



# Online Resources for All Things Invasive Plants

By: Willie Sommers, Invasive Plant Program Coordinator at DFFM

I hope everyone had a great summer and got to spend some time outdoors! If you're like me and live in Phoenix, you're anxious for cooler weather so those outdoor activities can be done close to home (and comfortably). Over the summer I took some time to gather and review resources on invasive plants. This was in part for a tabling event, but also to get a handle on what's available in Arizona.

So without further ado, below are three online resources for all things invasive plants. No matter the place or ecosystem, invasive plants are likely present in the landscape. At last count, Arizona has 53 plant species listed as noxious weeds by the Arizona Department of Agriculture. If you're not familiar with too many invasive plants, look no further. I've provided a brief summary of each resource and I hope you'll check them out for more information!



Pictured: Willie holding Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*)

- 1) [Northern Arizona Invasive Plants – A Northern Arizona Homeowner's Guide to Identifying and Managing Invasive Plants](#) – is an excellent resource. It was created by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Coconino County and the Arizona Native Plant Society. As I understand it, Master Gardeners researched the information and it was reviewed by local experts. The result is a website with the ability to find an invasive plant by botanical name, common name or image. Further, each invasive plant featured has a fact sheet including images, and the capacity to download a printable PDF. This is a terrific resource - I'd love to see a companion site for Southern Arizona Invasive Plants.
- 2) [USDA Forest Service - Weed Field Guides](#). If you're looking to do more of a deep dive into the management of an invasive plant, look no further than the *Weed Field Guides* developed by the Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service. There are a total of 44 plant species each with their own field guide complete with a description, management options and strategies, and references and further information.
- 3) [The Invasive Species Clearinghouse provided by the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy](#) was built to centralize management resources specific to the Sonoran Desert. Some of the key invasive plants of concern are buffelgrass, fountain grass, stinknet, London rocket, malta starthistle, common sow thistle, oleander, red brome, Sahara mustard, and tamarisk. There sure are a lot of invasive plants that impact the flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert. On this site, you can find resources on invasive plant control methods and strategies.