

PLANTS

A resilient landscape is fire-wise, water wise and promotes biodiversity by using California native plants. These gardens use sustainable practices, plant selection, and maintenance to reduce the risk of fire in the defensible space zone. Resilient gardens save water, protect us from fire and promote biodiversity.

PLANT SELECTION	WATER & IRRIGATION	NATIVE PLANTS & COMMUNITIES	INVASIVE SPECIES	IMPORTANCE OF OAK WOODLAND	P MANA
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Invasive Species

Fire and Invasive Plants

Invasive plants such as English ivy, French broom, and Acacia, are non-native species that cause ecological or economic harm, and are one of the great threats to the health of California’s Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas. In



natural plant communities, the presence of invasive plants can increase the risk of wildfire. For example, invasive shrubs like broom (French broom, *Genista monspessulana* and Scotch broom, *Cytisus scoparius*) produce a great deal of fine-textured biomass that burns readily and may provide a “ladder fuel” leading fire up into the canopies of trees. Common annual non-native grasses are dry by summertime and create very easily ignited, “flashy” fuels.

Invasive plants and wildland health

Most plants don’t escape our yards and gardens, but the handful that do can cause serious problems. Animals, wind, and water move plants and seeds far from where

they were planted. Once established in natural areas, these plants displace native vegetation and greatly reduce wildlife diversity. Invasive plants also fuel wildfires, contribute to soil erosion, clog streams and rivers, and increase flooding. Because they thrive in disturbed soils, improper clearance or over-clearance often lead to a landscape dominated by invasive plants. These plants can produce more fuels than native vegetation, increasing the potential for ignition.

How to recognize invasive species?

When choosing plants for your fire-safe landscape, you can help protect the health of neighboring wildlands by avoiding invasive species. You can find a full list of invasive species developed by the [California Invasive Plant Council](#). Remember when buying plants to make sure to check the scientific name so that you are getting the species you want! Common invasive plants in Northern

California landscapes and wildlands include English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Algerian ivy (*Hedera canariensis*), Vinca/periwinkle (*Vinca major*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*), pride-of-madeira (*Echium candicans*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) and Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*).



Resources

Cal-IPC – [California Invasive Plant Council](#)

PlantRight – [How to Plant Right](#)

Cal-IPC (2018) – [Invasive Plant Checklist for California Landscaping](#)

We appreciate the contributors to this section:

[California Flora Nursery](#)

[alscape.org](#)

ources:

[C Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County, California Natives](#)
[arin Chapter, California Native Plant Society Plant Replacement List](#)
[alifornia Flora Nursery.](#)

[alscape](#) a native plant database from the California Native Plant Society



Sonoma Ecology Center works to address challenges related to water supply and quality, open space, rural character, biodiversity, energy, climate change, and a better quality of life for all residents.

<https://sonomaecologycenter.org/>



The UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County has been extending educational outreach and providing technical assistance to home gardeners since 1981.

<https://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/>



The mission of the Habitat Corridor Project is to create and promote California native plant restoration gardens in the urban environment.

<http://habitatcorridorproject.org/>



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