

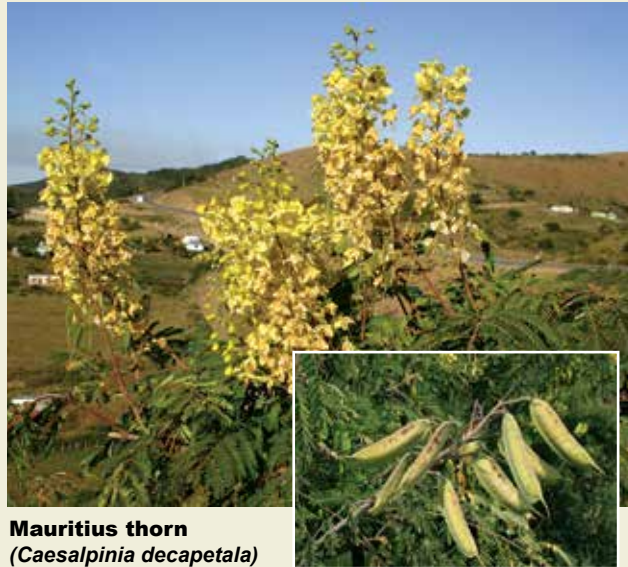
Remove invasive plants from your garden

Learn how to identify and remove these invasive alien plants from your garden this August.



Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*)

The loquat is a rounded, evergreen tree growing up to eight meters high. It flowers in early winter with edible fruits appearing in late winter. It is listed as a Category 3 invader, meaning it may no longer be planted or traded. Although Category 3 invaders do not have to be removed from gardens by law, removing them will prevent seed spreading into natural areas.



Mauritius thorn (*Caesalpinia decapetala*)

This evergreen shrub is covered with small curved thorns and often grows in dense thickets. It is a Category 1 invader and must be removed and destroyed. This shrub flowers during winter and produces flattened brown woody seed pods. It was previously used as security hedging, but has become highly invasive along rivers and forest margins.



Peanut butter cassia (*Senna didymobotrya*)

Another evergreen shrub which has invaded large parts of eastern South Africa, it grows up to three meters high and produces bright yellow flowers throughout the year. This shrub is often dug up and replanted into gardens because of its year-round colour. However, it is a listed Category 1 invader and by law must not be traded or transplanted and existing plants must be removed. The leaves are also poisonous.

What can you do to prevent the spread of invasive species? Learn to identify invader species and encourage other gardeners to become eco-friendly and remove invasive alien plants from their property. For more information, visit www.invasives.org.za



Invading ageratum (*Ageratum conyzoides*)

These are annual herbs with fluffy bluish to purple-pink flowerheads and grow up to one meter high. Flowering can occur throughout the year. They are Category 1 weeds and gardeners are encouraged to remove and destroy them if found growing in the garden.



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