

Defensible Space Landscaping in the Urban/Wildland Interface:

A compilation of fire performance ratings of
residential landscape plants

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Chapter 1. Introduction

This vegetation guide was developed as part of a larger fire mitigation research project under way at the University of California Forest Products Laboratory. The purpose of this guide is to provide information on the properties of some common California landscaping plants that can be used to determine how a particular plant will behave when burned. It is a referenced database that compiles the information found in available lists and supplements information on plant characteristics that are known to affect fire performance.

This document is presented as a framework for plant selection, not as the definitive word for plant selection. Guidelines and recommendations for vegetation selection in high fire hazard areas are available but close examination of these existing lists reveals little scientific basis and often conflicting information. It appears that many of the lists are primarily based on anecdotal information. A literature search identified more than 25 lists of plants recommended for use in high fire hazard environments. Some of these lists have been generated by categorizing plants by various growth characteristics, but in many cases it is not clear what characteristics were considered in the selection criteria. Without any verification of their reliability, these lists are often distributed by fire departments and state and local agency offices. The total number of species included in all lists referenced is 598. Of those, 147 species have a favorable fire performance rating in three or more references, 17 species had an unfavorable fire performance rating in three or more references, and 53 species had conflicting fire performance ratings within the references. This document summarizes existing recommendations and where possible identifies the plant characteristics on which the recommendation is based.

Background

The expansion of residences into previously undeveloped areas creates a mix of structures and wildland vegetation that have become major fire risk areas in California. Two areas commonly defined are the urban-wildland intermix (e.g. a house every 5 acres) and the urban-wildland interface (e.g. a subdivision that abuts wildlands). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection estimates that over 2.5 million people and 1 million structures are at risk of destruction from wildland fires in California (Irby 1996), and the problem continues to increase. During the 25 year period from 1955 to 1979, 2,408 structures were destroyed by wildfire, but three times that number (7,700 structures) were lost between 1980 and 1993.

Every year, California experiences wildfires in the urban-wildland interface and intermix. These zones often exhibit all or most of the conditions that create a high fire hazard; that is, dry vegetation (fuel), sloping topography, dry weather, combustible building materials, and architectural designs that expose combustible materials to advancing fires. By late summer or early fall, much of the vegetation that covers

wildland and urban/wildland areas in California has been stressed by drought, low humidity or desiccating winds, creating a critical fuel condition that can ignite easily and rapidly build into a major fire. For example, over a span of 10 days during the fall of 1993, wind driven wildland fires consumed over 189,000 acres of valuable California watershed and wildland habitat and badly damaged or destroyed 1,260 structures. The cost of suppressing these fires was estimated at nearly \$60 million, the damage exceeded \$1 billion, 3 lives were lost and hundreds of people suffered injuries (Slaughter 1996).

The risk of structural damage by fire can be reduced by providing a "defensible space". Such a space consists of an area surrounding a structure where the vegetation has been modified to mitigate the fire hazard and provide an opportunity for firefighters to safely defend a structure in the path of an approaching wildfire. Assessment reports of fire damage and survivability of structures stress the importance of defensible space. For example, in a 1990 urban/wildland fire near Santa Barbara which destroyed nearly 500 structures, 78% of the houses with a 30 ft. defensible space survived but only 38% of those without the defensible space survived (Foote and Gilles 1996).

Defensible space does not require the area to be free of vegetation. Plants are often desirable to protect soils from erosion and provide an aesthetic and ecological balance to the environment. Vegetation that does not ignite readily should be planted in the defensible space. Trees and shrubs in the defensible space are acceptable as long as they are widely spaced and do not provide a continuous path for a fire to climb from the ground to a tree crown or roof (fuel ladder). Proper landscape maintenance can dramatically improve the fire safety of a yard.

The continued development of housing in high fire risk regions stresses the need to maximize fire mitigation efforts by reducing the hazard associated with landscape vegetation. The idea of there existing "fire resistant" plants is somewhat erroneous. In a high-intensity fire, everything will burn. However, proper landscaping and plant selection can render some gardens safer than others and at least lessen the risk to any adjacent structures or reduce the spread of a fire. Implementing guidelines regarding the fire performance characteristics of mature plants, maintenance issues, and landscape design can significantly improve the fire safety of a structure.

The Characteristics of Fire-Safe Plants

Many communities are promoting the use of fire-safe plants and implementing projects to demonstrate techniques for reducing the fire risk to structures. For example, the recently FEMA-funded CDF project in Idyllwild, California is designed to encourage homeowner participation in reducing fire damage or risk of structure ignition by helping to fund the cost of fuel reduction and other mitigation projects. Demonstration projects like this can be very effective in educating people of the value of fire mitigation. However, the effectiveness of the projects is uncertain since much of the vegetation information used in these projects is anecdotal and the plants used in demonstration

gardens are often heavily irrigated and maintained. The fire performance of the same plant in a residential landscape that did not receive the same attention could be significantly different.

The need to develop basic information on the combustion characteristics of landscaping plants remains (Green 1965, Nord and Green 1977, Radtke 1983, Rice 1991, Fisher 1995). The association between wildland vegetative fuel characteristics and wildfires is well documented; however, the relationship between residential vegetation and structural fires in the interface is not nearly as well established. From the numerous studies of wildland fuel an understanding of the physical and chemical characteristics of the vegetation that are important to determining the fire performance of plants is emerging. Reports of fire researchers and of post-fire discussions emphasize the complexity of vegetation in the fire zone and the importance of landscape design and maintenance, but it is clear that accurate estimations of the fuel characteristics of vegetation are necessary to further the understanding of fire behavior and to successfully use computer simulations and prediction models in fire mitigation. It is clear that numerous factors must be considered in rating the fire performance of plants, including: plant age; moisture content; surface area/volume ratio; chemical content; amount and distribution of dead material; size of leaves, twigs, and branches; and, the geometry and arrangement (overall spatial distribution of the biomass) of the plant (Bond and van Wilgen 1996). Early vegetation studies that focused on the fire performance of common residential landscape plants only considered ignitability or flammability of specimen plants (Cheo and Montgomery 1970), and overlooked the compounding effects of these other factors. The following factors all influence the fire characteristics of plants.

Plant age -- It is generally assumed that the fire performance characteristics of plants correlate well with the age of the plant (Rothermel and Philpot 1973). However a recent study indicates high levels of variability in the plant age/fuel characteristic relationship for chaparral plants (Paysen and Cohen 1990). This suggests that the relationship may be species or environmentally dependent.

Moisture content -- The moisture content of plants is an important consideration because high levels of plant moisture can lower fire risk and act as a heat sink, reducing the intensity and spread of fire. For example, heat release studies of juniper shrubs tested over a range of moisture contents, from 31% to 105%, generated corresponding heat release rates between the range of 2130 kW to a low of 165 kW (Stephens, et al. 1994)*.

Dead material -- The amount of dead material found in a plant influences the total amount of water in a given gross volume of plant because the dead material is usually much drier than living tissue. Dead material rarely has a moisture content higher than 25% but live foliage moisture may range from 60 to 80% for chaparral species in xeric

* Moisture content is reported as a percentage of the oven-dry mass.

conditions to a high of 200-400% for succulent plants or many plants in irrigated conditions.

Surface-to-volume ratio -- Materials with large surface-to-volume ratios (e.g. large, flat leaves) dry more rapidly under fire conditions than materials with lower ratios (e.g. branches, fleshy leaves).

Geometry -- The shape of a plant and how the biomass is distributed throughout the plant is important because this bulk density affects the air flow and heat transfer through the plant and the arrangement of material within the plant effects the fuel continuity and the tendency for preheating and fire spread.

Total Volume -- The greater the volume of plant material the greater the fire hazard. More fuel is provided for the fire.

Chemical Content -- Some plants contain high proportions of volatile chemicals that increase the fire risk and heat release.

Plant Maintenance --The significance of proper plant and landscape maintenance cannot be overemphasized. *Poorly maintained landscapes can easily become fire hazards even if many of the plants are favorably recommended for fire performance.*

All of the previously mentioned plant characteristics are related to maintenance issues. Plants with a higher moisture content generally have a lower fire risk. For example, the moisture content of a plant is absolutely influenced by regular and proper irrigation and large amounts of dead material lower the overall moisture content of the plant. Dead material should be removed and properly disposed of to increase the overall moisture content of the plant. Regular maintenance should include the removal of dead material, thinning or pruning to reduce fuel volume and improve geometry to lower the fire risk.

Plant spacing, pruning, aeration, fertilization, irrigation and other cultivation practices should be consistent with a nursery's or landscape professional's recommendations. One needs to have enough information available to anticipate responses to drought conditions, extreme temperatures, or other environmental stresses, and take steps to minimize the impact of these stresses on the overall vigor of the plant. After the fact, prompt action should be taken to promote the recovery of the plant (e.g. pruning back frost damaged plants). Encouraging healthy growth by lopping off dead material, clearing out accumulated debris, properly watering and fertilizing plants is essential to the idea of defensible space. The positioning of plants relative to each other and structures is also very important. Landscapes should be designed and maintained to discourage the creation of "fuel ladders" -- a continuous fuel path by which a fire can climb from the ground to a shrub, to a tree and ultimately to the structure. Removal of any potential fuel ladders needs to be part of the routine landscape maintenance.

An appropriately landscaped and maintained defensible space will reduce the fire hazard and the fire risk to structures. A landscape environment that is inconsistently or improperly maintained cannot be considered defensible space and contributes to the fire hazard.

How to Use this Document

The document is divided into 6 sections. Information on the expected fire performance of specific plants can be obtained by looking up the plants, by scientific name, in the fire performance lists of Chapters 2 - 3 and then referring to Chapter 4 to obtain more detail on the mature plant characteristics. Chapter 2 provides a list of all the plants that were consistently identified in the reference lists as having a favorable fire performance rating; Chapter 3 lists those with unfavorable ratings; and, Chapter 4 contains the complete database of information compiled for each plant. If only the common name is known, then refer to the common name-to-scientific name cross reference list, Appendix 2. The last section lists all of the references used to compile the information on plant characteristics and fire performance.

The database information in Chapter 4 includes available information on mature plant characteristics, drought resistance, and erosion control. The drought resistance information is included because the vigor of the plant is lower and the amount of dead material higher in plants that are stressed by drought, creating a lower than expected fire performance. If drought information was not specifically cited in the references it can be inferred from the recommended climate zones which are based on those published in the Sunset Western Garden Book (Brenzel 1995). A summary of the climate zones for California can be found in Appendix 1. Erosion control information is included because many high-fire risk zones include steep slopes and both fire performance and erosion control need to be considered in the selection of plants.

Intended Use

This document is offered as a reference guide to landscaping in defensible space. It is not intended to provide the final word on landscaping decisions but rather to provide as much information as possible on the factors known to effect the fire performance of plants. Because this guide is a compilation of information from a variety of sources, there are often conflicting recommendations. These are identified as conflicts and also the source of the information is referenced. The goal is to provide a major reference tool that can aid in defensible space landscape vegetation selection decisions. If a user has reason to believe that a recommendation in this guide is not appropriate or does not agree with the user's experience, then the plant should be re-evaluated for the individual situation to reflect the user's assessment.

