Marin Municipal Water District

Invasive Plant List

May 2010

Invasive plants can come from many pathways, intentional and unintentional, but they cost California at least $82 million each year (www.cal-ipc.org/ip/research/pdf/Cost_ of_Invasive_Weeds_in_California.pdf). MMWD spends approximately $500,000 each year on fuel reduction and invasive plant control; over half of that is spent on broom control in fuelbreaks, because broom plants grow faster than native vegetation and require an increased mowing frequency.

By not planting weedy species, you can help preserve biodiversity on Mt. Tamalpais as well as prevent a pest from taking over your yard. The PlantRight campaign (www.plantright.org) contains additional information and suggested alternatives for landscaping plants shown to be invasive. The plants listed on the following pages are invasive in California (www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php) and most should not be planted. Please check the species you might be thinking of planting against these lists, broken out by plant type.

think blue. go green.

MARIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT

marinwater.org

Trees and Shrubs

Many of these plants spread by birds eating the berries and dropping seeds in wildlands, or vegetatively through underground roots. Additional alternatives can be found at www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/plantpage.php?region=state&type=Trees and www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/plantpage.php?region=bayarea&type=Shrubs.

Not allowed by MMWD, as well as discouraged by Marin County:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acacia dealbata	silver wattle
Acacia melanoxylon	black acacia, blackwood acacia
Cotoneaster franchetii	orange cotoneaster
Cotoneaster lacteus	Parney's cotoneaster
Cotoneaster pannosus	silverleaf cotoneaster
Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom
Cytisus striatus	Portuguese broom
Eucalyptus globulus	Tasmanian blue gum
Retama monosperma	bridal broom
Sapium sebiferum	Chinese tallowtree
Sesbania punicea	red sesbania, scarlet wisteria
Ulex europaeus	gorse

These are also **not allowed** by MMWD, but due to their popularity we have provided alternatives:

Don't plant		Preferred alternatives	
Buddleja davidii	butterflybush	*Syringa* sp.	lilac
		Ceanothus sp.*	California lilac
Olea europaea	fruiting olive	*Olea europaea*	sterile olive varieties
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian-olive	*Leucadendron argenteum*	silver tree
		Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. *asplenifolius*	Catalina ironwood
		Metrosideros excelsa	New Zealand Christmas tree

*Ceanothus interbreed readily, so if you live within the wildland-urban interface (WUI—see map: http://gisprod1.co.marin.ca.us/UrbanWildlandInterface/viewer.htm) please don't plant.

These are potentially invasive elsewhere in California, but **allowed** by MMWD:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Gleditsia triacanthos	honey locust
Nerium oleander	oleander
Pistachia chinensis	Chinese pistache

These are **NOT allowed** by MMWD, but are less often planted:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Albizia lophantha	plume acacia
Berberis darwinii	Darwin barberry
Cestrum parqui	willow jessamine
Cordyline australis	giant dracaena, New Zealand cabbage tree
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn
Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterey cypress
Echium candicans	pride-of-Madeira
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian-olive
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	red gum
Ficus carica	edible fig
Fraxinus uhdei	evergreen ash, shamel ash, tropical ash
Hypericum canariense	Canary Island hypericum
Ilex aquifolium	English holly
Leptospermum laevigatum	Australian tea tree
Ligustrum lucidum	glossy privet
Maytenus boaria	mayten
Myoporum laetum	myoporum
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco
Parkinsonia aculeata	Mexican Palo Verde
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island date palm
Pinus radiata cultivars	Monterey pine
Pittosporum undulatum	Victorian box
Prunus cerasifera	cherry plum
Pyracantha angustifolia, P. crenulata, P. coccinea	pyracantha, firethorn
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust
Schinus molle	Peruvian peppertree
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian peppertree
Tamarix aphylla	athel tamarisk
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm

Groundcovers and Turfgrasses

Because of their ability to quickly spread vegetatively, many groundcovers and turfgrasses can also be invasive. Fortunately, you can prevent their spread by disposing of clippings appropriately, and NEVER dumping them on or near wildlands!

Suggested alternatives for these groundcovers can be found at www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/plantpage.php?region=bayarea&type=Ground%20covers.

Groundcovers **not allowed** by MMWD (*also discouraged by Marin County):

Scientific Name	Common Name
Arctotheca calendula (sterile)*	sterile capeweed
Asparagus asparagoides	bridal creeper
Carpobrotus chilensis	sea-fig, iceplant
Carpobrotus edulis*	Hottentot-fig, iceplant
Conicosia pugioniformis	narrowleaf iceplant
Dimorphotheca sinuata	African daisy
Hedera helix*, H. canariensis*	English ivy, Algerian ivy
Malephora crocea	coppery mesembryanthemum
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*	crystalline iceplant
Tropaeolum majus	garden nasturtium
Vicia villosa	hairy vetch
Vinca major*	big periwinkle

