan Palm					X				X			X	X

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Moderately Invasive

Substantial Ecological Impact
Moderately Invasive
Moderate Distribution

The following species have been documented in southern California as moderately invasive. All plants categorized as 'moderately invasive' in Southern California are documented in at least one site in Southern California and are typically localized invasions and which are known to have escaped from ornamental plantings. These plants are less likely than those categorized as 'most invasive' to spread great distances. They are generally more localized problems, spreading into adjacent open space. Before selecting or installing plants from this category, use the guide to investigate whether the plants may be potentially invasive in a particular location and site. Planting any invasive species immediately adjacent to open space is always discouraged

		ECOSYSTEM KNOWN TO INVADE							METHOD OF INVASION					
		Coastal Habitat	Coniferous Woodland	Oak Woodland	Chaparral	Riparian/Wetland	Grassland	Desert	Coastal Sage	Seed	Root Sprouts	Vegetatively	Wildlife	Water/Storm Drainage
Botanical Name	Common Name													
Acacia baileyana	Bailey Acacia, Cootamundra Wattle					X				X			X	
Acacia longifolia	Golden Wattle	X				X			X	X			X	
Aptenia cordifolia	Red Apple, Baby Sunrose	X				X						X		
Arctotheca calendula (sterile varieties)	Cape Weed	X				X	X			X	X	X		X
Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Carrot Wood					X				X				
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda Grass	X				X	X			X		X		X
Cyperus involucratus (C.alternifolius)	African Umbrella Plant					X				X				
Dimorphotheca sinuata	Blue-Eye Cape Marigold, African Daisy				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Echium candicans (E. fastuosum)	Pride of Madeira	X				X			X	X				
Ficus carica	Edible Fig		X	X		X				X	X	X	X	X
Fraxinus uhdei	Evergreen Ash, Shamel Ash, Mexican Ash			X		X				X				
Gazania linearis (Gazania longiscapa)	Gazania, Gazania Daisy, Colorado Gold	X			X	X			X	X				
Hedera helix	English Ivy	X	X		X					X	X	X	X	
Ligustrum lucidum	Glossy Privet	X	X		X					X	X		X	X
Limonium perezii	Perez's Marsh-Rosemary, Sea Lavender	X			X				X	X				
Limonium sinuatum	Notch-Leaf Marsh-Rosemary, Statice	X				X			X	X				
Lobularia maritima	Sweet Allyssum	X			X	X			X	X				
Lonicera japonica	Japanese Honeysuckle and all its varieties					X				X	X	X	X	
Malephora crocea	Red-flowered Iceplant, Croceum Iceplant	X		X	X				X	X		X		X
Mentha spicata	Pennyroyal, Spearmint					X				X	X	X	X	
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum, M. nodiflorum	Crystalline Ice Plant, Slender-Leaf Iceplant	X			X	X	X		X	X			X	X
Olea europaea (fruiting varieties)	Olive Tree					X				X			X	
Osteospermum fruticosum (Dimorphotheca fruticosa)	Trailing African Daisy, Freeway Daisy	X				X				X		X		X
Parkinsonia aculeata	Mexican Palo Verde, Jerusalem Thorn							X		X				
Passiflora caerulea	Blue Crown Passion Flower	X				X				X			X	
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island Date Palm					X				X			X	X
Pistacia atlantica	Mount Atlas Pistache					X		X		X				
Pittosporum undulatum	Victorian Box			X		X				X			X	
Platanus xacerifolia	London Plane Tree	X				X				X				
Prunus lyonii (Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii)	Catalina Cherry	X				X				X			X	
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust					X				X	X			
Schinus molle	Peruvian Pepper Tree, California Pepper			X		X			X	X			X	
Senna didymobotrya (Cassia didymobotrya)	Popcorn Senna, Popcorn Cassia, African Senna	X		X	X	X			X	X				
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm Tree	X		X		X				X	X			X
Ulmus pumila	Siberian Elm Tree	X		X		X				X	X			X
Verbascum blattaria	Moth Mullein	X		X						X		X	X	X

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Potentially Invasive

The following species are believed to be potentially invasive in southern California for various reasons. Refer to the data sheet for the plant for specific information about where and why these plants could be a potential problem.

Botanical Name	Common Name
Acacia cultriformis	Knife-leaf Wattle
Acacia dealbata	Silver Wattle
Acacia mearnsii	Black Wattle
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood Acacia, Black Acacia
Acacia redolens	Desert Carpet
Albizia lophantha	Plume Acacia
Asparagus densiflorus	Asparagus Fern, Meyers Asparagus
Asparagus setaceus (A. plumosus)	Asparagus Fern
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush
Catalpa bignonioides	Common Catalpa, Indian Bean
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian, Jupiter's Beard, SMM
Chasmanthe floribunda	African Cornflag, Chasmanthe
Cistus creticus	Purple Rock-Rose
Cistus ladanifer	Gum Rockrose
Cotoneaster pannosa	Silver-leaf Cotoneaster, Cotoneaster
Crassula ovata (C. argentea)	Jade Plant
Drosanthemum floribundum	Rosea Iceplant
Drosanthemum hispidum	Rosea Iceplant
Ipomoea purpurea	Common Morning-Glory
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Raintree
Lantana camara	Lantana
Linaria maroccana	Moroccan Toadflax
Melinus repens. (Rhynchelytrum repens.)	Natal Grass, Natal Ruby Grass, Red Top
Mirabilis jalapa	Four O'Clock, Marvel of Peru
Nassella tenuissima	Mexican Feather Grass
Nerium oleander	Oleander
Oenothera speciosa	Pink Evening Primrose
Opuntia ficus-indica	Mission Prickly-pear, Indian Fig, Tuna Cactus
Pelargonium x hortorum	Common Geranium, Garden Geranium
Pennisetum villosum (Cenchrus villosum)	African Feathertop
Phoenix dactylifera	Date Palm
Zantedeschia aethiopica (Calla aethiopica)	Calla-lily



A Project of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council