It is important to consider the overall plant characteristics when landscaping in fire-prone areas, particularly for plants with fire ratings that are inconsistently reported. The list of plants noted as having discrepancies in fire ratings should be evaluated individually, basing judgment of suitability on the mature plant characteristics that are known to influence a plant's ability to resist burning, such as, moisture content, surface area/volume, chemical content, arrangement, and accumulation of dead matter and, equally as significant, how the plant will be maintained. It is also important to consider the proximity to the structure and the climate zone(s) in which the plant thrives, and also the fact that mature plant characteristics can easily be influenced by the climate, available irrigation, and maintenance practices.

Future Work

This vegetation reference guide has been constructed for use by individuals, home owners, municipalities, and landscape professionals. The document is the result of preliminary work by the University of California Forest Products Laboratory. As more information becomes available, the guide will be updated. It is clear that the existing information on which the fire risk and performance ratings of plants are based is incomplete and often anecdotal. There is a great need for scientifically-based testing of landscape plants to improve the database of recommended species. Work is under way to create a vegetation test protocol and perform vegetation testing to accumulate such scientific data on the fire performance of commonly used landscape plants. A good way to stay informed on the progress of this project is to visit the UCFPL Internet Home Page on the World Wide Web at the following address.

<http://www.prefire.ucfpl.ucop.edu/>

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CHAPTER 2. Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating

The following list of plants contains those found in the references that were **recommended for use in fire prone environments by at least 3 references**. All of the plants listed here were given either a high or moderate fire resistance rating in the references where a rating was assigned, or found listed in the references that categorized plants as fire resistant without assigning a degree of resistance. In most cases, the terms used in the ranking were not defined, and if they were, there is no agreed upon standard definition. For this reason, the plants are listed in this chapter without any attempt to rank them.

The list is sorted by plant form -- groundcovers, shrubs, trees, etc. Some species may appear twice (e.g. once as a groundcover and then again as a shrub) because they have properties attributed to both forms. For a complete description of the plant, including its mature characteristics, climate zones, and information on erosion control and drought tolerance, please refer to Chapter 4, the landscape vegetation database.

Characteristics of plants recommended for fire prone areas.

In reviewing the list of plants that are recommended for fire prone areas, there are certain types of plants that appear over and over again. The plant characteristics that generally seem to have a positive influence on a plant's fire performance are:

- a low surface area to volume ratio, such as plants with thick, broad leaves as opposed to those with narrow, needle-like leaves.
- a high moisture content, as found in succulents and other plants with fleshy foliage.
- a low percentage of dead matter or debris.

Plants that possess all of these characteristics are likely to have a favorable fire performance rating. Comparison of the general characteristics of a plant not included in this list with those listed above could result in a decent estimate of the plant's fire performance.

It is important to note that a plant's fire resistance can be seriously compromised if not properly maintained. Plants that are not properly irrigated or pruned, or that are planted in climate areas not generally recommended for the plant, may not display the mature plant characteristics that would render it fire resistant.

Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plant Form : creeper

<i>Sedum acre</i>	Goldmoss sedum	 4-95
<i>Sedum album</i>	Green stonecrop	 4-95

Plant Form : grass

<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Yellow-eyed grass, Blue-eyed grass	 4-99
<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>	Yellow-eyed grass	 4-99

Plant Form : groundcover

<i>Achillea tomentosa</i> var. <i>Moonshine</i>	Woolly yarrow	 4-4
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet bugle	 4-8
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Silver spreader	 4-14
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift, Common thrift	 4-14
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Ice plant, Hottentot fig, Sea fig	 4-22
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow in summer	 4-28
<i>Cistus villosus prostratus</i> (<i>C. salviifolius</i>)	Purple rockrose, Prostrate rockrose	 4-33
<i>Coprosma kirkii</i>	Creeping coprosma	 4-35
<i>Cotoneaster dammerii</i>	Bearberry cotoneaster	 4-37
<i>Crassula argentea</i>	Jade plant	 4-39
<i>Crassula lactea</i>	Crassula	 4-39
<i>Crassula multiclava</i>	Crassula	 4-39
<i>Crassula tetragona</i>	Crassula	 4-40
<i>Delosperma alba</i>	White trailing ice plant	 4-41
<i>Drosanthemum floribundum</i> <i>rosea</i>	Ice plant, Rosea ice plant	 4-44
<i>Drosanthemum hispidum</i>	Rosea ice plant	 4-44
<i>Drosanthemum speciosum</i>	Drosanthemum, Dew flower	 4-44
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Mock strawberry	 4-44

Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plant Form : groundcover

<i>Dymondia margaretae</i>	Dymondia	4-45
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Santa Barbara daisy, Fleabane	4-47
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	4-50
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Creeping red fescue	4-53
<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry, ornamental	4-53
<i>Gazania ringens leucolaena</i> (G. uniflora)	Trailing ganzania	4-55
<i>Gazania uniflora</i> (G. <i>ringens</i> <i>leucolaena</i>)	Trailing ganzania	4-55
<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	Gum plant, Coastal wild gum	4-56
<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Island alum root, Coral bells	4-59
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Evergreen candytuft, Edging candytuft	4-60
<i>Lampranthus aurantiacus</i>	Trailing ice plant, bush gold, bush ice plant	4-64
<i>Lampranthus filicaulis</i>	Redondo creeper	4-65
<i>Lampranthus spectabilis</i>	Trailing ice plant	4-65
<i>Lantana camara</i> & cultivars	Trailing lantana, Yellow sage	4-65
<i>Lippia canescens</i>	Carpet grass, Lippia	4-68
<i>Liriope gigantea</i>	Giant turf lily	4-69
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> 'Halliana'	Hall's honeysuckle	4-70
<i>Malephora crocea</i>	Ice plant, Croceum ice plant	4-72
<i>Malephora luteola</i>	Yellow trailing ice plant	4-72
<i>Myoporum parvifolium prostrata</i>	Creeping boobyalla, Myoporum	4-75
<i>Oenothera berlandieri</i>	Mexican evening primrose	4-77
<i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i>	Trailing South African daisy, Freeway daisy	4-78
<i>Pelargonium peltatum</i>	Ivy geranium	4-79
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Lippia	4-81

Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plant Form : groundcover

<i>Portulacaria afra</i>	Purslane tree, Elephant's food	 4-84
<i>Potentilla tabernaemontanii</i> (<i>P. verna</i>)	Spring cinquefoil	 4-84
<i>Scaevola 'Muave Clusters'</i>	Fan flower	 4-94
<i>Sedum brevifolium</i>	Stonecrop	 4-95
<i>Sedum confusum</i>	Stonecrop, Sedum	 4-96
<i>Sedum rubrotinctum</i> (<i>S. guatemalense</i>)	Brown bean, Pork and beans	 4-96
<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	Stonecrop	 4-97
<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>	Waxberry, Creeping snowberry, Trip vine	 4-101
<i>Thymus pseudolanuginosus</i> (<i>T. lanuginosus</i>)	Woolly thyme, Thyme	 4-103
<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i>	Star jasmine	 4-103
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	O'Connor's legume	 4-104
<i>Vinca major</i>	Periwinkle	 4-106
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Dwarf periwinkle myrtle, Dwarf running myrtle	 4-106

Plant Form : shrub

<i>Achillea millefolium white</i>	White yarrow	 4-3
<i>Aeonium decorum</i>	Aeonium	 4-5
<i>Aeonium simsii</i>	Aeonium	 4-5
<i>Agapanthus 'Peter Pan'</i>	Lily of the Nile, dwarf	 4-6
<i>Agave americana 'Alba Picata'</i>	Century plant	 4-7
<i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i>	Agave	 4-8
<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	Torch aloe	 4-9
<i>Aloe aristata</i>	Aloe, Dwarf aloe	 4-9
<i>Aloe brevifolia</i>	Aloe	 4-9
<i>Artemisia caucasica</i>	Silver spreader	 4-15

Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plant Form : shrub

<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>	Sandhill sage	4-15
<i>Asarum caudatum</i>	Wild ginger	4-15
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Four-wing saltbush	4-16
<i>Atriplex lentiformis breweri</i>	Saltbush	4-16
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	Saltbush	4-17
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	Blueblossom	4-26
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian, Jupiter's beard	4-28
<i>Cistus purpureus</i>	Orchid rockrose, Purple rockrose	4-33
<i>Convolvulus cneorum</i>	Bush morning glory	4-34
<i>Cotoneaster congestus</i>	Likiano	4-37
<i>Dietes bicolor</i>	Wild yellow iris, African iris	4-42
<i>Dietes vegeta</i>	Fortnight lily	4-43
<i>Diplacus longifolius (Mimulus sp.)</i>	Monkey flower	4-43
<i>Eriodictyon trichocalyx</i>	Yerba santa, Hairy yerba santa	4-47
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Golden yarrow	4-48
<i>Eunymous fortunei radicans</i>	Winter creeper, Common winter creeper	4-52
<i>Fremontodendron spp.</i>	Fremontia, Flannel bush	4-54
<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	Showy Island snapdragon, Hummingbird flower	4-54
<i>Grindelia stricta venulosa</i>	Coastal wild gum	4-57
<i>Helichrysum petiolatum</i>	Licorice plant, Curry plant	4-58
<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Daylily	4-58
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	Red yucca	4-59
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Pacific coast iris, Douglas iris	4-61
<i>Isomeris arborea (Cleome isomeris)</i>	Bladderpod, Bladderbush, Burrofat	4-61
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>	Red hot poker	4-64

Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plant Form : shrub

<i>Ligustrum texanum</i>	Texas privet	 4-67
<i>Limonium perezii</i>	Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender	 4-68
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping mahonia	 4-72
<i>Mimulus longiflorus (Diplacus longiflorus)</i>	Monkey flower	 4-73
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Wax myrtle, Pacific wax myrtle, California wax myrtle	 4-75
<i>Nerine masonorum</i>	Nerine	 4-76
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	 4-76
<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	Dwarf karo	 4-82
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	Mock orange, Wheeler's mock orange	 4-82
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaved cherry	 4-85
<i>Prunus lyonii</i>	Catalina cherry	 4-85
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	 4-86
<i>Punica granatum 'Nana'</i>	Dwarf pomegranate	 4-86
<i>Pyracantha 'Santa Cruz'</i>	Pyracantha, Firethorn	 4-87
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Italian buckthorn	 4-88
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	Coffeeberry	 4-88
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	Spiny redberry, Redberry, Hollyleaf redberry, Red-berried buckthorn	 4-88
<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	Western azalea	 4-89
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	Lemonade berry	 4-89
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume	 4-90
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Sonoma sage, Creeping sage	 4-93
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Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plants with a Favorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Chapter 3. Plants with an Unfavorable Fire Performance Rating

The following list of plants contains those found in the references that are definitely **not recommended for use in fire prone environments by at least 3 references**. All of the plants listed here were given either a low fire resistance rating in the references where a rating was assigned, or found listed in the references that categorized plants as being fire prone, without assigning any relative degree.

The list is sorted by plant form -- groundcovers, shrubs, trees, etc. Some species may appear twice (e.g. once as a groundcover and then again as a shrub). For a complete description of the plant, including its mature characteristics, climate zones, and information on erosion control, drought tolerance and cold tolerance, please refer to Chapter 4, the landscape vegetation database.

