

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>	This popular garden plant has escaped freely and become a noxious weed in areas without frost. It has invaded a variety of habitats and can form dense thickets that outcompete native vegetation. It can tolerate all sorts of conditions and is spread by birds who have	Brittlebush, Santa Catalina prairie clover	<i>Encelia farinosa</i> , <i>Dalea pulchra</i>

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		eaten the seeds. Its hybridization with native lantana species has reduced their natural populations. This plant is also problematic due to its toxic properties affecting children, livestock, and domestic animals. All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. Handling the plant may cause skin irritation or allergic reaction.		
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Although attractive, all parts of this plant are highly toxic and can be fatal to humans, pets, and birds if ingested. Contact with the skin causes dermatitis. Oleander attracts pollinators with its flowers and scent, however offers no nectar reward, which wastes the pollinators' energy. Seeds of this plant are spread by wind, making it easy to spread to natural areas.	Hopseed Bush Beloperone/ Hummingbird Bush Wood's Rose	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> <i>Justicia californica</i> <i>Rosa woodsii</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Arizona Noxious Weed , displaces native species, tolerant of a wide range of stressors including salt, drought, and shade, seeds are widely dispersed by wildlife	Alderleaf Mountain Mahogany, Smokethorn	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> , <i>Psoralea argophylla</i>
Trees				
African Sumac	<i>Rhus lancea (Searsia lancea)</i>	widely used in landscaping, invasive tendencies, establishes easily from seed	Desert Ironwood, Blue Paloverde	<i>Olneya tesota</i> , <i>Parkinsonia florida</i>
Mesquite	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	has shown itself to be highly invasive in other countries with similar ecosystem types	Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Arizona Noxious Weed , can resprout and quickly form a thicket taking over an area, produces large numbers of seeds, produces toxins that can kill other plants, roots can damage building and water infrastructure	Eastern Cottonwood, Bigtooth/ Canyon Maple	<i>Populus deltoides</i> , <i>Acer grandidentatum</i>

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→ on Noxious Weed List (regulated)

denotes plants that have been specified on landscape plans (or planted) for Taylor Morrison

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.)