

# Don't Plant a Pest!

**Give them an inch and they'll take an acre...**



Dalmatian toadflax, an invasive ornamental plant, has already escaped in many basin neighborhoods, pushing out native plants and ruining habitat. Learn which invasive plants to avoid or remove from your landscape and alternative plants to replace them!



## Gardening green

The Lake Tahoe Basin offers a unique and challenging gardening environment. Despite the late spring, short growing season, and lack of precipitation throughout the summer, a variety of native and adapted plants, including ornamental plants from around the world, can thrive in Tahoe gardens.

Sometimes we find that seemingly perfect plants refuse to stay where they are planted, and begin to invade adjacent areas. When a garden plant escapes into a natural habitat, it can quickly crowd out fragile native plants and harm beneficial species that rely on them.

These 'escapees', also called invasive plants, can become damaging wildland weeds that threaten Lake Tahoe's natural environment and biodiversity. In California alone, it is estimated that more than half the plants invading wildlands were originally introduced for landscaping purposes.

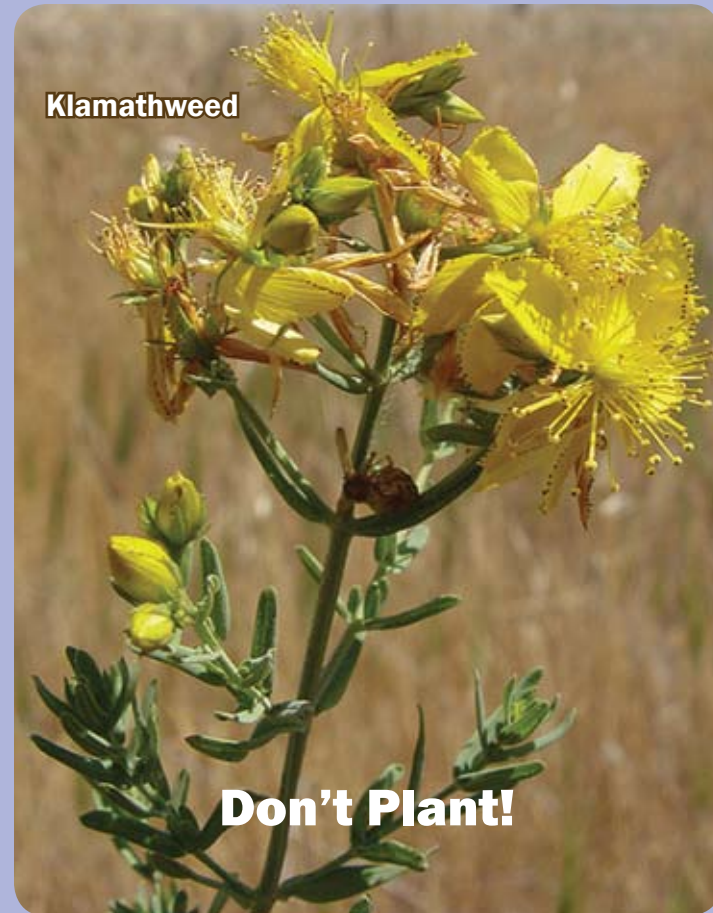
*By choosing suitable replacements for a few problem plants, we can save ourselves trouble and expense in our gardens while helping to protect Lake Tahoe's natural environment.*

Garden escapees may have desirable characteristics in a garden setting, but outside the garden, these plants displace wildlife and plant communities, alter natural processes, and raise fire danger.

Gardeners don't plant invasive species intentionally. In fact, most garden plants behave perfectly well in their intended roles. By observing the specific garden conditions on your property, you can choose native and adapted plants that thrive in those conditions without becoming invasive. This brochure will help you choose wisely.