Characteristics of plants not recommended for fire prone areas.

The plants in this group have some commonly shared characteristics. Most of these plants are characterized by:

- a high surface area to volume ratio.
- a low moisture content.
- a high percentage of dead matter or debris.

Plants that possess all of these characteristics are likely to have an unfavorable fire performance rating. Comparison of the general characteristics of a plant not included in this list with those listed above could result in a decent estimate of the plant's fire performance.

It is possible that a plant listed as fire resistant, but allowed to grow unchecked and poorly maintained could possess the characteristics listed above and therefore be a liability. Proper maintenance of landscaping is crucial and cannot be overlooked.

Plants with an Unfavorable Fire Performance Rating in Three or More References

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Plant Form : vine

Lonicera japonica Japanese honeysuckle 4-70

Chapter 4. Landscape Vegetation Database

This is the master list of vegetation information which includes mature plant characteristics, climate zones, drought resistance and erosion control recommendations. The drought resistance information is included because the vigor of the plant is compromised and the amount of dead material higher in plants that are stressed by drought, creating a greater than expected fire risk. Erosion control information is included because many high-fire risk zones include steep slopes and the selection of plants needs to consider both fire performance and erosion control. If information on these characteristics was not available from the references used, it is so noted in the text. As the information becomes available, the database will be updated.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Abelia hybrid
Glossy abelia
 evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14,53

Ht. to 8'; spreads to 5' or more. Arching branches with dense foliage; 1/2 - 1-1/2" leaves. Flowers Jun-Oct. Prune selectively to keep plants form. Best in sun, tolerates some shade. Moderate watering recommended. Zone 5-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Abies spp.

Fir

evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,8,40,41

Ht. 15-300', depending upon species. Tall, erect, symmetric trees with uniformly spaced branch whorls. Large cones are held erect and may shatter after ripening, leaving a spiky stalk. Full sun or light shade; most species tolerate aridity. Zones vary by species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Acacia ongerup

Acacia

evergreen shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 20

Ht. 1-2'; spreading to 15'. Narrow, leathery leaves. Spring flowers. Does well in poor soil. Endures heat. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Acacia ongerup, prostrate

Prostrate acacia

evergreen groundcover

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 21

Ht. 1'; spreading to 10'. Narrow, leathery leaves. Spring flowers. Good groundcover for banks. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Acacia redolens

Prostrate acacia

evergreen groundcover

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 25,53

Ht. 1'; spreading to 10'. Narrow, leathery leaves. Spring flowers. Endures drought, heat. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Acer circinatum

Vine maple

deciduous shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. 5-35'. Crooked, sprawling and vinelike with many stems from base in forest shade; single trunked small tree in full sun. Loses its vinelike characteristics in open situations. Leaves 2-6" wide and long. Flowers in Apr-May, followed by paired winged seeds. Full sun or partial shade; occasional deep watering necessary. Zone 1-6, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Acer macrophyllum

Bigleaf maple

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. 30-95'. Broad topped, dense shade tree. 3-5 lobed leaves, 6-15" wide, sometimes larger on vigorous saplings. Flower clusters Apr-May, followed by clusters of paired winged seeds. Full sun or partial shade; occasional deep waterings needed. Zone 4-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Acer negundo

Box elder

deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. to 60', fast growing. Leaves divided into 3-5 oval, 2-5" long leaflets. Considered a weed tree -- seeds readily, hosts box elder bugs, and is subject to breakage. Full sun or partial shade; does better with occasional deep watering. Zone 1-10, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Acer palmatum

Japanese maple

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. to 20', slow growing; many stemmed growing in flat, horizontal planes. Leaves 2-4" long. Needs shelter from hot, dry, constant wind and filtered shade is best, but will grow in full sun. Occasional deep watering necessary. Zone 1-10, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Achillea millefolium white

White yarrow

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25,41,40,53

Ht. 2 ft., spreading to about 9" in width. Upright and spreading in habit. Fern-like leaves. Blooms summer through autumn. Prefers a sunny spot with well-drained soil and will tolerate a wide range of soil types. Full sun, no water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Achillea taygetea

Yarrow

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 1.5'; fern-like form with divided leaves 3-4" long. Dense clusters of flowers through the summer. Old stalks must be sheared. Full sun, no or just a little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Achillea tomentosa* var. *Moonshine

Woolly yarrow

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 13 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,11,12,13,23,25,26,28,32,35,36, 37,39

Ht. 6-10", flat, spreading mat of fern like hairy leaves. Flowers in summer. Shear off dead flowers. Good in sunny or partly shaded small areas. Little water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Acmena smithii

Lilly pilly

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 10-25', if trained as a tree, otherwise awkward in growth habit as shrub. Flowers at branch tips, followed by colorful, long lasting, edible berries. Full sun, regular watering necessary. Zone 15-17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Adenostoma fasciculatum

Greasewood chamise

evergreen shrub

NOT RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 3,4,8,9,30,40,41,42

Ht. to 12', though a prostrate form is also available. Sparse shrub with tiny, needlelike leaves, clustered on branches. Dense clusters of flowers. Tolerates heat, aridity and poor, rocky soil. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 14-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Adenostoma sparsifolium

Red shanks

evergreen shrub

NOT RECOMMENDED by 4 for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,30,42

Ht. to 18'; sparse shrub. Shredding red bark, needles not clustered. Flower clusters somewhat longer and more open than those of other species in genus. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 14-16, 18-21.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Aeonium arboreum

Aeonium

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 1-1/2 - 3', width to 3'; bushy in habit. Branching stems terminate in a rosette of glossy leaves about 8" in diameter. Flowers in spring. These plants prefer partial shade to full shade with bright reflected light and will suffer in full sunlight. Soil should be very well-drained and regular watering will benefit the plant during the growing season. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Aeonium caespitosum

Aeonium

succulent shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7

Ht. to 6". Low, dense, spreading, very leafy. Full sun near coast, partial shade inland. Infrequent but deep watering necessary. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Aeonium decorum

Aeonium

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,38,53

Ht. to 10". Bushy, rounded, many branched. Each branch ending in a 2" rosette. Fleshy leaves. Neat, compact. Full sun near coast, partial shade inland. Infrequent, but deep watering necessary. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Aeonium simsii

Aeonium

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,53

Ht. to 6". Low, dense, spreading, very leafy. Full sun near coast, partial shade inland. Infrequent but deep watering necessary. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Aeonium undulatum

Saucer plant

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Stems 3-10', unbranched; suckering at the base. Leaves are succulent, fleshy 4-8" long. Flowers in the spring. Full sun, partial shade; regular water. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Aesculus californica

California buckeye

deciduous tree

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,17

Ht. 10-20' or taller. Very wide spreading; mature leaves have 5-7 3-6" long leaflets. Flower clusters at branch ends in Apr-May. Large pear-shaped fruit in fall. Drops its leaves very early (by Jul) unless given ample water. Full sun. Zone 4-10, 12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Aesculus hippocastanum

Horsechestnut

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 40', 30' wide. Round headed with large leaves, each divided fanwise into 5 leaflets. Bears hundreds of 8" flower plumes in Apr-May. Full sun, needs summer water. Zone 1-10, 12, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Agapanthus 'Peter Pan'

Lily of the Nile, dwarf

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,10,25

Ht. 1-3', width 2'; upright clump in habit. Strap-like, glossy foliage. The roots are thick and tuberous and should be divided every few seasons in the spring. Flowers in summer. Removal of spent blooms and stems recommended. Full sun or partial shade. Water and fertilize heavily during the growing season. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Agapanthus africanus

Lily of the Nile

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,27

Ht. 2-4', width 2'; upright clump in habit. Swoord-shaped, glossy foliage. Thick and tuberous roots should be divided every few seasons in the spring. Flowers in summer. Removal of spent blooms and stems recommended. Requires well-drained soil, full sun or partial shade. Water and fertilize heavily during the growing season. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Agapanthus campanulatus

Lily of the Nile

deciduous shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 12

Ht. to 3'; clumping in habit. Sword-like foliage. Blooms in summer. Will grow in full sun or partial shade; thrives with ample water during growing season. Divide infrequently (every 5-6 years). Established plants will grow and bloom without much water. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Agapanthus orientalis

Lily of the Nile

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 4-5'; broad, arching leaves in big clumps. Profuse flower production in spring and summer. Once established, will grow and bloom without much care. Full sun or partial shade. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Agave americana 'Alba Picata'

Century plant

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25,37

Ht. 3-6', width 6-10'; upright and spreading in habit. Basal-rosetted succulent. Takes about 10 years for the first blooms to appear. The branched flower stem can reach heights of up to 40 feet. The mother plant will die after blooming and send out new plants around its circumference -- mother plant should be removed. Will tolerate poor soil and drought. Full sun or partial shade; infrequent water. Zone 10, 12-24

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Agave attenuata 'Nova'

Blue agave

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. can vary from 2-1/2' to 5'; spreading to clumps 5' across. Fleshy, somewhat translucent, spineless leaves. Older plants develop a stout trunk. Flowers dense on arching spikes to 12-14' long. Does best in rich soil with ample water; protect from frost and hot sun. Zone 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Agave victoriae-reginae

Agave

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,53

Ht. to 2', width 2'; upright in habit. Rosetted leaf pattern. Blooms only after 20 to 30 years and has a flower stem 12 feet high, spring and summer. Full sun or partial shade; infrequent water. Zones 10, 12, 13, 15-17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Agonis juniperina

Juniper myrtle

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. fast growing to 25-35'; spreading, open and finely textured tree or large shrub. Narrow (1/4 - 1/2"), soft leaves. Bears flower clusters, summer to Nov. Very tolerant of different soil types and watering practices; full sun. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Ajuga reptans

Carpet bugle

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,11,17,23,28,35,36,40,41,53

Ht. to 6"; spreads quickly to form a thick carpet of lustrous 2-3" wide leaves. Bears flowers from spring to early summer. Full sun or partial shade, regular water needed. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Allium spp.

