

PUBLIC DRAFT

J. Fire-Resistant Plants to Favor and Restricted Plant List/Plants to Avoid^{1,2,3,4}

“These California natives are good options for a fire-safe landscape. Drought-tolerant non-native species can also be good choices if they don’t self-sow or naturalize; but consult the “Plants to Avoid” list on the next page before selecting any non-natives. A good rule of thumb is to use plants with high fire resistance closer to your house and those with lower resistance farther away.

“Restricted plants, mostly non-native, are highly flammable and should not be planted near your house. If they are already growing on your property, you might want to consider phasing them out and replacing them with more fire-resistant species.”⁵

TABLE 1: FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | FIRE RESISTANCE | HEIGHT | SPREAD | EXPOSURE | FLOWER COLOR |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------------|
| Succulents: | | | | | | |
| Agave species | Agave | High | 1–6' | 1–10' | sun | yellow-green |
| Dudleya species | Bluff lettuce, Live Forever | High | <1.5' | varies | sun/part shade | yellow-red |
| Sedum species | Stonecrop | High | <1' | varies | sun/part shade | many |
| Low-Growing Ground-Cover Plants: | | | | | | |
| Arctostaphylos ‘Carmel Sur’ | Carmel Sur | Low | 1' | 6' | sun/part shade | white-pink |
| Baccharis pilularis | ‘Twin Peaks’ dwarf coyote brush | Medium | 1–2' | 6' | sun/part shade | white |
| Ceanothus ‘Centennial’ | ‘Centennial’ | Medium | 8–12” | 4–6' | sun/part shade | blue |
| Ceanothus griseus var. horizontalis | Carmel creeper | Medium | 3–5' | 5–15' | sun/part shade | blue |
| Heuchera maxima | Island alum root | Medium | 1–2' | 1–2' | shade | white-pink |
| Mahonia repens | Creeping barberry | Medium | 1–3' | 3' | sun/part shade | yellow |
| Shrubs and Trees: | | | | | | |
| Calliandra eriophylla | Fairy duster | Low | 1–3' | 3–4' | sun | pink, white |

¹ Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance (2010), *A Road Map to Safety: How to Create Defensible Space in the Santa Monica Mountains*, pp. 29–30. www.fire.lacounty.gov/Forestry/RoadMaptoFireSafety.pdf.

² C. Bornstein, D. Fross, and B. O’Brien (2005), *California Native Plants for the Garden* (Los Olivos, CA: CaChuma Press).

³ Recommended List of Native Plants for Landscaping in the Santa Monica Mountains. Revised August 2007. Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, California Native Plant Society.

⁴ Betsey Landis of the California Native Plant Society contributed to this list.

⁵ Santa Monica Mountains Fire Safe Alliance (2010), *A Road Map to Safety: How to Create Defensible Space in the Santa Monica Mountains*.