**Many of the characteristics that make a plant a good choice for the garden may also make it a successful invader:**

Garden Plants	Invasive Plants
Easy to propagate	Grows in many different sites
Establish rapidly	Colonizer
Mature early	Mature early
Abundant flowers	Produce prolific seeds
Pest / disease tolerant	Few natural predators



## How to use this brochure

This brochure suggests safe alternatives for invasive ornamental plants. Check out these alternatives or ask your local nursery for other non-invasive plants. Think about why you might grow one of the problem plants in the first place. Is it just for the way it looks, how long it blooms, or how easy it is to maintain? If so, finding a replacement is often easy! Or, maybe you need a plant to fill a functional role, such as a groundcover that grows well in a shady place or for erosion control on sites that are in full sun. The alternatives listed here thrive in the same environment as the problem plants while offering added benefits, including lower water consumption, reduced fertilizer use, and better wildlife habitat. Many of these alternatives are readily available, though others may be easiest to find in specialty or native plant nurseries.

You may consider removing invasive ornamentals that are already growing on your property. It is also very important NOT to pick and bring home plants for your garden that you find while hiking in natural areas. Don't share plants with other gardeners when you are unsure of their possible invasive qualities.

**Both native and non-native plants have been recommended as alternatives in this brochure.**

Care has been taken to ensure that none of the recommended non-natives is an invasive weed in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Pay close attention to plant scientific names, since a few of our recommended plants may have invasive relatives – and even occur in the same genus.



### Plant Key

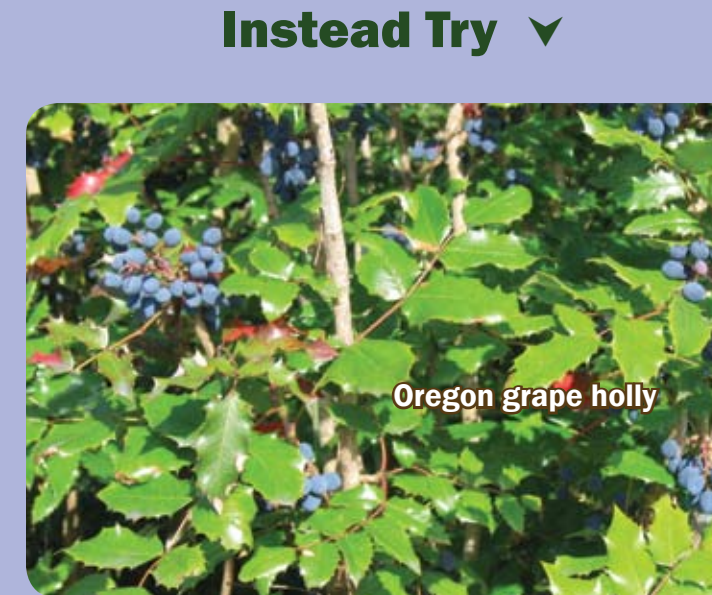
- A** Annual
- B** Biennial
- P** Perennial
- Full Sun
- Partial Shade
- Full Shade
- Drought Tolerant
- Low Water Requirement
- Moderate Water Requirement
- High Water Requirement
- TRPA Recommended Plant List
- California Invasive Plant Council Weed List
- California Noxious Weed List
- Nevada Noxious Weed List
- Lake Tahoe Basin Native

## Don't Plant



**Brooms: Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*), **Spanish broom** (*Spartium junceum*), **French broom** (*Genista monspessulana*)

These 3 brooms have a similar appearance with numerous yellow, pea-like flowers that develop into seed pods. They are woody shrubs that can grow up to 10 feet tall. Monopolizing acres at a time, the brushy material creates a serious fire hazard.



## Instead Try

**Potentilla** (*Potentilla fruticosa*)

Small, yellow buttercup-like flowers bloom in June and continue to brighten your garden until the first frost in the fall. This hardy, low-maintenance, deciduous shrub is an excellent addition to a butterfly garden.

**Harrison's yellow rose** (*Rosa harisonii*)

A fragrant, semi-double yellow rose that blooms profusely in the spring. It is robust and disease-resistant, with rich, green fern-like foliage that forms a hedge.

**Oregon grape holly** (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

This tall, erect shrub has striking yellow flower clusters that are followed by blue berries. Holly-like leaves adorn this broad-leaf evergreen.