Onion

bulb shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 2 - 3 ft., 5' wide; upright in habit. Blooms late May. Thrive in deep, rich, sandy loam. Lift and divide bulbs only after they become crowded. Full sun or partial shade; ample water during growth. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Alnus cordata

Italian alder

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. to 40', spreading to 25' wide. Heart shaped, 4" glossy leaves. Short deciduous period. Clusters of flower catkins are displayed before leaves in spring; flowers develop into small, woody cones in winter. Roots are invasive and will be less troublesome if deep watering is practiced. Will tolerate any exposure, but requires regular watering. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Alnus rhombifolia

White alder

deciduous tree

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,17,25,53

Ht. 50-90', spreading to 40' wide. Very fast growing. Clusters of flower catkins appear before leaves in spring; flowers develop into small, woody cones in winter. Will tolerate any exposure, but requires regular watering. Very tolerant of heat and wind. Zone 1-9, 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Aloe arborescens

Torch aloe

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25,53

Ht. to 18'; branching, clumping sort of form. Flowers in clusters Dec-Feb. Tolerates shade; frost sensitive. Likes full sun and infrequent deep watering. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Aloe aristata

Aloe, Dwarf aloe

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10, 40, 41,53

Ht. 8-12" and equally as wide. Leaf rosettes densely packed. 1 - 1-1/2' flower clusters in winter. Full sun, light shade; infrequent but deep watering. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Aloe brevifolia

Aloe

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,40,41,53

Ht. to 20"; low clumps of blunt, thick spiny edged leaves. Cluster of flowers intermittent all year. Full sun, inland shade; infrequent but deep watering. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Aloe nobilis

Aloe

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 1'. Leaves grow in rosettes about 1' wide. Clustered flowers appear Jun and last about 6 weeks. Takes limited root space. Full sun, inland shade; infrequent but deep watering. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Aloe striata

Coral aloe

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. to 20", spreading rosettes 2' wide. Broad, long, spineless leaves. Flower clusters Feb-May. Protect from hot sun. Infrequent, but deep watering necessary. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Aloe vera

Aloe

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. to 3'; clustering rosettes of narrow fleshy, stiffly upright leaves 1-2' long. Flowers in dense spike atop stalk. Full sun; survives without extra water, but needs some to look good. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Aloe x spinosissima

Spider aloe

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Stems to 3' or more. Leaves to 1' with few spines on both surfaces; horny teeth on leaf margins. Flowers in cylindrical racemes to 2' high. Full sun, inland shade; looks best with infrequent but deep watering. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Anaphalis margaritacea

Pearly everlasting

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 1 - 1-1/2', width to 1'; upright in habit. Downy foliage. Profuse flower heads from late summer into the autumn. Great choice for moist soil. This plant can become invasive and will probably spread quickly to the borders of its bed. Can grow fine in either full sun or part shade. Zone 3 - 8.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Anemone japonica

Japanese anemone

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. 2-4'; branching stems rise from clump of 3-5-lobed leaves covered with soft hairs. Long-lived, fibrous rooted perennial. Blooms in fall. Slow to establish, but spreads readily if roots are not disturbed. May need staking. Partial shade; regular water, though takes some aridity. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Anthemis cotula
Mayweed, Stinking chamomile
 annual shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 53

Ht. to 2', erect; branching stems. Ill-smelling. 2-1/4" leaves covered with sparse hair. Considered a weed by most. Full sun; little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : ?

Anthemis nobilis
Chamomile
 perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 10

Ht. 3-12"; soft-textured, spreading mat of finely cut leaves. Summer blooming flowers. Can be a lawn substitute if mowed or sheared occasionally. Full sun or partial shade; moderate water requirement. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : ?

Aptenia cordifolia x "Red Apple"
Red apple aptenia, ice plant
 perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 53

Ht. to 2'. Ice plant relative with trailing stems and a profusion of 1" wide heart-shaped fleshy leaves. Inch wide flowers in spring and summer. Full sun, very little water needed. Zone 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : ?

Aquilegia formosa
Western columbine
 perennial groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 1.5 to 3'. Lacy foliage, erect and branching. Flowers bloom in spring and early summer, cut back old stems for second crop of flowers. Full sun or filtered shade; moderate water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no Erosion Control : ?

Arbutus menziesii
Madrone
 evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 11,15,17

Ht. 20-100'; forms a broad, round head almost as wide as tall. Smooth, reddish brown bark peels in thin flakes. Leathery, 3-6" leaves. Flowers in spring, followed by clusters of berries in early fall. It must have fast drainage and nonalkaline water. Water just enough to keep plants going until they are established, then only infrequent deep waterings. Full sun. Zone 3-7, 14-19.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Arbutus unedo
Strawberry tree
 evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 11 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,17,25,30,40,41,42,53

Ht. 8 - 35', slow growing, with equal amount of spread. Basal suckers, stem sprouts. Can be pruned, not sheared, to make open crowned. Unpruned, will form screen. Trunk and branches have shreddy bark; tend to become twisted and gnarled in age. Flowers and round fruit appear at the same time in fall and winter. Regular watering needed in warmer southern California climates. Sun or part shade; full sun in the desert. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : no

Arctostaphylos 'Dr. Hurd'
Manzanita
 evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 15', treelike form, as wide or wider. Flowers Jan-Mar. Must have loose, well-drained soil. Full sun, best with some water. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'
Manzanita
 evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 9-14", dense uniform carpet, mounding slightly higher after many years. Small flowers Mar-Apr. In hot interior valleys needs deep irrigation every 2-3 weeks. One of the greenest, most uniform manzanitas. Full sun, some water. Zone 6-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist'
Pacific mist manzanita
 evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 2-1/2'; spreading stems turn upward near ends. Sparse blooms Feb-Apr. Needs pinching to force branching, but eventually forms a good, dense groundcover. Loose, rapidly draining soils are best; full sun. Some water needed. Zone 7-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Arctostaphylos edmundsii
Little Sur manzanita
 evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 4-24"; low-growing and spreading to 12' wide. Good hillside plant. Full sun, some water needed in warmer southern California climates. Zone 6-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Arctostaphylos edmundsii* 'Carmel Sur'**

Carmel Sur manzanita

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Nearly prostrate; rooting stems. Small (1-1/4") leaves. Flowers with leafy bracts appear in late autumn. Well suited to central California's coastal climate. Sun; does best with some water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

***Arctostaphylos hookeri* 'Monterey Carpet'**

Monterey manzanita

evergreen groundcover

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,10,23,28,35,36,40,41,53

Ht. 1-1/2 to 4', slow growing, dense mounds. Spreads to 6' or more. Smooth bark. Good on hillsides. Full sun, best with some water. Zone 6-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Arctostaphylos manzanita

Manzanita

evergreen tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 6-20', widely adapted tree or treelike shrub. Spreads 4-10', crooked picturesque branching habit. Flowers in Feb-Apr. Full sun, best with some water. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

***Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* 'Paradise'**

Manzanita

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 3-8' with broader spread. Crooked branching habit. Flowers Feb-Apr. Full sun, best with some water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Bearberry

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,10,12,14,23,25,30,32,36,40,41,53

Ht. to 2', prostrate form will spread and root as it creeps to 15' wide. Glossy, leathery leaves to 1". Flowers Feb-Apr. Good for groundcover on slopes and as trailing mat on walls. Slowness in starting may create weed problem early on. Full sun, best with some water. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Arctotheca calendula

Silver spreader

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 25 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,8,9,10,11,12,18,20,21,23,24,25,26,28,30,31,34,35,36,37,38,40,41,42,53

Ht. less than 1', rapidly spreading with daisy like 2" flowers most of the year. Deeply divided leaves. Recovers quickly from frost damage. Good on hillsides. Full sun, little or no water once established, except in warmer inland and southern California climates. Zone 8, 9, 13-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Arctotis spp.

African daisy

annual/perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9

Ht. 6" to 2', some spreading or bushy in habit. Some species are annual, some perennial. All have flowers throughout most of the year. Full sun, best with water during active growth. Zone 7-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Armeria alliacea

Sea pink

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 8 -16" flowering stalks with 6-8" leaf clumps. Narrow, stiff leaves grow in compact tufts or basal rosettes. Small flowers from early spring to late fall. Sturdy, dependable plants. Need excellent soil drainage. Shear flowers after bloom. Full sun, little to moderate water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Armeria maritima

Thrift, Common thrift

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,10,11,12,15,25,40,41

Ht. 6 - 10" flower stalks with tufted mounds of 6" long leaves spreading to 1' across. Blooms almost all year. Full sun, little to moderate water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Armeria pseupaemia (formosa)

Sea pink, thrift

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Resembles *A.maritima*, but with broader leaves to 10" long. Blooms almost year round. Full sun; little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Artemisia californica

California sagebrush

evergreen shrub

Ht. 1-1/2 to 5' stalks with finely divided leaves. Drought tolerant once established, loses leaves in extreme drought. Full sun, best with a little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 4,7,8,9,11,40,41,42

Artemisia caucasica

Silver spreader

evergreen shrub

Ht. 3-6", spreading to 2' wide. Silky foliage, small flowers. Needs good drainage; takes extremes of heat and cold well. Full sun, best with a little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,10,12,23,28,30,35,36,37,38,42, 53

Artemisia pycnocephala

Sandhill sage

evergreen shrub

Ht. 1 - 2' tall, erect, rounded and somewhat spreading. Soft, crowded, divided leaves and very small flowers. Remove flower spikes as they open to keep plants compact. Becomes unkempt with age -- replace every 2 years. Full sun, best with a little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 6,11,16,25

Asarum caudatum

Wild ginger

perennial shrub

Ht. 7 - 10" high, lush, lustrous carpet of heart shaped leaves 2-7" across. Flowers, long tailed and close to the ground under the leaves, bloom in spring. Spreads faster and is more luxuriant in rich soil with ample humus. Likes shade and ample water. Zone 4-6, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,40,41

Aster chilensis

Wild aster

perennial shrub

Ht. to 3'; stems ascending to erect. Leaves are long (4-3/4") and narrow. Flowers in summer and fall. Prefers coastal climates from Santa Barbara north. Sun to partial shade; best with some water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Atriplex californica

Coast saltbush

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 19

Prostrate perennial with many branched stems to 20". Small (3/4"), crowded leaves. Prefers California coastal climate. Sun, partial shade; little water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Atriplex canescens

Four-wing saltbush

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,6,16

Ht. 3-6' of dense growth, spreading to 4-8'. Narrow leaves 1/2 - 2" long. Unusually tolerant of direct seashore conditions or highly alkaline desert soils. Full sun, very little water. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Atriplex halimus

Saltbush, Sea orach

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 19

Ht. to 6'. Leaves 2-1/2" long, silvery white foliage. Prefers mild climate. Sun to partial shade; little water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Atriplex lentiformis

Quail saltbush

deciduous shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 3 - 10', densely branched, sometimes spiny shrub spreading 6-12' wide. Oval, 1/2 - 2" leaves. Useful as salt-tolerant hedge or windbreak. Full sun, very little water needed. Zone 7-14, 18, 19.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Atriplex lentiformis breweri

Saltbush

deciduous shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,11,19

Ht. 5-7', spreading to 6 - 8' wide. Can be hedge sheared. Will grow in reclaimed marine soil. Very tolerant of highly alkaline soils. Full sun, very little water needed. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Atriplex nuttallii

Saltbush

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 23,36

Ht. to 20". Woody at base, greyish foliage. Leaves (2") are alternate, with short petioles. Prefers northern California climate. Sun; very little water. Zone 1, 2, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : yes

Atriplex semibaccata

Saltbush

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 15 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,11,13,21,23,24,27,28,35,36, 37,40,41,42

Ht. to 1', spreading 1-6' as a dense mat. Deep rooted. Very tolerant of direct seashore conditions and highly alkaline soils. Full sun, very little water needed. Zone 8-10, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Baccharis pilularis

Coyote brush, Twin Peaks

evergreen groundcover

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 2,5,6,10,11,12,16,19,20,21,23,25, 27,28,30,35,36,38,39,41,42,53

Ht. 8 - 24" and spreading to more than 6'. Dense, billowy, mat with small (1/2") toothed leaves closely set on many branches. Needs shearing back once a year in early spring before new growth starts. Cut out old arching branches and thin to rejuvenate. Full sun only. Near the coast, thrives with no water at all; inland requires monthly watering. Zone 5-11, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Baccharis pilularis prostrata

Dwarf coyote brush

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,10,22,24,38

Ht. 8 - 10" and spreading in habit. Dense with small toothed leaves. Cut out old branches and thin to rejuvenate. Full sun only. Near the coast, thrives with no water at all; inland requires monthly watering. Zone 5-11, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Baileya multiradiata

Desert marigold

groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 1 to 1-1/2'. Inch wide flower heads above foliage bloom spring through fall. Western desert native. Water every week or two to prolong blooming period. Full sun only. All zones, but best in desert.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Bambusa spp.

