

## Sponsor Tips & Tricks

### Sign Up to Receive Garden of the Week!

by Anne Chilcott

APLD CA Silver  
Sponsor, **GardenSoft**



invites you to sign  
up for *Garden of the Week*, a 5  
minute break from your busy-ness  
and business every Tuesday.

During your short break, relax and  
take a virtual tour of a creative  
garden through a full screen, high  
resolution slide show! Journey  
through the outdoor space with  
optional music. It's a great way to  
see beauty and artistry, inspiring  
ideas for many of our subscribers.

Go a step further and submit a  
sample picture that could end up  
with one of your designs as the  
*Garden of the Week*!

Sign up to receive *Garden of the  
Week*, now in its 3rd year, by  
emailing: [gerry@gardensoft.com](mailto:gerry@gardensoft.com).  
Make sure to include your name,  
email address, and city.

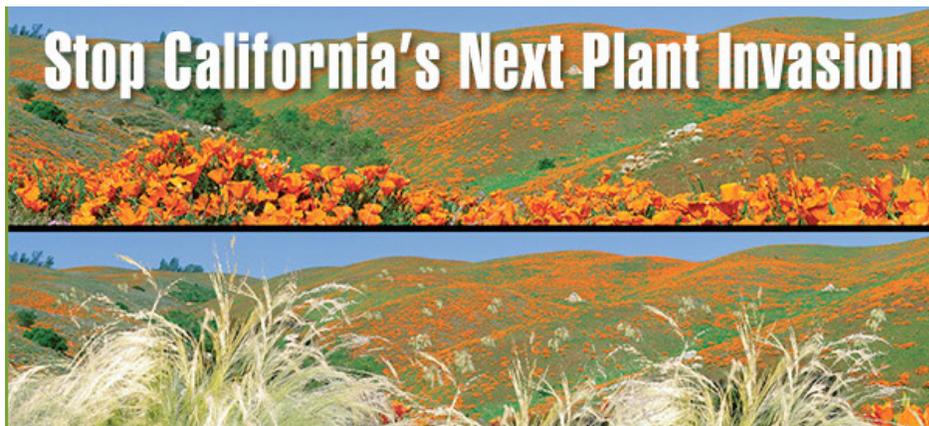
This is a free service provided by  
**GardenSoft** to promote original  
and innovative garden designs  
everywhere, from Seattle to San  
Diego, through Phoenix, Salt Lake  
City and even to Wyndmoor, PA!

Take a peek at this week's **Garden  
of the Week** by [clicking here!](#)

# Garden OF THE Week



A garden by APLD CA Member, Nan  
Simonsen featured in **Garden of the  
Week**



From The Plant Right Web Site:

Beautifully disguised, but ugly to the core, invasive plants ravage California's native habitat, clog waterways and provide dangerous fuel for wildfires. Invasive plants cost California taxpayers over \$82 million each year in one of our top environmental battles.



Good News: Future plant invasions can be prevented, and we have a key opportunity to do that right now. In the process we'll be protecting more of what we love, while creating healthier habitats, ecosystems and local economies for California.

There is a new beauty in disguise, poised to invade California's wild lands: Mexican feathergrass (*Nassella* or *Stipa tenuissima*). Added to PlantRight's list of problem plants just this year, it's no surprise that well-meaning nurseries and garden centers are caught with this invasive inventory on hand. We can do nothing, wait, and deal with the damage after-the-fact. Or, we can act swiftly to accelerate this phase-out, with the least environmental damage.

Today, one of the top growers of Mexican feathergrass has 14,000 plants in the production pipeline ready to ship to 200 nurseries throughout the state. But they're willing to forgo profit and sell them at cost to PlantRight (This grower has stopped all production of this plant, is helping us dispose of it in an environmentally responsible fashion, and is now helping us educate the largest retailers in the country). Set free in our landscapes, these 14,000 plants would produce over 980 million seeds and untold millions of invasive progeny.

### Alternatives to *Nassella tenuissima*

Submitted by members of the  
APLD Greater LA District

#### ***Anemanthele lessoniana*** Pheasant's Tail Grass (formerly *Stipa arundinacea*)

Light needs: full sun. Water needs: regular water. Mature size: 2-3 feet high and wide. Selected for: ornamental grass with arching and semi-evergreen foliage in medium green that turns coppery in the fall, feathery green-purple flower heads emerge in summer. *Photo & info: Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery* (APLD CA Gold Sponsor)



#### ***Aristida purpurea*** Purple Three Awn

Narrow green leaves on a densely tufted grass are complemented by red purple flushed flower spikes in the spring. Pendant flowers dry to an attractive tan color. This warm season grass is well adapted to dry gardens. Uses: Slopes, Plains, Roadsides. Full Sun. Zone 7-11. Height 12-24". *Photo & info: Green Meadow Growers* (APLD CA Bronze Sponsor)



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## Other News

### The Nor Cal Spring Trade Show announces a new collaboration with the CLCA for future years.

CLCA and the four Nor Cal Spring Trade Show CANGC chapters - Central, Monterey Bay, Peninsula and Redwood Empire, are pleased to announce that the two groups will be working in concert to create a trade show event that brings together both the nursery and landscape sectors of the industry. The new show will be called **The Nor Cal Landscape and Nursery Show**.

