

# Introduced Plants

As a former golf course surrounded by homes, there are a range of cultivated, introduced, and invasive species living within Vistoso Trails. Some of these are faring poorly with the irrigation switched off, but others (especially tumbleweed and buffelgrass) are thriving and will require management to prevent them from expanding further into the native habitats within the preserve. Stinknet, a new and dangerous invasive, was found in the preserve in 2023 and poses a serious threat. It expands its range explosively when the conditions are right, and it is very flammable when dry. Buffelgrass and tumbleweed are also quite flammable when dry. **It is essential to invest in the removal and abatement of these species**, both to protect the native flora and fauna and to protect the neighborhoods and other natural spaces that surround the preserve.

## In this guidebook:

- Red Yucca (Page 168)
- Cenizo/Texas Ranger/Texas Sage (Page 168)
- Tree Tobacco (Page 169)
- Chilean Mesquite (Page 169)
- Tumbleweed (Page 170)
- Buffelgrass (Page 171)
- Stinknet (Page 171)

## Read more:

Check out these websites to learn more about local invasive species:

<http://www.desertmuseum.org/buffelgrass/>

<https://www.pima.gov/1414/Invasive-Plant-Species>

<https://www.nps.gov/sagu/learn/nature/invasive-plants.htm>

<https://www.stinknet.org/>

<https://sdcwma.org/>



**Common name:** Red Yucca

**Scientific name:** *Hesperaloe parviflora*

**Notes:** Not a true yucca. Javelinas love them.



**Common name:** Cenizo (also Texas Ranger and Texas Sage)

**Scientific name:** *Leucophyllum frutescens*

**Notes:** Native to Texas. Grows as a bush.



**Common name:** Tree Tobacco

**Scientific name:** *Nicotiana glauca*

**Notes:** Native to South America. Toxic.



**Common name:** Chilean Mesquite

**Scientific name:** *Prosopis chilensis*

**Notes:** A tree. See also page 145.



**Common name:** Tumbleweed (also Russian Thistle)

**Scientific name:** *Salsola tragus*

**Notes:** A growing, young plant pictured on left. A dried, adult plant on right. Very common on former greens and fairways. Also known as Russian thistle. Extremely invasive and noxious.



Photo credit: Kelly Krechmer

**Common name:** Buffelgrass

**Scientific name:** *Cenchrus ciliaris*

**Notes:** Highly invasive and a fire danger.

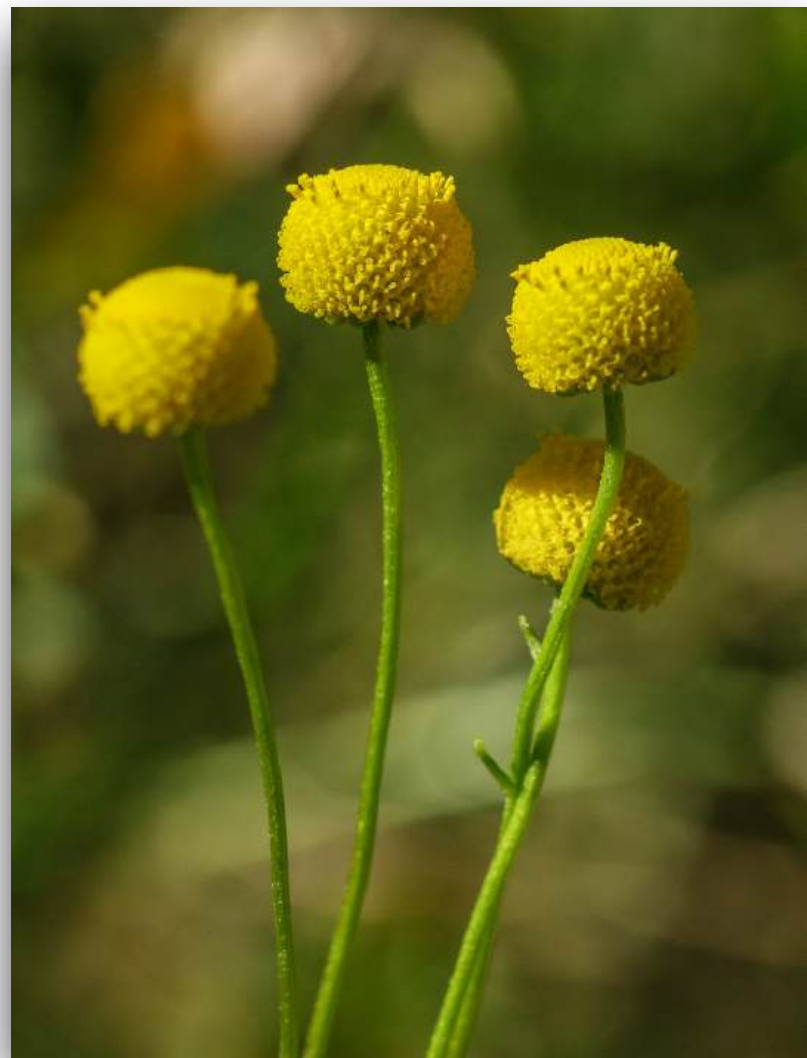


Photo credit: Chris McCreedy

**Common name:** Stinknet

**Scientific name:** *Oncosiphon piluliferum*

**Notes:** Highly invasive and a fire danger.