Turfgrasses **not allowed**:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Agrostis avenacea	Pacific bentgrass
Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bentgrass
Anthoxanthum odoratum	sweet vernalgrass
Cynodon dactylon	bermudagrass
Dactylis glomerata	orchardgrass
Ehrharta erecta	erect veldtgrass
Ehrharta longiflora	long-flowered veldtgrass
Lolium multiflorum	Italian ryegrass
Phalaris aquatica	hardinggrass

Large (Specimen or Bunching) Grasses

Grasses **not allowed** by MMWD (*also discouraged by Marin County):

Scientific Name	Common Name
*Arundo donax**	giant reed
Cortaderia jubata	jubatagrass
Cortaderia selloana	pampasgrass
Ehrharta calycina	purple veldtgrass
Nasella (Stipa) tenuissima	feather needlegrass
Pennisetum setaceum	crimson fountaingrass
Pennisetum villosum	feathertop
Saccharum ravennae	ravennagrass
Stipa capensis	Mediterranean steppegrass, twisted-awned speargrass

Acceptable alternatives include orange New Zealand sedge (*Carex testacea*), New Zealand flax (*Phormium*), pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), and clumping bamboo (*Fargesia*). More alternatives can be found at www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/plantpage.php?region=bayarea&type=Ornamental%20grasses.

Herbs

Two of the plants on the "not allowed" list below are or have been particularly popular in landscaping: Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) and sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*). Suggested alternative white-flowered low-growing plants include white false petunia (*Calibrachoa* 'White'), snow in summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*), chamomile sunray (*Helipterum* sp.), verbena (*Verbena* 'Babylon White'), and star balsam (*Zaluzianskya ovata*).

Herbs **not allowed** by MMWD:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Ageratina adenophora	croftonweed, eupatorium
Allium triquetrum	three-cornered leek
Anthemis cotula	mayweed chamomile, dog fennel
Bellardia trixago	bellardia
Bellis perennis	English daisy
Brassica rapa	birdsrape mustard, field mustard
Chrysanthemum coronarium	crown daisy
Cistus ladanifer	gum rockrose
Cotula coronopifolia	brassbuttons
Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora	montbretia
Cynara cardunculus	artichoke thistle
Cynoglossum officinale	houndstongue
Daucus carota	wild carrot, Queen Anne's lace

Scientific Name	Common Name
Digitalis purpurea	foxglove
Erigeron karvinskianus	Mexican daisy
Euphorbia lathyris	caper spurge
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel
Geranium retrorsum	New Zealand geranium
Geranium robertianum	herb-robert, Robert geranium
Helichrysum petiolare	licoriceplant
Leucanthemum vulgare	ox-eye daisy
Linaria vulgaris	yellow toadflax, butter and eggs
Lobularia maritima	sweet alyssum
Lupinus arboreus	yellow bush lupine
Marrubium vulgare	white horehound
Mentha pulegium	pennyroyal
Myosotis latifolia	common forget-me-not
Phytolacca americana	common pokeweed
Raphanus sativus	radish
Saponaria officinalis	bouncingbet
Tragopogon dubius	yellow salsify
Trifolium hirtum	rose clover
Verbena bonariensis, Verbena litoralis	tall vervain, seashore vervain
Watsonia meriana	bulbil watsonia
Zantedeschia aethiopica	calla lily

Aquatics

Water gardening can provide many benefits if done responsibly. The following aquatic plants (freshwater, saltwater, underwater, or emergent) are **not allowed** by MMWD:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Alternanthera philoxeroides	alligator weed
Egeria densa	Brazilian egeria
Eichhornia crassipes	water hyacinth
Iris pseudacorus	yellowflag iris
Ludwigia hexapetala	Uruguay water-primrose
Ludwigia peploides ssp. *montevidensis*	creeping water-primrose
Myriophyllum aquaticum	parrotfeather
Myriophyllum spicatum	Eurasian watermilfoil
Nymphaea odorata	fragrant waterlily

Scientific Name	Common Name
Potamogeton crispus	curlyleaf pondweed
Salvinia molesta	giant salvinia
Spartina alterniflora (and *S. alterniflora* x *foliosa hybrids*)	smooth cordgrass and hybrids, Atlantic cordgrass
Spartina anglica	common cordgrass
Spartina densiflora	dense-flowered cordgrass
Spartina patens	saltmeadow cord grass
Undaria pinnatifida	wakame

Also Prohibited

The following plants are also prohibited, but almost never planted. They include listed noxious weeds, widespread weeds, and species with no ornamental value.

