

NWF Phoenix Do-not-Buy/ Do-not-Plant List

Phoenix Non-Native Plant to Avoid		Notes	Plant Instead	
Common Name	Latin Name		Common Name	Latin Name
Grasses				
Buffelgrass, Fountain Grass	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> (<i>Pennisetum ciliare</i>), <i>Cenchrus setaceus</i> (<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>)	Arizona Noxious Weed (both), re-establish quickly after burning, spread along roadways and rangelands, seeds of buffelgrass are produced quickly on new plants and in great quantity, spread readily	Blue Grama, Alkali Sacaton, Side-Oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> , <i>Sporobolus airoides</i> , <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Giant Cane	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Arizona Noxious Weed , disturbs desert grasslands and shrub ecosystems, competes for limited water resources, increases fire risk	Deergrass, Ocotillo Cactus	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> , <i>Fouquieria splendens</i>
Golden Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> <i>Bambusa sp.</i>	available for sale online and in garden centers, quickly spreads by underground rhizomes and escapes cultivation	Deergrass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>
Weeping Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	originally planted for erosion control and ornamental use, it spreads along roadsides and other disturbed areas	Purple Three Awn, Side-Oats Grama	<i>Aristida purpurea</i> , <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Vines				
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	This vine can kill trees that it climbs and smother vegetation along the ground. It also hosts Bacterial Leaf Scorch, a disease problematic to some native trees and shrubs.	Western White Clematis	<i>Clematis ligusticifolia</i>
Shrubs				
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	This deciduous shrub easily invades riparian areas and areas that have been disturbed. Although it provides nectar, it is not a source of food for butterflies and moths, so wildlife is impacted when it is planted instead of or when it displaces native host plants.	Desert Lavender False Indigo-Bush	<i>Condea emoryi</i> (<i>Hyptis emoryi</i>) <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana sp.</i> , <i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	spread widely by birds, inhabits a wide range of habitats, toxic to livestock, pets, and people	Brittlebush, Santa Catalina prairie clover	<i>Encelia farinosa</i> , <i>Dalea pulchra</i>

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References:

Arizona Department of Agriculture [Noxious Weeds](#)

[Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States](#)

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension [Non-Native, Invasive Plants of Arizona](#)

University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health [EDDMapS](#)

USDA National Invasive Species Information Center [Terrestrial Plants](#)

Verdin_RVi Plant List

[Federal Noxious Weed List](#)

(In addition to the plants listed above, species listed as noxious weeds may not be planted in Arizona under any circumstances.)