



Plant These!

Penstemon species
(*Penstemon spp.*)

Idaho is home to so many amazing species of Penstemons, it's hard to choose just one! Flower colors range from blue, purple, pink, to white, and bloom times vary, making them a great addition to pollinator gardens. Penstemons grow fairly easily from seed, and are becoming more widely available at many nurseries and seed companies.



Not Those!

Bachelor's Button
(*Centaurea cyanus*)

Pollinators are attracted to this bright blue, purple, or white blooming annual flower that has spread from backyard into the Boise foothills. Its ability to colonize quickly is concerning, as it outcompetes native wildflowers and the dead stems create flammable thatch that increases wildfire danger.



How else can I help?

- **Inspect** your shoes, clothing, vehicles, and animals both before going to and returning from natural or agricultural areas and discard any seeds you find.
- **Remove** invasive species by extracting all above and below ground parts.
- **Discard** into trash, never compost, all parts of invasive plants in sealed bags or containers to prevent further seed dispersal.
- **Avoid chemical controls**, especially in or near wild areas, due to the non-specific nature and potential long-lasting hazard to the land.
- **Join the Idaho Native Plant Society** to learn how to identify which plant species are:
 - Appropriate for your landscape
 - Native to the Intermountain West

What are weeds?

It's important to know that no plant is truly a weed. In their natural habitat, plants that we consider "weeds" serve important ecological functions. When a plant is introduced somewhere new, where it may have no natural controls and finds favorable conditions, it may become invasive.



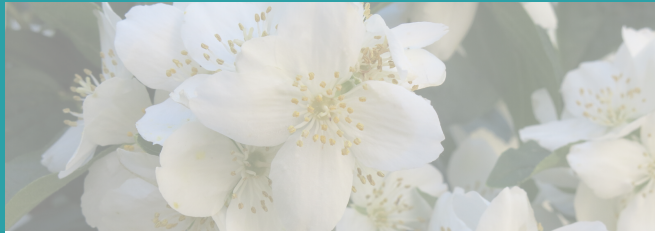
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Plant These! Not Those!



A guide for the Treasure Valley

Idaho Native Plant Society
Pahove Chapter



Unfortunately, some lovely plants available at nurseries do TOO well in the Treasure Valley, to the extent of potentially harming the the local ecosystem. Planted in the wrong place, these species can spread aggressively, not only in gardens, but also in surrounding natural areas. This results in competition for native plants, reduced biodiversity, and loss of food for pollinators and wildlife. Fortunately, you can also find many wonderful plant alternatives that complement and are adapted to our unique Treasure Valley landscapes!

This brochure offers ecologically appropriate alternatives to commonly available ornamental plants that pose a threat to our natural communities.



Plant These!



Basin Wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*)
Native to the Western US, this is the tallest native perennial bunch grass you will see in the Boise foothills. Grows 3-6 feet tall and forms clumps up to 3 feet. Due to its deep root system, it can survive on our annual rainfall alone once established. It acts as excellent cover for native birds and small animals, is used for nest-building, and is a good winter food for big game animals.



Sulphur Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
One of the many gorgeous buckwheat species found across the west, this low-growing, evergreen perennial forms clumps up to 2 feet wide. Yellow or orange umbrella-shaped flowers rise above the leaves, attracting a myriad of native pollinators, and fading to attractive seed heads for the rest of the year.



Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*)
A small, clump-forming perennial grass native across Western North America. In the summer, upright seed heads poke out over wiry bluish-green foliage. The unique seed heads resemble eyelashes or hovering insects. This drought-tolerant native grass can take the heat, summer sun, and dry-to-average soils. Cultivars of this species, such as 'Blonde Ambition' are readily available at most nurseries.



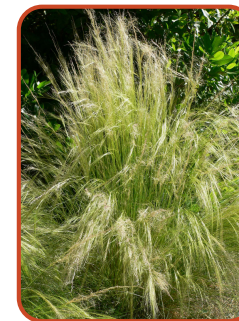
Not Those!



Hardy Pampas Grass/Ravenna Grass (*Saccharum ravennae*)
Native to North Africa, Asia, and Europe. Tall perennial bunch grass, with soft, fluffy seed heads, growing up to 14 feet tall. Forms large clumps which crowd out native plants, and choke waterways. When it dries out in later summer it may create a fire hazard on dry slopes.



Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)
This sprawling succulent spreads by seeds and rhizomes, and can even re-sprout from broken stems or leaves. Like other members of the Euphorbiaceae, it contains a milky sap, which can irritate the skin, or cause severe reactions in some people. This plant thrives in difficult terrain, outcompeting native plants for scarce resources and displacing them.



Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella tenuissima*)
A Texas native, with no other natural populations occurring in the US, this finely textured perennial has wispy, light-green foliage. Its airy, wheat-colored seed heads spread easily, causing it to become invasive outside its native range, and crowd out native grasses.