This collaborative show will reflect the common goals and inter-related business and career opportunities available in the industry.

The new show will continue to give local as well as regional businesses a chance to showcase their products and services to a significant number of interested buyers. Nor Cal has always played a particularly strategic role for local businesses whose sole target market is the greater San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas as it is the only trade show opportunity available to them.

The first collaborative event will be held February 12, 2015 in Expo Hall at the San Mateo County Event Center located at 1346 Saratoga Street, San Mateo, Ca. 94403. A full hall of exhibits, seminar tracks and demonstrations will take place on the show floor. This one day event will bring together all segments of the industry with its wide appeal.

For more information contact Margo Cheuvront, show manager by email, [margoc@frontiernet.net](mailto:margoc@frontiernet.net) or call 530-458-3190.



## Alternatives to *Nassella tenuissima*

### Submitted by the APLD Greater LA District

#### ***Bouteleoua gracilis* 'Blond Ambition'**

##### Blond Ambition Blue Grama

This showy selection of blue grama grass has huge chartreuse flowers that dance above the foliage. They mature into long-lasting blond seedheads that add interest all year. This selection is larger than the species, growing to 30-36 inches tall. The narrow green leaves dry to a tan color in the winter months. This warm-season, clumping grass is extremely cold hardy and durable. Plant in full sun, but provide ample summer irrigation in the low deserts to maintain a lush green look. *Photo & info: Mountain States Wholesale Nursery (APLD CA Gold Sponsor)*

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#### ***Carex elegantissima* 'Variegata'** Golden Edged Sedge

An upright clumping variegated sedge with arching, narrow leaves of green with thin yellow margins that radiate when backlit by sun. Best in light shade with moist, well-drained soil. Brown flowers on wiry stems 9 inches above foliage. 1-2 ft high by 1-2 ft wide. *Photo & info: Bamboo Pipeline (APLD CA Gold Sponsor)*



#### ***Muhlenbergia dubia* Pine Muhly**

This little known grass is a perfect petite alternative to *Muhlenbergia rigens* or *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri* when space is limited. It would be a great choice for mass planting in medians with site visibility restrictions or narrow planting areas where space is limited. Also consider using it to soften plantings of agaves and yuccas. Native to elevations from 3300-5000 feet in Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas and northern Mexico, this grass is drought tolerant and needs good drainage. Hardy to 0° F. Height 2.5' *Photo & info: Green Meadow Growers (APLD CA Bronze Sponsor)*



#### ***Muhlenbergia emersleyi* 'El Toro'** Bull Grass

This clump grass forms dense colonies in oak woodlands from Arizona to Texas. This clone was collected in southeastern Arizona, and was selected for its showy flowers. This dense grass has a slightly coarse texture, with long blue-green leaves. In the fall months it sends up masses of loose, rosy-purple flower spikes, which dry to a tan color in the winter. This muhly is drought tolerant, and thrives in full sun and reflected heat locations, as well as in part shade. *Photo & info: Mountain States Wholesale Nursery (APLD CA Gold Sponsor)*



#### ***Pennisetum orientale* Chinese Fountain Grass**

Perennial: Deciduous. Drought tolerant. Deer resistant. Fire retardant. Clumping, arching habit. Nice in arrangements, borders & pots. Attracts butterflies. Foliage: dark gray green. Blooms: summer-fall with 3-4" silvery pink plumes. Size: 1-2' x 1-2' with plumes 1-1.5' above foliage. Exposure: sun/part shade. Water: moderate. *Photo & info: Emerisa Gardens (APLD CA Gold Sponsor)*



#### ***Pennisetum spathiolatum* Slender Veldt Grass**

An evergreen to semi-evergreen plant that produces clumps of fine-textured, dark-green, narrow foliage that mounds to 18 inches tall. In late spring to late summer, vertical, wirey flower stalks arise in abundance to 3 to 4 feet tall, which terminate in tight, elongated spikes of tan-colored flowers that seem to dance unattached, high above the foliage. Requires little irrigation, but responds well to occasional watering. *Photo & info: San Marcos Growers (APLD CA Silver Sponsor)*



#### ***Sesleria autumnalis* Autumn Moor Grass**

Spiky clumps of narrow lime green leaves 8"-18" with flaxen colored seed heads rising above the clump 6" - 8" late summer into fall. Low maintenance. Excellent filler between other plants or large area massing ground cover. *Photo & info: Village Nursery (APLD CA Gold Sponsor)*