Bamboo

evergreen grass

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Many species and varieties. Ht. can range from 3 - 25' when maintained, 6 - 50' if left uncontrolled. Bamboo is either running, via root system, or clumped in growth habit. Stem diameters range from 1/4" to 4". Mature plant has a rapid growth period and can withstand dry conditions, but many species can be quite messy. Water requirements vary with species and climate. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Bergenia spp.

Bergenia

evergreen shrub

Not enough information available on fire performance to make a recommendation.

See Reference: 11

Ht. varies from 12-20". Thick rootstocks; large, glossy leaves with thick leafless stalks bearing clusters of small flowers. Divide crowded clumps; replant vigorous divisions. Best performance in partial shade, but will take full sun in cool coastal climates. Requires regular water. Zone 1-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Bougainvillea spectabilis

Bougainvillea

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 4', spreading to 6' wide. Reliably hardy vine. Makes a dense cover of leaves and blooms in cool summers. Full sun, light shade in hottest areas. Low to moderate water needs; more water needed in warmer southern and inland climates. Best in Zone 16, 17.

Drought Tolerant : somewhat

Erosion Control : ?

Brahea edulis

Guadalupe palm

palm tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 30'. Slow growing, stout trunked. Old leaves drop and leave trunk scarred. Hardy to below 20 F; tolerates some aridity in milder climates, but requires supplemental water in warmer southern California and inland climates. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 13-17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : somewhat

Erosion Control : ?

Brassica nigra

Black mustard

annual shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Many branched to 6' tall; erect and often glabrous. Flowers, profuse, in spring. Cultivated as a source of pungent table mustard.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Brassica rapa

Wild turnip, yellow mustard

annual or biennial shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Leaves to 20" long, soft with stiff and bristly hairs. Roots are flat or globe shaped, without a long neck or crown. Many yellow flowers in spring.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Brodiaea laxa

Grass nut

corm shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 2-1/2' flower stalks. Clusters of tubular blooms in spring and early summer. Very few grass like leaves. Full sun, no water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Bromus carinatus

California brome

annual or biennial grass

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 20-40". Summer grasses with long seed heads; branches spreading or drooping. Requires good drainage. Zone 9.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Brugmansia spp.

Angel's trumpet

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17,40

Ht. to 15'; large shrub that can be trained as a tree. Large leafed; large trumpet shaped flowers in spring through summer. Expect frost damage and unattractive winter appearance. Prune in early spring after last frost, cut back branches to one or two buds. Can be a dominating shrub. Sun or shade, wind sheltered. Water during growth and bloom season. Zone 16-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Buddleia spp.

Butterfly bush

evergreen/deciduous - sp.
dependent shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Ht. 3 - 12', depending on species. Fast growing. Prune after bloom; remove some of the oldest wood down to within a few inches of the ground or train up into small single or multi-trunked tree. Needs good drainage and enough water to maintain growth. Sun or light shade. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Bulbine caulescens

Bulbine

annual or perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. to 2' or more; stems distinct to 1' high, simple or branched. Cylindrical leaves crowded towards upper part of stem. Bright yellow flowers in dense racemes to 1' long. South African native, but can be cultivated in mild California climates. Zone 16-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Buxus microphylla var. japonica

Japanese boxwood

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11

Ht. 4 - 6', grows slowly if not pruned. Can be clipped to form low hedge or border. Compact foliage. Full sun or shade; looks best if watered in summer. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Callistemon citrinus

Lemon bottlebrush

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 26,30

Ht. 10-15' massive shrub; with pruning and staking when young can be trained into narrowish, round-headed 20-25' tree. Narrow leaves, 6" red brushes appear in cycles throughout the year. Full sun, needs little water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Callistemon viminalis

Weeping bottlebrush

evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 26,30,37

Ht. 20 - 30', fast growing with 15' spread. 6" long narrow leaves on pendulous branches; bright red brushes from May-Jul. May be damaged by cold winters. As a tree, needs staking and thinning of branches to prevent tangled, top-heavy growth. Full sun; little water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Calocedrus decurrens

Incense cedar

evergreen tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 75-90, symmetric, dense, narrow, pyramidal crown. Slow growing at first, but may grow 2' per year when established. Takes summer heat; tolerates poor soils. Can grow up out of shade into full sun; water through first 4-5 dry seasons. Zone 1-12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Calochortus* spp.**

Mariposa lily

bulb shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. varies from 8" - 2', depending on species. Bloom varies from early spring to late summer. Full sun; keep moist in winter and spring, dry in summer. Zone dependent on species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Calodendrum capense

Cape chestnut

deciduous shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 25-40', broad crowned. Blooms extend well above the foliage; blooms May-Jul. Slow growing, seldom flowers when young. Plant out of prevailing wind. Full sun, root zone should not be allowed to completely dry. Zone 19, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

***Camellia* spp.**

Camellia

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9

Ht. varies from 3 - 20', depending on species and pruning. All species are prolific bloomers and can be messy -- lots of dropping of spent blooms or unopened buds. Prune right after blooming or during summer and fall. Remove dead or weak wood and thin when growth is so dense that flowers fail to open properly. Best out of strong sun, needs water when young. Zone 4-9, 12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Campanula poscharskyana

Serbian bellflower

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 10

Ht. 1 - 6', depending on how plant is trained. Blooms spring to fall. Divide clumps in fall every 3-4 years; some may need yearly attention. Grows best in good, well-drained soil; full sun on coast, partial shade inland. Needs moist soil during dry months. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Campsis radicans

Trumpet vine, Trumpet creeper

deciduous vine

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 12,26,30,32,37

Ht. to 40', fast growing. Flowers in clusters, Aug-Sep. Vigorous climber that clings to wood, brick and stucco with aerial rootlets. Unless thinned, old plants become top heavy and pull away from supporting surface. Spreads easily by suckering roots. Full sun or partial shade; low water requirement along the coast, moderate water in southern California and inland areas. Zone 2-12, 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Carissa macrocarpa

Natal plum

evergreen shrub

Ht. 5-7', fast growing, strong, upright rounding shrub of loose habit. Lustrous, leathery leaves to 3"; flowers appear throughout the year, followed by fruit. Prune heavily for hedges or screens. Tolerates some shade, but best in sun; little water near coast, regular watering inland. Zone 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 9,10,28,35,39,53

Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carpet'

Natal green carpet plum

evergreen groundcover

Ht. 1-1-1/2', spreading to 4' or more. Lustrous, leathery leaves smaller than *C. macrocarpa*; flowers appear throughout the year, followed by fruit. Tolerates some shade, but best in sun; little water near coast, regular watering inland. Zone 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,23,36,38

Carissa macrocarpa 'Tuttle'

Natal plum

evergreen groundcover

Ht. 2-3', 3-5' wide. Compact, dense foliage. Profuse flowers appear throughout the year, followed by fruit. Tolerates some shade, but best in sun; little water near coast, regular watering inland. Zone 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Carpenteria californica

Bush anemone

evergreen shrub

Ht. 3-6', slow growing with many stems arising from base. Older bark light and peeling; leaves thick, narrow 2 - 4-1/2" long. Blooms show in May-Aug. Prune after flowering to restrain growth. Full sun or partial shade; no water on coast, some required inland. Zone 5-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Carpobrotus edulis

Ice plant, Hottentot fig, Sea fig

succulent groundcover

Ht. to 5"; coarse leafed, trailing plants. Can develop patches of dieback if severely stressed by lack of water or nitrogen during growth season. Full sun, usually no water needed once established. Zone 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,11,23,24,28,31,35,36,37,53

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Castanopsis chrysophylla

Giant chinquapin

evergreen tree

Ht. to 100' or more, although sometimes shrub-like. Bark heavily furrowed. Leaves to 6" long, shiny with scales beneath. Fruit is enclosed in a spiny husk. Not hardy in cold climates. Well suited to most of California.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 6,40,41

Ceanothus 'Frosty Blue'

Mountain lilac

evergreen shrub

Ht. 8-10', spreading to 10-12' wide. Leaves are dark, glossy green on top; 1/2" with serrated edges. Dense foliage. Flowers in spring. Performs well for 10-12 years; dead plant and matter must be removed from garden. Full sun; well drained soil; no water on the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter' (C.thyrsoiflorus x C.papillosus roweanus)

Joyce Coulter ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Ht. 3-5'; spreading to 8-10' wide. Grown as a mound in habit, but can be very useful as a spreading groundcover or bank plant. Leaves are 1/2" x 1-1/2" and are very wrinkled. Flower clusters appear in mid-spring. Partial shade in warm inland locations; no water on the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' (C.griseus x C.arboreus)

Ray Hartman Ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Ht. to 15'; spreading to 10-15' wide. Big, glossy leaves (1-2"), large plumes of flowers in early spring. Can be trained as a small tree. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun; no water on the coast, some water inland. Zone 1-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ceanothus 'Wheeler Canyon' (C.papillosus var. roweanus)

Wheeler Canyon Ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Ht. 5-6', with equal spread. 1", heavily veined, glossy, narrow leaves. Showy flowers of intense color in early spring. Useful in slopes. Needs well drained soil and periodic deep watering in inland locations. Full sun on the coast, partial shade inland; no water on coast, some water inland. Zone 1-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Ceanothus gloriosus

Point Reyes ceanothus

evergreen shrub or groundcover

Varying in habit – can be low and spreading, 1-2' high by 6' wide, or mounding in form, 2-3' high. Thick, heavily toothed, deep green leaves to 1" in diameter. Dark, tough, spiny foliage. Showy spring flowers. Full sun; well drained soil; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 4-6. Does not do well in summer heat in zones 7,14,18-21.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,10,12,17,21,28,35,36,40,41,53

Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay'

Anchor Bay ceanothus

evergreen groundcover

Ht. 1 - 1-1/2'; spreading 6-8' wide. Very dense foliage, spring flowers. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun, partial shade inland; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Ceanothus gloriosus exaltatus 'Emily Brown'

Emily Brown ceanothus

evergreen groundcover

Ht. 1-2'; spreading to 6' wide. Dark, hollylike foliage, spring flowers. Dense growth, considered a good choice for banks and slopes. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun on the coast, partial shade inland; no water near the coast, some water needed inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Ceanothus griseus

Carmel ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Ht. to 8' with equal spread. Stiff branches; dark, glossy leaves, 1-2". Showy flowers in late winter to early spring. May suffer some winter damage in zones 4-7,14. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11

Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds'

Louis Edmunds ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Ht. 5-6'; spreading 10-15' wide. Stiffly branched with bright, glossy foliage, spring flowers. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis

