



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON

Emerald Chapter

Dedicated to the enjoyment, conservation and study of Oregon's native plants and habitats.

Exotic Gardening and Landscaping Plants Invasive in Native Habitats of the Southern Willamette Valley

**Emerald Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon
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ABOUT EXOTIC INVASIVES

Invasion by exotic species is second only to direct habitat loss in reducing and eliminating native biodiversity. Not only do exotic invasives occupy space needed by native plants, but when native plant species are locally replaced by exotics, the native invertebrates, fungi or other species that specifically may depend on them also may disappear. This disappearance is termed "extirpation," and it can further impact species "higher" on the food chain. "Alien, introduced and non-native" all are considered synonyms of "exotic" within this document.

Many of the invasives in our area are intentional introductions brought in for landscaping or other uses. These species escape from cultivation and may become dominant, causing immense damage to natural biotic communities. As a result, they are a contributing cause of many local extinctions of native plants and the animals (both vertebrates and invertebrates) that are dependent on them. Invasive species also are a contributing factor in native species listings under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. Additionally, many choke waterways, degrade recreational and agricultural areas, lower land values, and some are poisonous to people and/or livestock.

Typically, a small subset of exotic species is considered to be invasive, and although some of them are widely known to be already, others may be so in the future. Predicting future invasiveness is often not possible; especially considering invasiveness of any species may change over time. Useful clues as to whether or not a plant species may become invasive here include whether it is a known invasive elsewhere (particularly in similar



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