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acacia paradoxa	kangaroothorn
Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Aegilops triuncialis	barb goatgrass
Aeschynomene rudis	rough jointvetch
Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-heaven
Aira caryophyllea	silver hairgrass
Aira praecox	European hairgrass
Alhagi maurorum	camelthorn
Ammophila arenaria	European beachgrass
Arctotheca calendula (fertile)	fertile capeweed
Asphodelus fistulosus	onionweed
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian saltbush
Avena barbata	slender wild oat
Avena fatua	wild oat
Bassia hyssopifolia	fivehook bassia
Brachypodium distachyon	annual false-brome, false brome, purple false brome, stiff brome
Brachypodium sylvaticum	perennial false-brome
Brassica nigra	black mustard
Brassica tournefortii	Saharan mustard, African mustard
Briza maxima	big quackingrass, rattlesnakegrass
Bromus diandrus	ripgut brome
Bromus hordeaceus	soft brome
Bromus japonicus	Japanese brome, Japanese chess

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens*	red brome
Bromus tectorum	downy brome, cheatgrass
Cakile maritima	European sea-rocket
Cardaria chalepensis	lens-podded white-top
Cardaria draba	hoary cress
Cardaria pubescens	hairy whitetop
Carduus acanthoides	plumeless thistle
Carduus nutans	musk thistle
Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian thistle
Carduus tenuiflorus	slenderflower thistle
Carthamus lanatus	woolly distaff thistle
Centaurea calcitrapa	purple starthistle
Centaurea debeauxii	meadow knapweed
Centaurea diffusa	diffuse knapweed
Centaurea maculosa	spotted knapweed
Centaurea melitensis	Malta starthistle, tocalote
Centaurea solstitialis	yellow starthistle
Centaurea virgata ssp. *squarrosa*	squarrose knapweed
Chondrilla juncea	rush skeletonweed
Chorispora tenella	blue mustard
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Cirsium vulgare	bull thistle
Conium maculatum	poison-hemlock
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed
Crupina vulgaris	common crupina, bearded creeper
Cynosurus echinatus	hedgehog dogtailgrass
Delairea odorata	Cape-ivy, German-ivy
Descurainia sophia	flixweed, tansy mustard
Dipsacus fullonum	common teasel
Dipsacus sativus	fuller's teasel
Dittrichia graveolens	stinkwort
Emex spinosa	spiny emex, devil's-thorn
Erechtites glomerata, E. minima	Australian fireweed, Australian burnweed
Erodium botrys	broadleaf filaree
Erodium brachycarpum	short-fruited filaree
Erodium cicutarium	redstem filaree
Erodium moschatum	whitestem filaree

Scientific Name	Common Name
Euphorbia esula	leafy spurge
Euphorbia oblongata	oblong spurge
Euphorbia terracina	carnation spurge
Fumaria officinalis	fumitory
Genista monspessulana	French broom
Geranium dissectum	cutleaf geranium
Geranium molle	dovefoot geranium
Glyceria declinata	waxy mannagrass
Halogeton glomeratus	halogeton
Hirschfeldia incana	shortpod mustard, summer mustard
Holcus lanatus	common velvet grass
Hordeum marinum, H. murinum	Mediterranean barley, hare barley
Hydrilla verticillata	hydrilla
Hypericum perforatum	common St. John's wort, klamathweed
Hypochaeris glabra	smooth catsear
Hypochaeris radicata	rough catsear, hairy dandelion
Isatis tinctoria	dyer's woad
Kochia scoparia	kochia
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce
Lepidium latifolium	perennial pepperweed, tall whitetop
Linaria genistifolia ssp. *dalmatica*	Dalmation toadflax
Lotus corniculatus	birdsfoot trefoil
Lythrum hyssopifolium	hyssop loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Medicago polymorpha	California burclover
Melilotus officinalis	yellow sweetclover
Nothoscordum gracile	false garlic
Ononis alopecuroides	foxtail restharrow
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Oxalis corniculata	creeping woodsorrel
Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda buttercup, buttercup oxalis, yellow oxalis
Parentucellia viscosa	yellow glandweed, sticky parentucellia
Pennisetum clandestinum	kikuyugrass
Phragmites australis	common reed
Picris echioides	bristly oxtongue
Piptatherum miliaceum	smilograss
Plantago coronopus	cutleaf plantain

Scientific Name	Common Name
Plantago lanceolata	buckhorn plantain, English plantain
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese knotweed
Polygonum sachalinense	Sakhalin knotweed
Polypogon monspeliensis and subspp.	rabbitfoot polypogon, annual beardgrass
Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup
Ricinus communis	castorbean
Rubus armeniacus	Himalaya blackberry
Rumex acetosella	red sorrel, sheep sorrel
Rumex crispus	curly dock
Salsola paulsenii	barbwire Russian-thistle
Salsola soda	oppositeleaf Russian thistle
Salsola tragus	Russian-thistle
Salvia aethiopis	Mediterranean sage
Schismus arabicus, Schismus barbatus	mediterraneangrass
Senecio jacobaea	tansy ragwort
Silybum marianum	blessed milkthistle
Sinapis arvensis	wild mustard, charlock
Sisymbrium irio	London rocket
Solanum elaeagnifolium	silverleaf nightshade
Sonchus asper	spiny sowthistle
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom
Taeniatherum caput-medusae	medusahead
Tamarix parviflora	smallflower tamarisk
Tamarix ramosissima	saltcedar, tamarisk
Tanacetum vulgare	common tansy
Taraxacum officinale	common dandelion
Torilis arvensis	hedgeparsley
Verbascum thapsus	common mullein, woolly mullein
Vulpia bromoides	squirreltail fescue
Vulpia myuros	rattail fescue