Carmel creeper

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,9,10,11,13,14,15,21,22,23,25,30,36,40,41,53

Ht. 2-3'; spreading 8-12' wide. Dark, hollylike foliage, spring flowers. Dense growth, but sparse bloom. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

***Ceanothus griseus horizontalis* 'Yankee Point'**

Yankee Point ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 2-3'; spreading to 10-12' wide. Glossy foliage, flowers in early to mid-spring. Fast growing; good for slope and bank plantings. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun on the coast, partial shade southern California and inland; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :no

Erosion Control :yes

Ceanothus maritimus

Maritime ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 1-3'; spreading 5-6' wide. Height and color can vary with variety. Small, thick leaves; showy flower clusters appear mid-winter to early spring. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Can be used as a groundcover in coastal areas. Full sun on the coast, partial shade inland; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

Ceanothus prostratus

Squaw carpet

evergreen groundcover

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 6,7,10,16,53

Ht. - very low and prostrate; spreading to 8' wide. Leathery foliage; clusters of flowers in Apr-Jun. Plants are useful in native range (nothern Sierra Nevada), but difficult to grow elsewhere. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun or partial shade; some water inland. Zone 1-9.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

Ceanothus spinosus

Green bark ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 10', sometimes a tree to 24'. Spiny, 1-1/4" leaves, finely toothed. Spring blooms. Full sun, partial shade; no water on the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus

Blueblossom

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,14,15

Ht. 6-20'; spreading 8-30' wide. As a small tree it is upright and branching. Glossy, hardy foliage and long leaves (to 2"); flowers in spikelike clusters in mid- to late-spring. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun on the coast, partial shade inland; no water near the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Snow Flurry'

Snow flurry blueblossom

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 8-10'; spreading to 8-12' wide. Rich foliage, abundance of large flowers in spring. Dead matter must be removed from garden. Full sun on the coast, partial shade inland; no water on the coast, some inland. Zone 1-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Ceanothus verrucosus

Wart-stem ceanothus

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 8', occasionally more. Rigid, rough branches; 1/2" slightly toothed leaves. Blooms in spring. Well suited to southern California's climate. Full sun; some water needed inland. Zone 14 - 24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cedrus atlantica

Atlas cedar

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9

Ht. 60' +; slow growing. Open and angular in youth, less open as a mature plant. Branches of any age tend to break in heavy snows or storms. Needs a 30' circle to allow for spread. Untrained, spreading and informally branched or can be trained to a neater form. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 2-23.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cedrus deodara
Deodara cedar
 evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9

Ht. to 80', very fast growing with 40' spread at ground level. Lower branches sweep down to the ground, then upward. Upper branches are openly spaced. Growth can be controlled by cutting new growth of side branches in late spring -- this will also create denser foliage. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 2-12.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Cedrus libani
Cedar of Lebanon
 evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9

Ht. to 80', but very slow growing (to 15' in 15 years). Usually a dense, narrow pyramid in youth; spreads as it matures, with long horizontal arms and irregular crown. No pruning needed. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Celtis occidentalis
Hackberry
 evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 50' and spreading nearly as wide. Branches are spreading and sometimes pendulous; rounded crown. Tree does not leaf out until Apr or later. Tolerates heat, wind, alkaline soil. Full sun or some shade; little water needed. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Centaurea cineraria
Dusty miller
 evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 41,40

Ht. to 1' or more; compact form with leaves in basal clump. Flowers in summer, best to trim back after flowering. Full sun, moderate water. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Centaurea gymnocarpa
Velvet centaurea, Dusty miller
 evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,25

Ht. 1-3'. Leafy branches with flowers in summer. Full sun, no water once established in milder zones; needs moderate water in warmer southern California and inland areas. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Centranthus ruber

Red valerian, Jupiter's beard
evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,25,40,41

Ht. to 3'; bushy form. Invasive; dense terminal clusters of blooms in late spring, early summer. Sun or shade; looks best with some water. No water needed once established except in deserts and the central valley. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Centranthus ruber 'Albus'

White valerian
perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 3'; bushy form. Invasive; dense terminal clusters of blooms in late spring, early summer. Sun or shade; looks best with some water. No water needed once established except in deserts and the central valley. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cerastium tomentosum

Snow in summer
evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 10 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,17,24,30,37,39,40,41,53

Ht. 6-8"; spreads 2-3' in one year. Low-growing, spreading, dense, tufty mats of 3/4" leaves. Masses of flowers in early spring. Shear off faded flower clusters. May look shabby in winter cold, but revives rapidly in spring. Divide in fall or early spring. Full sun or part shade; water often for fast growth. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Ceratonia siliqua

Carob, St. John's beard
evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 9 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,8,9,11,13,22,34,37,42

Ht. 30-40'; fast growing (will reach 20' in 10 years). Often multi-stemmed, bushy form with branches to the ground if left untrained. Trained as a tree with lower branches removed becomes dense and round headed. Foliage is dark and unusually dense. Small flowers in spring; drops abundant 1' long, flattened, leathery pods. Full sun; infrequent but deep watering needed. Zone 9, 13-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cercidium floridum

Blue palo verde

tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 30' and as wide; fast growing. Bark and leaves bluish green. Flowers in spring; loses leaves early. Full sun, tolerates some aridity, but does better with some water. Supplemental water a necessity in deserts. Zone 10-14, 18-20.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cercidium microphyllum

Littleleaf palo verde

tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 30' and as wide; fast growing. Similar to *C. floridum*, but bark and leaves are yellowish green. Full sun, tolerates some aridity, but does better with some water. Supplemental water a necessity in deserts. Zone 10-14, 18-20.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cercis occidentalis

Western redbud

evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 13 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,15,17,25,30,34,40,41,42, 53

Ht. 10-18', with equal spread. Usually grows several trunks from base. Blooms for 3 weeks in spring; produces seed pods in summer and holds them until winter. Full sun, excellent in dry banks. Water regularly first year or two. Supplemental water needed in warmer southern California climates. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Cercis siliquastrum

Judas tree

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 25'; shrubby habit. May be trained as slightly taller and single trunked. Full sun; regular water. Zone 2-19.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Cercocarpus betuloides

Mountain mahogany

evergreen tree

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,15,25,34,40,41

Ht. 5 - 12'; can form a small tree with wide spreading crown of arching branches to 20'. Fall fruits -- long-lasting and small, but topped by a long, twisted, feathery, tail-like plume. Does well on dry slopes. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 6-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Chamaecyparis spp.

Cedar

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. varies from 6 - 30' depending upon species. Can be pyramidal or weeping in form; foliage is usually dense. Dead foliage often appears on inner branches and older wood and must be cleared out. Requires fast draining soil. Full sun or partial shade; moderate water requirement. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Chlorogalum pomeridianum

Soap lily, Wild potato

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Stout 2-8' tall with long (2-1/2') leaves. Bulb to 6" long, coated with fibrous membrane that yields a lather that can be used as a soap substitute. Well suited to northern California's climate. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Choisya ternata

Mexican orange

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. 6 - 8', fast growing, will spread to almost as wide. Lustrous leaves form dense, massive foliage. Clusters of flowers open in very early spring and bloom continuously into April, intermittently in summer. Prune throughout growing season to shape and thin out branches. Gets straggly and bears few flowers in too much shade. Full sun near coast, light shade inland; infrequent, but deep watering. Zone 7-9, 12-24, borderline in zone 4-6.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cinnamomum camphora

Camphor laurel

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 50', very slow growing; spread is usually wider than height. Winter foliage is shiny; early spring foliage may be pink, red or bronze. Strong in structure, heavy trunk, and heavy, upright spreading limbs. Drops leaves heavily in March; flowers, fruits and twigs drop later. Flowers in profusion in May, followed by tiny black fruits. Full sun, infrequent but deep watering required. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cistus 'Sunset'

Rockrose

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 2', dense, spreading growth; will spread to 8' wide. Long bloom period. Must cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cistus (maculatus)

Crimson rockrose

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 3-5', compact growth with equal spread. Flowers Jun-Jul. Requires well drained soil. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cistus albidus

White-leafed rockrose

evergreen shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7

Ht. to 4', spreading to 8' wide. Furry, grey leaves and bright purplish pink spring flowers. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Cistus crispus

Rockrose

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 10,20,31,40,41,42,53

Ht. to 3', spreading to 5' wide with furry leaves. Furry, wavy-edged, grey green leaves. Long bloom season. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cistus hybridus (C.corbariensis)

Rockrose, White rockrose

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25,53

Ht. 2-5', with almost as much width. Spreading in form. Leaves grey green, crinkly, to 2". Flowers in late spring. Give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Full sun, little or no water once established, except in warmer southern California climates where supplemental water is recommended. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cistus incanus (C.villosus)

Rockrose, Purple rockrose

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 3 - 5', bushy plant; equally as wide. Foliage densely covered in down. Flowers in late spring and early summer. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Supplemental water recommended in warm inland and southern California climates. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Cistus ladanifer

Brown-eyed rockrose, Spotted rockrose, Crimson spot rockrose

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 3-5', compact growth with equal spread. Leaves to 4" long and fragrant. Flowers Jun-Jul. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Supplemental water recommended in warmer southern California and inland areas. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cistus ladaniferus maculatus

Gum rockrose, Crimson rockrose

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 19,25

Ht. 3-5', compact growth with equal spread. Flowers Jun-Jul. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cistus purpureus

Orchid rockrose, Purple rockrose
evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25,30,53

Ht. to 4', compact; almost as wide. Often shorter and wider where constant ocean wind keeps plants low. Leaves 1-2" long, grey and hairy on underside. Flowers Jun-Jul. Cut out a few old stems from time to time and tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cistus salviifolius (C.villosus prostratus)

Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose

evergreen groundcover

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,9,10,25,28,31,35,36,40,41,42,53

Ht. to 2', wide spreading shrub to 6'. Crisp looking foliage. Flowers profusely in spring. Good bank or ground cover for rough situations. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Cistus villosus prostratus (C.salviifolius)

Purple rockrose, Prostrate rockrose

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,19,22,37

Ht. to 2', wide spreading shrub to 6'. Crisp looking foliage. Flowers profusely in spring. Good bank or ground cover for rough situations. Cut out a few old stems from time to time. Tip-pinch young plants to thicken growth, or give an overall shearing to new growth to encourage spread. Requires well drained soil. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Citrus spp.

