

NOXIOUS WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE  
CANOA RANCH POLLINATOR GARDEN





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Amaranth/Pigweed, p. 1 ( <i>Amaranthus palmeri</i> )				
Desert Horse Purslane, p. 2 ( <i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i> )				
Bermuda Grass, p. 3 ( <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> )				
Buffelgrass, p. 4 ( <i>Cenchrus ciliaris/ Pennisetum ciliare</i> )				
Desert Broom, p. 5 ( <i>Baccharis sarothroides</i> )				
London Rocket, p. 6 ( <i>Sisymbrium irio</i> )				
Lovegrass, p. 7 ( <i>Eragrostis sp.</i> )				
Russian Thistle, p. 8 ( <i>Salsola sp.</i> )				
Sahara Mustard, p. 9 ( <i>Brassica tournefortii</i> )				
Sources/Photo Credits, p. 10				

\*\*Current as of 09/2020. Subject to seasonal revisions based on site conditions.

## Amaranth/Pigweed

*Amaranthus palmeri*



Family: Amaranth  
(Amaranthaceae)

**Growth Form:** Tall, branching, annual herb.

**Size:** 6-10' height

**Flowering Season:** Summer - Fall (Jul. - Nov.)

**Flower:** Yellow bracts

**Leaves:** Lance to oval shape with pointed tips, alternate on stems, reddish undersides.



FALL

SUMMER

## Desert Horse Purselane

*Trianthema portulacastrum*



Family: Fig (Aizoaceae)

**\*\*\*CAN BE MISTAKEN FOR PIGWEED, USE AS REFERENCE TO DIFFERENTIATE (PURSELANE NOT NOXIOUS WEED).\*\*\***

**Growth Form:** Sprawling, trailing or low-growing annual.

**Size:** Up to 1.5' height (usually a few inches), 3-4' spread.

**Flowering Season:** Summer - Fall (Jun. - Oct.)

**Flower:** Purple, pink-purple.

**Leaves:** Fleshy/succulent, alternate arrangement along reddish stems, pairs uneven in size. Oval-shaped, prominent vein.



FALL

SUMMER

## Bermuda Grass

*Cynodon dactylon*



Family: Grass (*Poaceae*)

**Growth Form:** Invasive grass with extensive rhizomes.

**Size:** Up to 2' height, 0.5'-2' spread, more from rhizomes.

**Flowering Season:** Late Spring - Fall (May - Oct.)

**Flower:** Branched, narrow seed heads.

**Leaves:** Blades up to 2.5' long, 1.5' wide. Mature leaves flat, lanceolate in shape with pointed tip.



FALL

SUMMER

SPRING

# Buffelgrass

*Cenchrus ciliaris/Pennisetum ciliare*



Family: Grass (*Poaceae*)

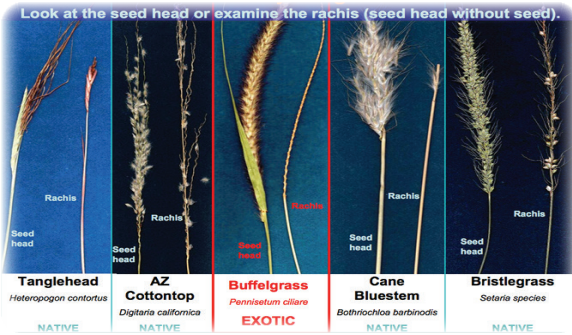
**Growth Form:** Heavily invasive perennial bunch grass.

**Size:** 1-5' height x 2-3' width.

**Flowering Season:** Spring - Fall.

**Flower:** Fluffy, reddish-purple flower/seed heads. Rough rachis (stem bearing flower stalks).

**Leaves:** Blades are green, flat, 3-18" long, up to 0.5" wide. Can be covered in fine hairs on surface or on margins.



FALL

SUMMER

SPRING

## Desert Broom

*Baccharis sarothroides*



Family: Sunflower(Asteraceae)

**Growth Form:** Perennial, evergreen shrub.

**Size:** Up to 12' height x 12' width.

**Flowering Season:** Fall - Winter.

**Flower:** White, Cream, Tan. Male/female flowers on separate plants (dioecious).

**Leaves:** Blades linear or needle-like, up to 0.5" long.



FALL

SUMMER

SPRING



## London Rocket

*Sisymbrium irio*



Family: Mustard (*Brassicaceae*)

**Growth Form:** Upright winter annual forb/herb.

**Size:** Up to 2.5-3' height x 0.5-1' width.

**Flowering Season:** Early Spring.

**Flower:** Yellow. In small clusters at branch tips.

**Leaves:** Basal rosette and on stems. Green, up to 6" x 2.5", lanceolate in shape, dissected in several lobes.



## Lovegrass

*Eragrostis sp.*



Family: Grass (*Poaceae*)

**Growth Form:** Heavily invasive annual or perennial grass.

**Size:** Up to 5' height (varies depending on species).

**Flowering Season:** Spring - Fall.

**Flower:** Vary depending on species, generally in divergent branching/pediceal form, heads can be finer in texture to bulkier.

**Leaves:** Blades flat, up to 5" long and 0.1" wide. Can sometimes be covered in fine hairs or have rough surface.



FALL

SUMMER

SPRING

## Russian Thistle/Tumbleweed

*Salsola sp.*



Family: Amaranth  
(Amaranthaceae)

**Growth Form:** Large, annual forb/herb.

**Size:** Up to 3' height x 6' width.

**Flowering Season:** Summer - Fall.

**Flower:** Greenish-white, inconspicuous.

**Leaves:** Green. Linear, needle-like leaves in seedlings.  
Mature leaves shorter and rounder, tipped with stiff spine.

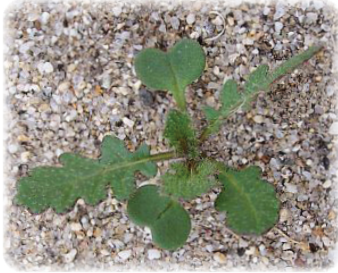


FALL

SUMMER

## Sahara Mustard

*Brassica tournefortii*



Family: Mustard (*Brassicaceae*)

**Growth Form:** Annual, upright herb/forb.

**Size:** Up to 2.5' height.

**Flowering Season:** Winter - Spring (Feb.-Apr.)

**Flower:** Yellow. Branching off/in clusters on top of stems.

**Leaves:** Strong basal rosette, few leaves on stem. Green, heavily lobed with serrated edges, stiff and hairy.



## **SOURCES/PHOTO CREDITS**

California Native Plant Society - Calscape  
[calscape.org](http://calscape.org)

Natural History of Orange County - UC Irvine  
[nathistoc.bio.uci.edu](http://nathistoc.bio.uci.edu)

SEINet (Arizona - New Mexico Chapter)  
[swbiodiversity.org](http://swbiodiversity.org)

Southwest Desert Flora  
[southwestdesertflora.com](http://southwestdesertflora.com)

The Firefly Forest  
[fireflyforest.net](http://fireflyforest.net)

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
[plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov)

Virtual Library of Phoenix Landscape Plants  
[public.asu.edu/~camartin/plants/](http://public.asu.edu/~camartin/plants/)

