**Sierra Foothills Region**

**Leymus condensatus**
Giant wild rye

Also try: *Melica californica*
California wild rye

**Creeping sage – native**

*Vitis californica*
California wild grape – native

**Dwarf coyote bush**

*Phlomis dorrii*

Some of these plants show weeds weekly in the garden. For example, English and Korean ivy can take over a yard and damage the building and house. When birds drop seeds from these vines near a stream the plant can grow and damage the drainage system. Scotch broom is an invasive species that can easily become a fire hazard.

Invasive plants are, by nature, a regional or local problem. A plant that jumps out of the garden in one climate and habitat type may behave perfectly in another. The problem plants listed here have escaped from gardens throughout the Sierra foothills region. For additional plants and lists of invasive plants in other regions of the state, see the California Invasive Plant Council website at www.cal-ipc.org.

**How to use this brochure:**
This brochure features the most common invasive non-native pest plants that are sold in nurseries or “shared” by unknowing gardeners. It is not comprehensive of all problematic species. It includes plants commonly identified by aquarium and landscapers. These plants are not healthy additions to your garden.

**Ground Covers**

**DO NOT PLANT! INVASIVE**

**Potentilla**

This aggressive grower has no natural controls. It grows quite rapidly and will spread throughout the entire landscape. It will spread rapidly in shady drainages and areas with available native plant communities and invading unmanaged fields and fence rows.

**English ivy, Algerian ivy**

**Full sun**

**Part shade**

**Full shade**

**Medium water**

**California native

Think about why you might plant one of the problem plants in the first place. It is for appearance. Finding a replacement is often easy. Some of the alternatives listed here are selected especially for their similar appearance.

If the need is for a functional, evergreen ground cover, consider a noninvasive species such as a succulent or a broad-leaved evergreen plant that fills the niche, or the alternatives listed here are not invasive. While both native and non-native plants have been recommended as alternatives in this brochure, many of these alternatives are readily available, others may be easy to find in specialty nurseries.

It is important to pay attention to plant names when looking for non-invasive varieties to plant the ground cover. Many of our recommended plants may have invasive relatives – even in the same genus.

Many of the characteristics that make a plant a good ornamental in the garden may also make it a successful invader.

**Garden Perennials**

**Sturdy, unfussy**

**Invasive Perennials**

**Late blooming**

**Easy early blooming**

**Early blooming**

**Late blooming**

**Post blooming**

**Fine line professional**

**Oriental grasses and screens**

**DON'T PLANT! INVASIVE**

**Red eucalyptus**

**English ivy, Algerian ivy**

**Crimson fountain grass**

**English ivy, Algerian ivy**

**Pampas grass, jubatagrass**

**Bambusoideae**

**California focus**

**Rice grass**

**Bermuda**

**DON'T PLANT! INVASIVE**

**Crimson fountain grass**

**Pampas grass, jubatagrass**

**Bambusoideae**

**California focus**

**Rice grass**

**Bermuda**

**DON'T PLANT! INVASIVE**

**Crimson fountain grass**

**Pampas grass, jubatagrass**

**Bambusoideae**

**California focus**

**Rice grass**

**Bermuda**

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**SHRUBS**

*Eriobotrya* (Loquat) prefers well-drained, moist soil in full sun or partial shade. It tolerates a variety of soil conditions, but prefers alkaline soils. Propagation is usually by seed or cuttings. The fruit is edible and can be used in cooking.

*Zelkova serrata* (Sawleaf zelkova) is a deciduous tree that grows in wet areas. It is a fast-growing, hardy tree that provides valuable shade. Propagation is usually by seed or root cuttings. The tree is deciduous, shedding its leaves in the fall.

*Juglans californica* (California black walnut) is a large, shade-tolerant tree. It is an important native species, providing food and habitat for wildlife. Propagation is usually by seed. The tree produces nuts that are edible, but the roots can release tannins that can damage vegetables and other plants.

*Alnus rhombifolia* (California red alder) is a common shrub in wetlands. It is an important species for riparian areas. Propagation is usually by seed or cuttings. The tree produces nuts that are edible, but the roots can release tannins that can damage vegetables and other plants.

**TRY PLANTING THESE INSTEAD**

*Forsythia* (Forsythia species)

*Potentilla* (Potentilla species)

*Linaria genistifolia* (Dalmatian toadflax)

*Toyon* (Heteromeles arbutifolia)

*Sorbus scopulina* (Greene’s mountain ash)

*European white birch* (Betula pendula) is a fast-growing, hardy tree that provides valuable shade. Propagation is usually by seed or cuttings. The tree produces catkins in the spring.

**TREES**

*Chinese tallowtree* (Sapium sebiferum) is a fast-growing, hardy tree that provides valuable shade. Propagation is usually by seed or cuttings. The tree produces bright red fruits that are attractive to birds.

*Tree-of-heaven* (Ailanthus altissima) is a fast-growing, hardy tree that provides valuable shade. Propagation is usually by seed or cuttings. The tree produces bright red fruits that are attractive to birds.

**TRY PLANTING THESE INSTEAD**

*Tree of heaven* (Ailanthus altissima) is a fast-growing, hardy tree that provides valuable shade. Propagation is usually by seed or cuttings. The tree produces bright red fruits that are attractive to birds.

**DO NOT PLANT! INVASIVE!**

*Rubus armeniacus* (Himalaya blackberry) is an aggressive invader throughout California. Uses excessive amounts of water, adds salt to the soil, changes watercourses, diminishes rivers and native plant habitat. Originally introduced as an aquatic ornamental. Note: Plants commonly known as “Sweet broom” (*Spartium junceum*), *Tree-of-heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*), *Chinese tallowtree* (*Sapium sebiferum*), *Tree of heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*), *Tree of heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*) and *Sorbus scopulina* (Greene’s mountain ash) are all invasive. Do not plant! All have been used as a decrative but growing the plant is not the way.

*Sorbus scopulina* (Greene’s mountain ash) is an invasive species. Note: Plants commonly known as “Sweet broom” (*Spartium junceum*), *Tree-of-heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*), *Chinese tallowtree* (*Sapium sebiferum*), *Tree of heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*), *Tree of heaven* (*Ailanthus altissima*) and *Sorbus scopulina* (Greene’s mountain ash) are all invasive. Do not plant! All have been used as a decrative but growing the plant is not the way.