

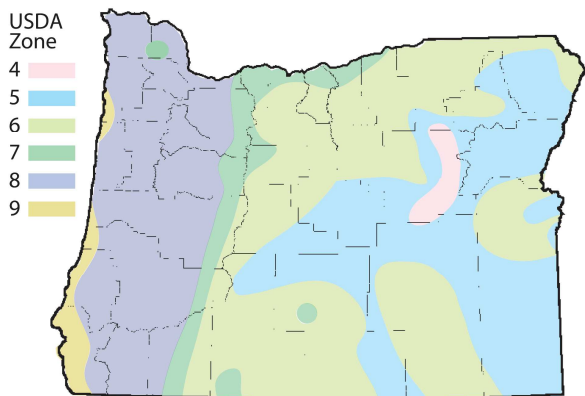
Invasive Plants of Eastern Oregon

and Alternative Natives and Ornamentals

Mary K. Corp, and Chris Luttrell

When deciding upon which plants will be used in your garden or landscaping project it's important to avoid selecting species that are considered invasive. These plants tend to establish themselves and spread in a very aggressive manner. If gone unchecked these invasive plant species can threaten the populations of native species. Avoiding invasive plants is a major component in the creation of a sustainable landscape that not only protects the local native species, but also address reducing the use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

This publication provides several examples of invasive plants for our area, specifically for zones 5 and 6 of the United States Department of Agriculture's "hardiness zones" chart. The zones in this chart are based on average minimum temperature. Lower numbered zones are cooler, and therefore plants native to that area can survive the colder winters.



Map of Oregon's USDA Hardiness Zones

Along with these invasives several native plants and non-native ornamentals are suggested as alternative choices to use for your landscaping project.

For example, The Summer lilac is an invasive plant



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that can invade local riverbanks and pastures by being propagated by broken stems and wind blown seeds.

Summer Lilac

Instead, one could choose to plant the Blue Elderberry, which is native to our area. A non-native ornamental such as the Meyer lilac would also be a suitable alternative.



Ruth Whittaker

Blue Elderberry



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Meyer Lilac

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INVASIVE PLANTS:

Butterfly bush, Summer lilac

(Buddleja davidii, B. variabilis)

Identification: Shrubs up to ten feet tall. White, pink, or purple tubular flowers. Velvety, lance-shaped, grayish-green leaves.

Habitats Invaded: Riverbanks, cut-over forest lands, pastures, and open waste areas.

Additional Information: Spread by broken stems and seeds dispersed by wind and water.



Summer Lilac

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Alternatives

Natives: Blue blossom
Mountain mahogany
Mock Orange
Blue Elderberry

Ornamentals: Eastern ninebank
Beautyberry
Koreanspice viburnum
Weigela varieties
Meyer lilac



Blue Elderberry

Ruth Whittaker



Meyer Lilac

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**INVASIVE PLANTS: Himalayan blackberry,
Armenian blackberry**

(Rubus armeniacus, R. discolor, R. procerus)

Identification: Dense thickets, Cane-like branches, hooked prickles, white-pink flowers, black edible berries.

Habitats Invaded: Moist forests, riverbanks, near ponds, wetlands and drainage ditches. Also common along roadsides, range and pastures.

Additional Information: Spread by seeds, roots sprouts, and cane tips.

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Himalayan Blackberry

Alternatives

Natives:

- Salmonberry
- Thimbleberry
- Thin-leaf huckleberry
- Snowberry
- Indian plum

Ornamentals:

- Marionberry
- Red Raspberry
- Black Raspberry
- Rocky Mt. Thimbleberry

© Mary Corp



Snowberry

© Oregon Department of Agriculture



Marionberry

**INVASIVE PLANTS: Knotweeds, Fleece flower,
Mexican bamboo**

*(polygonum cuspidatum, P. sachalinense,
P. polystachyum ,syn. Fallopia japonica
and reynoutria japonica)*

Identification: White to cream colored flowers, purple speckled hollow stems up to 10 feet tall, reddish-brown papery sheath at stem joints.

Habitats Invaded: Riverbanks, wet seeps and open disturbed sites.

Additional Information: Spread by broken stem fragments distributed by flowing water. Dense stands can de-grade streamside habitats, and restrict public access for recreation and fishing.

© Jan Samanek, State Phytosanitary
Administration, Bugwood.org



Fleece Flower

Alternatives

Natives:

Red osier dogwood
Native willows
Ninebark
Oceanspray
Goat's beard

Ornamentals:

Virginia sweetspire
dappled willow
clumping bamboo
Tatarian dogwood

©Ruth Whittaker



Red Osier Dogwood

© Pat Breen—Oregon State University



Virginia Sweetspire

INVASIVE PLANT: Russian Olive, Oleaster

Elaeagnus angustifolia

Identification: Large shrub or small tree with 2-3 inch thorns, long narrow leaves with tiny scales, small yellow flowers

Habitats Invaded: Riverbanks, stream banks, and seasonally moist places.

