How You Can Help:
This brochure presents alternatives to ornamental pond plants that cause problems in California waterways. If the suggested plants may not be exact substitutes for the invasive species, we have tried to list plants that will fulfill water gardeners’ needs. Choose your local aquatic garden special to determine which plants are best for your setting. It is vital to follow safe gardening practices:

- Build your water garden away from natural waterways.
- Place non-invasive alternatives.
- Plant non-invasive alternatives.
- Dispose of unwanted pond plants by composting or placing in plastic bags in a trash container.
- Place plants in containers to reduce the likelihood that they will spread.
- Do not plant plants that will fulfill water gardeners’ needs.
- Do not buy ornamental pond plants that cause problems in California waterways.
- Don’t dump plants in local storm drains.
- Do not purchase something that is restricted. This is especially important when shopping on the internet.
- Dispose of unwanted pond plants by composting or placing in plastic bags in a trash container. (See the websites on the back panel of this brochure.)

Symbols Used:
• Full sun
• Part sun
• Full shade
• California native

A Note for Aquarium Owners:
Some of the invasive plants listed here are also sold for aquariums. They can cause environmental problems when aquatic water is not disposed of properly. While the alternatives we list are designed for freshwater aquatic gardens, similar suggestions for saltwater enthusiasts can be found at habitatnext.org.

Try These Instead

Cape pondweed (Egeria densa)

Category: Submergent
Crisp white flowers with a vanilla scent on submerged aquatic plants. Filtered cool water. Fry anemone to a small plant.

Yellow pondlily (Nuphar polysepalum)

Category: Floating or rooted emergent

A native plant with a dramatic flower. Good addition to a plant in dampers. Tolerate a cooler water but take more care. Some prefer low light. Water fertilized to give support.

Redtailed waterlily (Zantedeschia aethiopica)

Category: Floating or rooted emergent

A striking red and white flower can be found at habitatnext.org.

Try These Instead

Brazilian waterweed, fanTAIL (Eichhornia crassipes)

Category: Submergent

An undesirable weed that has spread throughout the world. Cannot be replaced with anything else.

Submerged

Brazilian waterhyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes)

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Thank you to the following:

For more information:
- California Invasive Plant Council: www.cal-ipc.org
- The Nature Conservancy’s wildland weeds information: habitatattitude.net
- California Dept. of Boating & Waterways, Aquatic Pest Control: www.ridnis.ucdavis.edu
- The California Invasive Plant Council is a nonprofit organization working to protect California’s wildlands from invasive plants through research, restoration, and education.
- Funding for this brochure provided by the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Integrated Pest Control by the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Integrated Pest Management Program.