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| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME | FIRE RESISTANCE | HEIGHT | SPREAD | EXPOSURE | FLOWER COLOR |
|--|---|-----------------|---------|------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> | Western redbud | Low | 10–20' | 8–10' | sun/part shade | magenta |
| <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> | Toyon | High | 12–30' | 12–30' | sun/part shade | white |
| <i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> | Sticky monkey-flower | Low | 3' | 3' | sun | orange |
| <i>Platanus racemosa</i> | California sycamore | Medium | 40–80' | 40–50' | sun | — |
| <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> , <i>Q. lobata</i> , <i>Q. wislizenii</i> | Coast live oak, Valley oak, Interior live oak | High | to 100' | to 100' | sun | — |
| <i>Quercus berberidifolia</i> | Scrub oak | Low | to 15' | to 15' | sun | |
| <i>Rhamnus californica</i> | Coffeeberry | Low | 3–15' | 3–10' | sun/part shade | yellow-green |
| <i>Rhus integrifolia</i> (coastal) | Lemonadeberry | Low | 4–5' | 15' | sun/part shade | pink |
| <i>Rhus ovata</i> (inland) | Sugar bush | High | 10–20' | 15' | sun/part shade | white-pink |
| <i>Romneya coulteri</i> | Matilija poppy | High | 6–10' | 6–8' | part shade/shade | white and yellow |
| Perennials and annuals: | | | | | | |
| <i>Achillea</i> species | Yarrow | Medium | 6"–3' | may spread | sun/part shade | white, yellow, pink |
| <i>Clarkia amoena</i> , <i>C. bottae</i> , <i>C. unguiculata</i> | Farewell-to-spring | Low | 4–5" | <1' | sun/part shade | pink, lavender |
| <i>Epilobium californica</i> (syn. <i>Zauschneria</i>) | California fuchsia | Low | 1–3' | 1–3' | sun | red |
| <i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i> | Golden yarrow | Low | 1–2' | 1–2' | sun | yellow |
| <i>Eschscholzia californica</i> | California poppy | Low | 8–24" | to 1' | sun | orange |
| <i>Iris douglasiana</i> | Douglas iris | Medium | 1–2' | clumping | sun/part shade | varies |
| <i>Isomeris arborea</i> | Bladder-pod | High | 2–6' | 3–6' | sun/part shade | yellow |
| <i>Layia platyglossa</i> | Tidytips | Low | 5–16" | to 1' | sun | yellow |
| <i>Lupinus</i> species | Lupines (Annuals to perennials) | Low to Medium | 8–30" | to 2' | sun | blue, yellow, violet |
| <i>Nemophila menziesii</i> | Baby blue eyes | Low | 4–6" | to 1' | sun/part shade | blue |
| <i>Penstemon</i> species | Penstemons | Low | 1–3' | 1–3' | sun/part shade | purple, red |
| <i>Salvia spathacea</i> | Hummingbird sage | Low | 1–3' | 1–3' | sun/part shade | red |
| <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> | Blue-eyed grass (iris) | Low | 8–10" | clumping | sun | blue-purple |
| <i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i> | Yellow-eyed grass (iris) | Low | 1' | clumping | sun/part shade | yellow |

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TABLE 2: RESTRICTED PLANT LIST/PLANTS TO AVOID

| SCIENTIFIC NAME | COMMON NAME |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Acacia species | Acacia (trees and shrubs) |
| Adenostema fasciculatum | Chamise, greasewood |
| Ageratina adenophora | Eupatory |
| Ailanthus altissima | Tree of heaven |
| Artemisia californica | California sagebrush |
| Bougainvillea | Bougainvillea |
| Cedrus species | Cedar |
| Cortaderia seloana, Cortaderia jubata | Pampas grass |
| Cupressus species | Cypress |
| Delairea odorata | Cape ivy, German ivy |
| Dimorphotheca sinuate | African daisy |
| Dodonea viscosa | Hopseed bush |
| Eriogonum fasciculatum | Buckwheat |
| Eucalyptus species | Eucalyptus, gum tree |
| Fraxinus uhdei | Shamel ash |
| Gelsemium sempervirens | Carolina jessamine |
| Hakea suaveolens | Hakea |
| Hedera species | Ivy |
| Juniperus species | Juniper |
| Lobularia maritima | Sweet alyssum |
| Malosma laurina | Laurel sumac |
| Myoperum laetum | Myoperum |
| Pennisetum species | Fountain grass |
| Phoenix canariensis | Canary Island date palm |
| Picea species | Spruce |
| Pinus species | Pine |
| Ricinus communis | Castor bean |
| Schinus molle | Peruvian pepper tree (AKA "California" pepper tree) |
| Schinus terebinthifolius | Brazilian pepper tree |
| Spartium junceum | Spanish broom |
| Taxus species | Yew |
| Thuja species | Arborvitae |
| Tropaeolum majus | Nasturtium |
| Vinca major, Vinca minor | Periwinkle |
| Washingtonia species | California and Mexican |