Additional Information: Tolerant of soil salinity and alkalinity. Seeds are dispersed by bird and small animal droppings.



© Oregon State University

Russian Olive

Alternatives

Natives:

Blue elderberry
Scouler's buffaloberry
Narrowleaf willow

Ornamentals

Common hackberry
Corneliancherry dogwood
silverberry
Thorny elaeagnus



© Sheri Hagwood -
Bureau of Land Management

Narrowleaf Willow



© Sally and Andy Wasowski, ODA

Silverberry

INVASIVE PLANT: Saltcedar, Tamarisk

Tamarix ramosissima

Identification: Large shrub or small tree with small leaves often with salt glands or crystals, reddish-brown smooth bark, white or pink feathery flowers.

Habitats Invaded: Moist seeps, riverbanks, stream banks, ponds, ditches and canals.

Additional Information: Spread by broken roots and windblown seeds. Plants exude salts onto soil surface inhibiting the germination of other plants.



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Saltcedar

Alternatives

Natives: Blue elderberry
Native Roses
Birchleaf Spirea
Ponderosa pine
Narrowleaf willow

Ornamentals: Chinese fringe flower
Escallonia
Chinese fringetree

© Oregon State University
Dept. of Horticulture



Birchleaf Spirea

© Samuel B. Jones, Jr. i



Black Elderberry

INVASIVE PLANTS: Bachelor's button and Knapweeds

Centaurea cyanus, *C. pratensis*

Identification: Bachelor's button - Annual up to 3 ft tall with white, blue, or purple flowers. Bighead knapweed - 5 ft tall perennial with large basal leaves and yellow flowers.

Habitats Invaded: Grasslands, roadsides, reforestation sites.

Additional Information: Seeds spread by grazing animals, shoes or clothing, and vehicles and road equipment. Bachelor's buttons may included in certain wildflower seed mixes.



© SUNY Cobleskill

Bachelor's Button

Alternatives

Natives: Common camas



© United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Common Camas

Ornamentals: Purple coneflower



© Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Purple Coneflower

INVASIVE PLANTS: Hawkweeds:

Hieracium floribundum, H. aurantiacum

Identification: 2 ft tall perennials, basal rosette of hairy leaves, dandelion-like petals of yellow, or orange.

Habitats invaded: Grasslands, pastures, rangelands, and disturbed ground.

Additional Information: can spread from stolons, seeds have small barbs.

© Michael Shepherd—USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Hawkweed

Alternatives

Natives:

Oregon Sunshine
Arrowleaf balsamroot

Ornamentals:

tickseed
Black-eyed susan

Mt. Atlas daisy
Common sneezeweed
Yellow oxeye daisy

© Ruth Whittaker



Oregon Sunshine

© Mary Corp



Black-eyed Susan

INVASIVE PLANTS: Myrtle spurge and Leafy spurge

Euphorbia myrsinites, E. esula

Identification: 3 ft tall perennial with blue-green leaves, stems and leaves exude sticky sap, small yellow flowers.

Habitats Invaded: Semi-arid grasslands, pastures, rangelands, roadsides, and neglected croplands.

Additional information: Large colonies have extensive root systems, sap is toxic to humans and grazing animals.



© Colorado State University Extension

Myrtle Spurge

Alternatives

Natives:

Wild strawberry
Oregon sunshine

Ornamentals:

Creep raspberry
Miniature yarrow
Hens-and-chicks
Penstemon
Evening primrose



© Ruth Whitaker

Wild Strawberry



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OSU Extension Service

Creeping Raspberry

INVASIVE PLANT: Purple loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Identification: Perennial up to 8 ft tall with pink-purple flower spikes, angular stems, flowers have small yellow center.

Habitats Invaded: Wetlands, wet prairies, meadows, lake shorelines, streams, rivers, ditches, and canals.

Additional Information: spreads from broken stems, and windblown seeds. Plants can produce up to 100,00 seeds per year.



Purple Loosestrife

Alternatives

Natives: Douglas spirea
Common camas
River lupine

Ornamentals: Spike speedwell
Gayfeather
Bee balm
Siberian iris
Swamp milkweed



Douglas Spirea



Spike Speedwell

INVASIVE PLANTS: Yellow flag iris, Yellow water iris

Iris pseudacorus

Identification: 5 ft tall perennial with sword-like leaves, yellow to cream-colored flowers.

Habitats Invaded: Wetlands, lake shorelines, streams, rivers, ditches, and canals.

Additional Information: Spread by broken stem fragments and seeds that float in the water. All parts of plant are toxic to humans and animals.

© J.S. Peterson—USDA NRCS Database



Yellow Flag Iris

Alternatives

Natives: Monkeyflower
Rocky Mountain iris

Douglas iris
Skunk cabbage

Ornamentals: Japanese iris
Siberian iris
Blue-flag iris

© Mary Corp



Monkeyflower

© Mountain Mist Ornamentals, Inc.



