

# FIRE IN THE DESERT



## THE SONORAN DESERT IS NOT FIRE ADAPTED

Native vegetation is naturally sparse and will not carry fire across the desert. Thus, native plants are not equipped to endure wildfires nor regenerate after burning. Before invasive plants began carpeting our landscape, devastating wildfires were rare. Now, wildfires are rapidly destroying our iconic Sonoran Desert.

## WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES?

Plants that are non-native to the Sonoran Desert and whose presence causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. See the most concerning "Desert Invaders" in Maricopa County by visiting [cazca.org](http://cazca.org).



## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Wildfires in the Sonoran Desert threaten the health and safety of human beings and wildlife, devastate biodiversity, damage infrastructure and destroy our native landscape. Can you imagine our desert without its dazzling spring wildflowers and towering mighty saguaros? We need your help! The time to act is now.



SOURCES: [WWW.CAZCA.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2020/05/DESERT-INVADERS.PDF](http://WWW.CAZCA.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2020/05/DESERT-INVADERS.PDF)  
[WWW.FS.FED.US/WILDFLOWERS/INVASIVES/](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/WILDFLOWERS/INVASIVES/)  
[WWW.FS.FED.US/RM/PUBS/RMRS\\_GTR202/RMRS\\_GTR202\\_097\\_110.PDF](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/RM/PUBS/RMRS_GTR202/RMRS_GTR202_097_110.PDF)  
[WWW.WILDFIRELESSONS.NET/](http://WWW.WILDFIRELESSONS.NET/)

# LIVE FIRE SAFE



## PLANT DESERT FRIENDLY

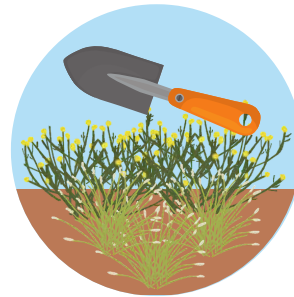
Non-native plants provide fuel for wildfire expansion, as they grow more carpet-like across the desert soil. Decrease wildfire risk by planting natives, which can grow in patches leaving stretches of bare soil for natural fire suppression.

Learn more about native plants by visiting [cazca.org](http://cazca.org)

## REMOVE INVASIVES

Decrease wildfire risk and the spread of invasive seeds by removing invasive plants from your yards and commercial lots.

Check out the Parsons Field Institute's invasive species resources to learn more!



## DO YOU KNOW WHO TO CALL?

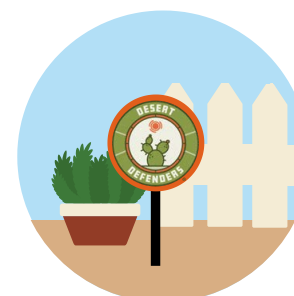
Every second counts! Report wildfires as soon as possible to stop the spread of fire.

Call 911 or 480.457.1555 for the Phoenix Metro area dispatch. Learn more about reporting wildfires by visiting [cazca.org](http://cazca.org).

## BECOME A DEFENDER

By helping to map and remove invasive plant species from parks, preserves and other natural areas, we can decrease wildfire risk in our communities.

Become a Desert Defender today! Visit [cazca.org](http://cazca.org) to learn more.



## BECOME A FIREWISE COMMUNITY!

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN REDUCE FIRE RISK IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? LEARN MORE:  
[DFFM.AZ.GOV/FIRE/PREVENTION/FIREWISE](http://DFFM.AZ.GOV/FIRE/PREVENTION/FIREWISE)