To report invasive weeds, visit the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group's website:

[www.tahoeinvasiveweeds.org](http://www.tahoeinvasiveweeds.org)

## Don't Plant a Pest!

### Lake Tahoe Basin Version Produced by:

Tahoe Resource Conservation District  
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group  
University of California Cooperative Extension

### Funding provided by:

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Tahoe Resource Conservation District

### For more information about invasive plants, call:

El Dorado County, Agricultural Commissioner  
(530) 621- 5520  
Douglas County, Douglas County Weed District  
(775) 782-9835  
Nevada County, Agricultural Commissioner  
(530) 273-2648  
Placer County, Agricultural Commissioner  
(530) 889-7372  
Washoe County, UNR Cooperative Extension  
(775) 784-4848

### Or visit:

Tahoe Invasive Weeds  
[www.tahoeinvasiveweeds.org](http://www.tahoeinvasiveweeds.org)  
California Invasive Plant Council  
[www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
[www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov)  
National Invasive Species Council  
[www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov)

### For more information about California native plants, visit:

California Native Plant Society  
[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

## Don't Plant ▼



**Toadflaxes: Dalmatian toadflax** (*Linaria genistifolia* ssp. *dalmatica*) or **Yellow toadflax** (*Linaria vulgaris*)

CA NV

Both species have erect and branched stems bearing yellow flowers that resemble snapdragons. Yellow toadflax is also called 'butter and eggs', and is typically shorter than Dalmatian toadflax. Their highly aggressive root systems spread rapidly into natural forest areas and meadows.

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## Instead Try ▼

**Snapdragon** (*Antirrhinum majus*)

B ☀️ 🌙 💧

Soft green foliage supports spikes of radiant, tubular flowers. They are ideal for cut flowers and butterfly gardens.

**Goldenrod** (*Solidago canadensis* or *S. californica*)

P ☀️ 💧 🌿

This late-blooming perennial is an important source of nectar for honeybees. Plants grow in tight colonies and flowers produce a golden glow in the fall.

**Common yellow monkey flower** (*Mimulus guttatus*)

A P 🌙 💧 🌿 🌿

The intense yellow flowers have reddish spots in the throat. They are found in wet areas, enabling them to bloom from May through September.

Yellow snapdragon



## Don't Plant ▼



**Oxeye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

©

This invasive white daisy is becoming an increasing problem in the West. It spreads readily from gardens to meadows and other open, sunny areas. It is often found in wildflower seed mixes.

## Instead Try ➤

**Shasta daisy** (*Chrysanthemum maximum x superbum*; *Leucanthemum x superbum*)

P ☀️ 💧 💧 🌿

Perky flowers bloom profusely from mid-summer through fall. This hardy perennial requires very little attention and attracts birds and butterflies.

## Instead Try ▼

**Susanna Mitchell** (*Anthemis tinctoria*)

P ☀️ 💧

These flowers brighten any garden with a non-stop display all summer long. The fern-like, silvery green leaves are fragrant when crushed.

**Michaelmas daisy** (*Aster novi-belgii*)

P ☀️ 🌙 💧

One of many cultivars, the 'White Climax' variety has large, brilliant flowers that provide nectar in the fall. The dark green foliage can grow 2 feet tall and has contrasting wine-colored veins.



## Don't Plant ▼



**Klamathweed** (*Hypericum perforatum*)

CA NV

Also known as St. Johnswort, this perennial grows erect to 3 feet tall and is topped with bright yellow flowers. It survives year-round due to a vigorous root system that directly competes with native vegetation. It is toxic to horses and livestock.

## Instead Try ▼



## Instead Try ▼

**Sulfur buckwheat** (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)

P ☀️ 💧 🌿 🌿

A mass of yellow flowers bloom in early summer and the foliage remains green through winter. This drought-tolerant, low-maintenance shrub prefers poor soil.

**Gold coin dwarf** (*Achillea filipendulina*)

P ☀️ 💧

Accompanied by fragrant leaves, this yarrow has long-blooming mustard-yellow flowers. It is tolerant of hot, dry conditions and is considered a good choice for beginning gardeners.

**Moonshine yarrow** (*Achillea x moonshine*)

P ☀️ 🌙 💧

This semi-evergreen shrub has long been a favorite among gardeners. Rounded heads of tiny, lemon-yellow flowers and bright silver foliage light up the garden.

