

INVASIVE PLANTS



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS Combating Invasive Plants

The next time you're out enjoying nature in one of California's state parks, take a look around. It might not seem like it, but there could be plants near you that don't belong. These intruders may seem harmless or even pretty, but for your park's health, they're likely the most destructive thing you'll encounter during your visit.

A Silent Threat

Harmful non-native plants can wreak havoc on ecosystems by upsetting the delicate balance between native vegetation and animals.

Invasive plants can:

- ⚠ Outcompete and crowd out native plants by monopolizing space, water, sunlight and soil nutrients
- ⚠ Increase the frequency and intensity of wildfires
- ⚠ Grow so rapidly they take over trails and waterways



Invasive plants threaten California's extraordinary biodiversity. Our state is home to 2,100 plants and 40 animals that are endemic, occurring naturally nowhere else on earth.

Promoting Healthy Ecosystems

In carrying out its mission to preserve the state's natural lands, State Parks works diligently to manage invasive plants using an integrated approach by carefully considering a variety of treatment options, including:

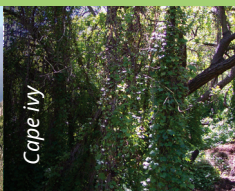
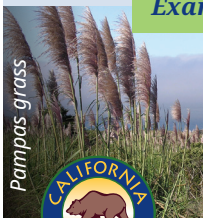


- **Early Detection:** Preventing new infestations through diligent surveying, mapping and rapid treatment
- **Manual and Mechanical Clearing:** Removing invasive plants by hand or with tools
- **Prescribed Fire:** Using controlled burns where appropriate and applying post-fire treatments to minimize threats
- **Targeted Herbicide:** Applying limited herbicide when other methods are not effective, feasible or would result in greater potential impacts. State Parks uses herbicides judiciously, tailoring applications to site-specific conditions in strict compliance with all state standards.

How You Can Help

- ✓ **Clean Your Gear Before You're Here:** Thoroughly clean your boots, clothes and equipment to avoid bringing outside plants or seeds to the park.
- ✓ **Plant Native Species at Home:** Landscaping with native plants helps protect local biodiversity. Visit [Calscape.org](https://www.calscape.org) to find species native to your area.
- ✓ **Volunteer:** Join local invasive plant removal events in state parks and other wild lands.

Examples of Invasive Plants



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