Citrus

evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,12,30,34,40,41,

Ht. varies with species and pruning methods. Year round foliage is glossy. Hardiness, soil requirements and flower and fruit characteristics vary with species. Full sun; do not let root zone become dry or soggy, but requires regular water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Clematis armandii

Evergreen clematis

evergreen vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. to 20', fast growing. Glossy, dark foliage. Flowers in large, branched clusters, Mar-Apr. Slow to start, but grows rapidly once established. Needs constant pruning after flowering to prevent tangling and buildup of dead thatch on inner parts of vine. Can be trained along fences, screens, roof gables, etc. Roots need to be cool, tops in sun; roots need regular moisture. All zones, though best in 1-6, 15-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Coleonema 'Diosma'

Breath of heaven

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Ht. to 5' or more and equally as wide. Filmy appearance and delicate in character, slender branches and narrow heathlike leaves. Tiny flowers through winter and spring, scattered blooms at any time. Light soil, fast drainage required. To control size and promote compactness, shear lightly after main bloom is over. To accentuate filmy look, thin out some of the interior stems. Taller growth in light shade; regular watering, but avoid overwatering. Zone 7-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Comarostaphylis diversifolia

Summer holly

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 42,53

Ht. to 6' as shrub, 18' as small tree. Formal growth; leathery leaves. Small manzanita-like flowers, Apr-May, followed by clusters of warty berries similar to those of madrone. Sun on coast, partial shade inland; tolerates some aridity. Zone 7-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Convolvulus cneorum

Bush morning glory

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 11 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,8,11,12,32,30,39,40,41,42,53

Ht. 2-4', rapid growth and spreading to almost as wide. Silky smooth leaves; flowers from May-Sep. Give light soil and fast drainage. Prune severely to renew plant. More compact form in full sun; tolerates some aridity. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Coprosma kirkii

Creeping coprosma
evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,12,18,30,40,41,53

Ht. 2-3', spreading or nearly prostrate with long, straight stems slanting outward from base. Grows in wide range of soils. Prune regularly to maintain dense foliage. Tolerates sea wind, salt spray. Full sun or partial shade; takes some aridity but supplemental water recommended in central valley. Zone 14-17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Coprosma pumila

Prostrate coprosma
evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 3 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25,53

Ht. to 2-1/2', spreading to 8' wide. Spreading and mounding in form. Will spread to ground cover in 3 years; prune out upwardly growing branches to promote horizontal spread. Full sun or partial shade; tolerates some aridity. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Coprosma repens

New Zealand mirror plant
evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,18

Ht. to 10', rapidly growing; spreads to 6' wide. Open, straggly shrub if neglected. Shiny, glossy leaves, inconspicuous flowers often followed by small fruit. Two prunings a year will keep it dense and at any height desired. Where shrub receives ocean wind, no pruning is necessary. Except at the beach, give it part shade; water generously. Zone 15-17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Coreopsis lanceolata

Coreopsis, Tickseed, Calliopsis
perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25,53

Ht. to 2'. Leaves somewhat hairy, narrow and mostly in a tuft near the base. Flower heads atop stems; lengthy flowering season. When well established, will persist year after year. Full sun; very little water needed once established on the coast, low to moderate water needed inland. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cornus capitata
Evergreen dogwood
 evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 20-30', spread will eventually be almost as much. Not reliably evergreen in cold weather. Trees do not flower until about 8-10 years old, then small flower clusters May-Jun. Large, fleshy fruit in Oct-Nov -- can be a litter problem. Full sun or partial shade for tree, shade needed for groundcover. Regular water required. Zone 8, 9, 14-20.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Cornus stolonifera
Redtwig dogwood, Creek dogwood
 deciduous shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. to 15' or more, rapid growth as multistemmed shrub; spreads widely by creeping underground stems and rooting branches. To control, use a spade to cut off roots that have gone too far and cut off branches that touch the ground. Small flower clusters appear throughout the summer months and into the fall. Fruit follows flowers. Tolerates shade and does best with moist ground. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Correa pulchella
Australian fuschia
 evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 2-1/2'; spreading as wide as 8'. Low height and dense foliage. Long wintering flower season (Nov-Apr). Will thrive in poor, rocky soil, but must have good drainage. Overwatering and overfeeding may kill this plant easily. Best is full sun, no reflected heat; tolerates some aridity, but needs low to moderate water in warmer inland areas. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cortaderia jubata
Jubata grass
 evergreen grass

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Considered a serious weed on the CA coast. Will seed itself freely and crowds out other native plants. Full sun, tolerates wet or dry. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Cortaderia selloana

Pampas grass

evergreen grass

NOT RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,8,9,40

Ht. to 20', fast growing. Fountain of saw-toothed grassy leaves. Long stalks bearing 1-3' flower plumes in late summer. Under certain circumstances this plant sends its seeds into the wind to germinate. Many horticulturists recommend against further landscaping with this plant and suggest removing it from gardens that border wildlands. Full sun, takes dry or wet conditions. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :no

Corynocarpus laevigatus

New Zealand laurel

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 20-40', upright and handsome. Glossy, very leathery leaves; flowers noticeable in spring. Bears poisonous fruit after bloom. Slow growing, keeps an attractive form for years. Full sun or partial shade; regular water. Zone 16, 17, 23, 24.

Drought Tolerant :no

Erosion Control :?

Cotoneaster congestus

Likiano

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41,53

Ht. to 3', slow growing. Dense, downward curving branches with tiny leaves and small fruit. Full sun; little or no water once established in milder climates, low to moderate water needed in warmer southern California areas. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant :vareis

Erosion Control :yes

Cotoneaster dammerii

Bearberry cotoneaster

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25,40,41

Ht. to 6", fast prostrate growth to 10' wide. Branches root along ground. Leave are glossy, small fruit. Full sun; little or no water once established except in southern California inland valleys. All zones.

Drought Tolerant :varies

Erosion Control :yes

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Rock cotoneaster

deciduous shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 2-3', 15' wide; stiff horizontal branches and many branchlets set in herringbone pattern. Out of leaf very briefly. Spring blooms. Showy red fruit. Vigorous and requires low maintenance; prune to remove dead branches. Full sun; little or no water once established. Zone 1-11, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Cotoneaster lactea

Cotoneaster

evergreen shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 27

Ht. to 8'; graceful, arching habit. Leaves are tomentose on under side. Flowers, followed by long lasting, heavy crop of fruit in 2-3" clusters. Full sun; little or no water once established. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cotoneaster microphyllus

Rockspray cotoneaster

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Horizontal branches trail and root to 6'; secondary branches grow erect to 2-3'. Leaves are small, fruit in tiny in clusters. Full sun; little or no water once established. Zone 2-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Cotoneaster salicifolius

Willowleaf cotoneaster

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 30,25

Ht. to 15', spreading to 8' wide with compact habit and small leaves. Also can be erect in form, spreading to 15-18', with larger leaves and fruit. Can self-sow and become invasive. Full sun; little or no water once established except in southern California where low to moderate watering is recommended. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Cotyledon barbeyi

Cotyledon

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 1-2', much branched shrub, spreading to 4' wide. Spring and summer blooming. No water needed once established. Zone 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Cotyledon macrantha

Cotyledon

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. to 2', spreading to 4' wide. Very similar to *C. orbiculata*. Spring and summer blooming. No water needed once established. Zone 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> Cotyledon succulent groundcover Ht. to 3'; shrubby and compact. 2-3" long, fleshy, succulent leaves. Flower stems rise above plant and clusters of flowers in summer. Likes well-drained soil. Best in light shade, little or no water. Zone 16, 17, 21-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : no</i>	Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 9,25
<i>Crassula arborescens</i> Silver jade plant succulent groundcover Similar to jade plant, slow-growing, shrubby, heavy-branched. Flowers usually on very old plants only. Succulent foliage. Sun or shade; no water once established. Zone 8, 9, 14-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : no</i>	Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 9,25
<i>Crassula argentea</i> Jade plant succulent groundcover Ht. can be to 9', but is very slow growing and usually much smaller than that. Stout trunk, sturdy limbs (even on small plants). Plant will stay small if kept in small container. Leaves are thick, fleshy, glossy. Cluster of star-shaped flowers in Nov-Apr. Tolerates sun or shade, no water once established. Zone 8, 9, 12-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : no</i>	RECOMMENDED by 3 reference for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 9,25,33
<i>Crassula lactea</i> Crassula succulent groundcover Ht. 1-2'; spreading semi-shrubby with dark, fleshy leaves. Flowers in 4-6" clusters Oct-Dec. Will take sun, partial shade or full shade; no water once established. Zone 8, 9, 12-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : no</i>	RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,9,10,25,36,53
<i>Crassula multiclava</i> Crassula succulent groundcover Spreading groundcover or hanging plant. Fleshy leaves. Loose clusters of mosquito-like flowers in late winter and spring. Rampant grower in sun or shade; tolerates any soil No water once established. Zone 8, 9, 12-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : no</i>	RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,9,10,25,36,38

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Crassula tetragona

Crassula

succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,36,53

Ht. 1-2', upright with treelike habit. Leaves are narrow and fleshy, produces flowers in the sun. Tolerates full sun, partial shade or full shade; no water once established. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Croton californicus

California croton

groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Can reach 6' or more, but is generally seen as single-stemmed plant 6-24" tall. Large, leathery, glossy leaves. Shade loving; regular to ample water required. Zone 24 as annual.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cryptomeria japonica

Cryptomeria

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,41

Ht. to 60', very fast growing and graceful in youth. Matures to a skyline tree with straight columnar trunk, thin peeling bark. Pendulous branches with needlelike leaves. Roundish cones 3/4-1" wide. Full sun; some water. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Cupressocyparis leylandii

Leyland cypress

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8

Ht. 15-20'; fast growing. Some 10 year old plantings can become open and floppy. Long, slender, upright branches give young tree a pyramidal form. Produces small cones composed of scales. Accepts wide variety of soil and climate, strong wind. Full sun; moderate water. Zone 3-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Cupressus sargentii

Sargent cypress

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Slender, bushy tree to 45'. Thick and fibrous bark; fragrant leaves. Cones to 1". Suited to most of coastal northern California's climate. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Cupressus sempervirens
Italian cypress
 evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 27

Ht. to 60'; columnar, dense and narrow in habit. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 4-24, best in 8-15, 18-20.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cytisus monspessulanus
French broom
 evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 40

Evergreen to 10'. 3/4" leaves, hairy on underside. Blooms in spring in short racemes at branch tips. Full sun; no water once established. Zone 4-9, 14-22.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Cytisus scoparius
Scotch broom
 evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 4,40

Ht. to 10'; upright growing mass of wandlike stems. Flowers in spring and early summer. Full sun, no water once established. Zone 4-9, 14-22.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Dactylis glomerata
Berber orchard grass, Cock's foot, Orchard grass
 perennial grass

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 53

Stems to 4' in large clumps with flat, narrow leaves. Commonly cultivated as a meadow or pasture grass, though sometimes used as ornamental. Suitable for central California climate. Zone 1-3, 7-9, 11, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Delosperma alba
White trailing ice plant
 succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 18 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 7,9,10,11,18,22,23,24,26,28,35,36,37,39,40,41,42,53

Dwarf, spreading, rooting freely from stems. Fleshy leaves and small flowers. Thrives in full sun and soil with good drainage; requires little water. Zone 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Dendromecon rigida

Tree poppy

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 2-8', freely branched shrub. Shredding bark, thick leaves 1-4" long. Flowers Mar-Jun. Prune back to 2' after flowering. Best in full sun, thrive in dry soil once established. Zone 5-8, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Dicentra formosa

Western bleeding heart

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 8-18", leafless flower stalks with clusters of flowers, Apr-Jun. Short lived in mild winter areas. Fernlike foliage. Needs rich, light, moist, porous soil. Never let water stand around roots. Shade, regular water. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Dietes 'Lemon Drop'