Japanese Iris

Trees and Shrubs in Order from Wettest to Driest Environments

The following chart* lists several species of trees and shrubs native to northeast Oregon that are organized by their environments from wettest to driest. Species native to drier environments will require less water, and thereby reducing irrigation costs.

WETTEST SITES			
1	POP BAL	<i>Populus balsamifera trichocarpa</i>	Black Cottonwood
2	ALN INC	<i>Alnus incana</i>	Thinleaf Alder
3	BET OCC	<i>Betula occidentalis</i>	Waterbirch
4	COR SER	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redosier Dogwood
5	SALEX _e	<i>Salix exigua exigua</i>	Coyote Willow
6	SALEX _m	<i>Salix exigua melanopsis</i>	Dusky Willow
7	SPI DOU	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Douglas Spiraea
8	AME ALN	<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	Serviceberry
9	LON UTA	<i>Lonicera utahensis</i>	Red Twinberry
10	ACE GLA	<i>Acer glabrum douglasii</i>	Douglas Maple
11	ROS WOO	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Wood's Rose
12	ROS NUT	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Nootka Rose
13	PHY MAL	<i>Physocarpa malvaceus</i>	Mallow Ninebark
14	FRA PUR	<i>Frangula purshiana</i>	Cascara
15	SAL LUC	<i>Salix lucida lasiandra</i>	Pacific Willow
16	PHILEW	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Lewis Mockorange
17	SYM ALB	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry
18	HOL DIS	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	Oceanspray
19	PRU VIR	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry
20	CRA DOU	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>	Black Hawthorn
21	SAM CER	<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	Blue Elderberry
22	RIB CER	<i>Ribes cereum</i>	Wax Currant
23	RIB AUR	<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant
24	ROS NUT	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	Nootka Rose
25	ROS WOO	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Woods Rose
26	RHU GLA	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac
27	CHR NAU	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	Grey Rabbitbrush
28	PUR TRI	<i>Purshia tridentata</i>	Bitterbrush
29	ART TRI _w	<i>Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis</i>	Wyoming Sagebrush
30	PER RAM	<i>Peraphyllum ramosissimum</i>	Wild Crabapple
31	ATR CAN	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Fourwing Saltbush
DRIEST SITES			

* Chart was provided by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation Native Plant Nursery

Alternative Native and Non Invasive Landscape Plants: Common and Scientific Names

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Arrowleaf balsamroot	<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	Native Roses	<i>Rosa nutkana</i> or <i>R. woodsii</i>
Bee balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Native willows	<i>Salix spp.</i>
Birchleaf spirea	<i>Spiraea betulifolia</i>	Oceanspray	<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>
Black elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra cvs</i>	Oregon sunshine	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>
Black raspberry	<i>Rubus occidentalis</i>	Penstemon	<i>Penstemon pinifolius</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Blue blossom	<i>Ceanothus thrsiflorus</i>	Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>
Blue Elderberry	<i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	Red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sercea ssp. Accidentalis</i>
Blue-flag iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Red raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Chinese fringe flower	<i>Loropetalum chinense</i>	Red-flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>
Chinese fringetree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	River lupine	<i>Lupinus rivularis</i>
Common Camas	<i>Camassia quamash</i>	Rocky Mountain Iris	<i>Iris missouriensis</i>
Common hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Rocky Mt. thimbleberry	<i>Rubus deliciosus</i>
Common sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Scouler's willow	<i>Salix scouleriana</i>
Corneliancherry dogwood	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Siberian iris	<i>Iris sibirica</i>
Creeping raspberry	<i>Rubus calycinoides</i>	Siberian iris	<i>Iris sibirica</i>
Dappled willow	<i>Salix intergra 'Hakuro Nishiki'</i>	Silver buffaloberry	<i>Shepherdia argentia</i>
Douglas iris	<i>Iris douglasii</i>	Silverberry	<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>
Douglas spirea	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Skunk cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanum</i>
Eastern ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia 'Apple Blossom'</i>	Sumersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>	Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Tatarian dogwood	<i>Cornus alba</i>
Goat's beard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
Hens-and-chicks	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	Thin-leaf huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium membranaceum</i>
Indian plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Thorney elaeagnus	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>
Japanese iris	<i>Iris ensata</i>	Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>
Koreanspice viburnum	<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	Virginia sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>
Miniature yarrow	<i>Achillea tomentosa</i>	Weigela varieties	<i>Weigela florida</i>
Mock orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	White fringetree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>
Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>
Mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>	Yellow oxeye daisy	<i>Buphthalmum salicifolium</i>
Mt. Atlas daisy	<i>Anacyclus depressus</i>		
Narrowleaf willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>		

Additional Resources

Oregon Invasive Species Council
www.oregon.gov/OISC/

Oregon's List of noxious weeds
www.oregon.gov/oda/plant/weeds/lists.shtml

Pacific Northwest Invasive Plant Council
www.depts.washington.edu/waipc/

References

Goodridge, Jennifer, Mitch Bixby, and Leslie Winter-Gorsline. 2008. *GardenSmart Oregon*.