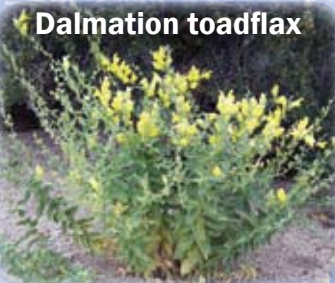


Don't Plant a Pest!

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



Dalmation toadflax



Scotch Broom



Oxeye Daisy

These problem plants are **invasive!**

The problem plants listed in this brochure have escaped from garden and landscape settings in the Tahoe Basin, and are threatening neighboring wildlands.

Gardening green

The Lake Tahoe Basin offers a unique and challenging gardening environment. Some plants that grow well in other areas may require extra water, fertilizers, and soil amendments when growing at Tahoe. However, there are many native and adapted plants that create wonderful displays of color and texture. Despite the late spring, short growing season, and lack of precipitation throughout the summer, a variety of native and adapted plants, including ornamentals from around the world, can thrive in Tahoe gardens.

In searching for ideal ornamental plants, 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

- 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 IPC Weed List
- ⒸⒶ California Noxious Weed List
- ⓃⓋ Nevada Noxious Weed List
- ⓁⓉ Lake Tahoe Basin Native

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 affecting 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 and help protect Lake Tahoe's natural environment at the same time

Garden escapees like Klamathweed (a.k.a. St. Johnswort) and Scotch broom may have desirable characteristics in a garden setting, but outside the garden, these plants displace native wildlife and plant communities, alter natural processes, and create fire danger. Gardeners don't plant invasive species intentionally. In fact, most garden plants behave perfectly well in their intended roles. It is important to learn about the specific garden conditions on your property and 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

- Easy to propagate
- Establish rapidly
- Mature early
- Abundant flowers
- Pest / disease tolerant

Invasive Plants

- Broad germination
- Colonizer
- Mature early
- Produce prolific seeds
- Few natural predators

How to use this brochure

This brochure suggests safe alternatives for invasive ornamental plants. When you are buying new plants, consider whether the plant you pick may be invasive in your area. Check out these alternatives, or ask your local nursery for other non-invasive plants.

Think about why you might plant 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! Some of the alternatives listed here are selected specifically for their similar appearance and ease of care. 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 wildlife habitat. Many of these alternatives are readily available, though others may be easiest to find in specialty or native plant nurseries.



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 wildlife habitat.



You may consider removing invasive ornamentals

You may decide to remove invasive ornamentals that are already growing on your property, especially if your land is adjacent to a natural or open space area.

Some of the species listed (either their seeds or plant parts) have been brought home, not from the nursery, but from nearby wildlands where they have invaded. It is very important NOT to pick and bring home plants for your garden that you find while hiking in natural areas. For example, Dalmatian toadflax has a very pretty flower but once it becomes established, it will be very difficult to remove and will quickly move into areas outside the garden.

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 currently an invasive weed in the Lake Tahoe Basin. However, plants can adapt over time, and there is no guarantee that some of these plants will not become pests in your yard in the future.

If you notice one of these alternative ornamentals invading natural areas...

Notify the California Invasive Plant Council:

www.cal-ipc.org

Pay close attention to plant scientific names, since a few of our recommended plants may have invasive relatives — some even occur in the same genus.

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.



Some of the alternatives listed here are selected specifically for their similar appearance and ease of care.



Instead Try

Potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*)

P ☀ ☾ Ⓣ

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*)

P ☀ ☾ Ⓣ

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*)

P ☾ Ⓣ

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



Potentilla

Don't Plant a Pest!

Lake Tahoe Basin Version Produced by:

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

This edition of the "Don't Plant a Pest" brochure was adapted from the original version developed by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)

Funding provided by:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Tahoe Resource Conservation District

To report 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

For more information on invasive and native plants, call:

Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group
Sue Donaldson, Chair (775) 784-4848

Tahoe Resource Conservation District
Invasive Weed Program (530) 543-1501

Also visit:

California Invasive Plant Council
www.cal-ipc.org

The Nature Conservancy
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

California Department of Food and Agriculture
www.cdffa.ca.gov

National Invasive Species Council
www.invasivespecies.gov

Annuals & Perennials ☞ Lake Tahoe = Zone 6

Don't Plant ▼



Dalmatian toadflax

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.

.....
Dalmatian toadflax, an invasive ornamental plant, has already escaped in many basin neighborhoods, pushing out native plants and ruining habitat.
.....

Annuals & Perennials ☞ Lake Tahoe = Zone 6

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 naturally found in wet areas, enabling them to bloom from May through September.



yellow snapdragon

Annuals & Perennials ☞ Lake Tahoe = Zone 6

Don't Plant ▼



Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

C

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.

Annuals & Perennials ☞ Lake Tahoe = Zone 6

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.



Shasta daisy

Annuals & Perennials ☞ Lake Tahoe = Zone 6

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.

Annuals & Perennials ☞ Lake Tahoe = Zone 6

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.



Moonshine yarrow