Fortnight lily

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 4', fan shaped clumps of narrow, stiff, iris-like leaves. Hybrid that resembles *D. vegeta*, but flowers are cream with conspicuous yellow blotches. Divide overgrown clumps in fall or winter. Full sun or partial shade; bloom more freely with regular water and supplemental water recommended in warm southern California areas. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Dietes bicolor

Wild yellow iris, African iris

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25,40,41

Ht. to 2', fan shaped clumps of narrow, stiff, iris-like leaves. 2", light yellow flowers on branched stalks throughout spring, summer and fall and sometimes into winter in mild areas. Cut flower stems to the ground after blossoms fade. Divide overgrown clumps in fall or winter. Full sun or partial shade; bloom more freely with regular water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Dietes vegeta
Fortnight lily
 evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,12,25,40,41

Ht. to 4', fan shaped clumps of narrow, stiff, iris-like leaves. 3", waxy, white flowers appear on branched stalks throughout spring, summer and fall and sometimes into winter in mild areas. Full sun or partial shade; bloom more freely with regular water. Supplemental water recommended in warm southern California areas. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : no

Digitalis spp.
Foxglove
 perennial or biennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Ht. 2-8', depending upon species. Erect plants with tubular flowers and hairy leaves in clumps at base of plant. Bloom May-Sep. Plant in rich soil. Plants self sow easily. Light shade, regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Diplacus longifolius (Mimulus sp.)
Monkey flower
 perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 8 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,17,25,40,41,42,53

Much branched, sticky shrub to 3'. 3" leaves, pubescent on under side. Pruned after first flowering, they will often bloom again in fall. Well suited to southern California climate. Sun, partial shade; tolerates some aridity. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Diplacus puniceus (Mimulus sp.)
Red monkey flower
 perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Much branched, sticky shrub to 5'. Leaves to 3". Well suited to warm southern California climate. Sun, partial shade; tolerates some aridity. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Disticis buccinatoria
Blood-red trumpet vine
 perennial vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 20-30', climbing vine with tendrils. Clusters of flowers appear throughout the year. Prune yearly to keep under control. Feed and water young plants until established. Full sun or partial shade, regular water. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> Hopseed bush perennial shrub Ht. 12-15', fast growing with many upright stems, spreading to almost as wide. Can be trained to form a tree by cutting out all but a single stem. Willowlike foliage. Takes any kind of soil, ocean winds, dry desert heat. Tolerant of aridity once established, but will also accept ample water. Full sun, light shade. Zone 7-9, 12-24.	Conflicting information on fire performance. See Reference: 8,9,30,41,42,53
<i>Drosanthemum floribundum rosea</i> Ice plant, Rosea ice plant perennial groundcover Ht. to 6", stems trailing to a considerable length or drape over rocks or walls. Very good for erosion control. Flowers appear in late spring, early summer. Leaves covered in glistening dots that look like tiny ice crystals. Best in full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 14-24.	RECOMMENDED by 14 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 8,9,10,11,23,25,26,31,35,36,40,41,42,53
<i>Drosanthemum hispidum</i> Rosea ice plant perennial groundcover Ht. to 2', spreading to 3' wide. Showy flowers in late spring, early summer. Leaves covered by glistening dots that look like tiny ice crystals. Best in full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 14-24.	RECOMMENDED by 13 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,9,10,18,23,24,25,28,36,39,40,41,53
<i>Drosanthemum speciosum</i> Drosanthemum, Dew flower perennial groundcover Branched shrub to 2'. Branches slender and rough in age. Small leaves turned upward; flowers prominent to 2" across. Best in full sun; little or no water. Zone 14-24.	RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,38,53
<i>Duchesnea indica</i> Mock strawberry perennial groundcover Low to ground, with trailing stems that root firmly along the ground. Long-stalked leaves. Flowers are followed by fruit that stands above foliage rather than under leaves as in a true strawberry. Grows readily without much care. Can become rampant invader. Any exposure, little water required. All zones.	RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 8,9,11,12,25,40,41

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Dudleya farinosa

Cliff lettuce, Dudleya

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Leaves are 1-2" long, fleshy or mealy. Small flowers atop 6-12" stems in summer. Full sun, tolerates some aridity. Zone 5-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Dudleya pulverulenta

Chalk lettuce, Dudleya

succulent shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 2'. Fleshy leaves 3-12" long and 1-5" wide. Rosettes solitary to 2' wide, powdery white. Blooms late spring, summer. Full sun, tolerates some aridity. Zone 12, 13, 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Dymondia margaretae

Dymondia

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,25

Groundcover that grows in a tight mass 2-3" deep, spreading slowly by offsets. Summer flowers 1.5" wide, half buried in foliage. Deep roots give established plants considerable tolerance of aridity, but plants will spread faster if watered. Moderate supplemental water recommended in warm central valley areas. Full sun. Zone 15-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Echeveria spp.

Echeveria, Hens and chicks

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Groundcover forming rosettes of 4-8" wide. Fleshy leaves, flowers on long slender branched clusters. Very good in rock gardens. Full sun or partial shade; tolerates some aridity, may need summer water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Echinopsis spp.

Sea urchin

perennial cactus groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 13

Ht. 6-10", cylindrical or globular cacti. Large, many petaled flowers will bloom throughout the summer if given good light, frequent feeding and fast draining soil. Give little or no water in winter. Full sun, indoors in sunny window. Zone 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Echium fastuosum

Pride of Maderia, Echium

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Ht. 3-6', shrubby, large, plant with coarse, heavy branches. Hairy, narrow leaves. Spikelike clusters of flowers stand above foliage May-Jun. Prune lightly to keep plant bushy, cut off faded flower spikes. Full sun, little water at coast, moderate inland. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Elaeagnus pungens

Silverberry

shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 6-15', rigid, sprawling, angular habit. Can be kept lower and denser by pruning. Branches are spiny, and covered with rusty dots, as are leaves. Growth is dense and twiggy. Full sun or partial shade; little water needed except in southern California desert areas where moderate supplemental water is recommended. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Encelia californica

California encelia

deciduous shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. to 5' or more, much branched with scattered 2-1/2" leaves that tend to drop in drought. Daisylike flowers in spring. Full sun, occasional water inland. Zone 7-10, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Encelia farinosa

Brittlebrush

shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 5' or more, much branched aromatic shrub with silvery leaves. Smaller, daisylike flowers in spring. Full sun, occasional water inland. Zone 7-10, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Epipactis gigantea

Stream orchid

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 3'; stems erect and leafy. Leaves to 8" long; flowers about 1" across, strongly veined and marked. Suitable for temperate climates.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Erica spp.

Heath

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. 4-20', depending upon species; some varieties in groundcover form. Small needlelike leaves and abundant flowers. Many species are tender in frosts. All need excellent drainage and most need acid soil. Does not like standing water on roots. Full sun; consistent, careful watering. Zones vary by species.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Erigeron glaucus

Beach aster

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. of stems to 12", basal clumps of leaves. Stout, hairy stems topped by flower heads in spring and summer. Some varieties can be compact, mat-forming. Sun or light shade; takes some aridity, but needs supplemental water in warmer southern California areas. Zone 4-6, 15-17, 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Erigeron karvinskianus

Santa Barbara daisy, Fleabane

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,12,17,25,40,41

Ht. 10 - 20", graceful, trailing plant. Some varieties are more compact. Small flowers. Tolerates aridity. Invasive unless controlled. Sun or light shade; moderate water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Eriodictyon trichocalyx

Yerba santa, Hairy yerba santa

shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,13,19

Sticky shrub to 5'. Sparsely hairy to almost glabrous; leaves to 4" long sticky above, slightly hairy on underside. Flowers are densely hairy and show in spring and summer. Does well in southern California climate. Zone 2, 3, 11, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : yes

Eriogonum arborescens

Santa Cruz Island buckwheat

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11

Ht. 3-4', spreading to 4-5' or more. Trunk and branches with shredding bark. Narrow leaves cluster at the branch ends. Flowers May-Sep. May need to be replaced after several years. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Eriogonum crocatum

Coastal wild gum

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 1-1/2', low, compact stems. Flowers in long-stemmed or branched clusters. After several years may need to be replaced. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Eriogonum fasciculatum

California buckwheat

perennial shrub

NOT RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,40,41,42

Forms a clump 1-3' high and spreading to 4' wide. Flowers in clusters May-Oct. Good erosion control plant. After several years may need to be replaced. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Eriogonum grande rubescens

Red buckwheat, Italian buckwheat

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Branches tend to lie on the ground, spreading to 1-1-1/2' with upright tips about 12" high. Woody based. Clusters of flowers in summer. After several years may need to be replaced. Full sun; no water on coast, some inland. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Eriogonum parvifolium

Sea cliff buckwheat

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Similar to *E.fasciculatum*. Rounded shrub, branches spreading to 3'. Leaves to 1/2" long, woolly beneath. Requires sun and well-drained soil. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Eriophyllum confertiflorum

Golden yarrow

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41,53

Somewhat woody perennial to 2' high. 1-1/2" leaves are glabrate on top, tomentose beneath. Native to California. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Eriophyllum nevinii

Nevin's eriophyllum, Dusty miller

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Shrubby perennial to 3' high. Leave to 8" long are white tomentose on both sides. Rare, but suited to coastal bluffs of San Clemente, Santa Barbara and Santa Catalina. Zone 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Eriophyllum stachaedifolium* var. *artemisaefolium

Lizardtail, Seaside woolly sunflower

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Shrubby perennial 1-4' tall. Thickish leaves to 2-1/2" long, white tomentose beneath. Best suited to coastal climates from southern Oregon to southern California. Zone 1-3, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Erysimum capitatum

Coast wallflower, Foothill wallflower

biennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 1-1/2', erect, leafy, lightly pubescent and branching. Narrow leaves to 3"; showy summer blooms. Full sun; best with some water especially in warmer inland areas. Suited to mild climates of most of California. Zone 1-3, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

***Erysimum cheiri* (*Cheiranthus* spp.)**

Wallflower

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 1 - 2-1/2'. Branching, woody based with narrow leaves and broad clusters of flowers. If faded blooms are cut and plants shaped, they may behave as perennials in mild winter regions. Needs ample water. Sun or light shade. Zone 4-6, 14-17, 22, 23.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

***Erysimum suffrutescens* (*E. concinnum*)**

Beach wallflower, Fragrant wallflower

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 2'; woody and much branched. Narrow leaves; summer blooms. Prefers full sun, some water. Best suited to coastal California climate. Zone 1-3, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Erysimum linifolium

Wallflower

perennial shrub

Ht. to 2-1/2', massed erect stems with broad leaves and topped by an 18" narrow flower cluster. Bloom is practically continuous. Though plants are perennial, they may bloom themselves to death after several years and need to be replaced. Sun or light shade; best with moderate water. Zone 4-7, 14-17, 22, 23.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,40,41

Escallonia fradesii

Escallonia

evergreen shrub

Ht. 5-6', compact growth. Glossy leaves. Flowers nearly year round. May freeze badly at 10-15 F, but recovers quickly. Will take direct coastal conditions and winds. Tolerant of most soils, but damaged by high alkalinity. Prune, after flowers fade, by removing one third of old wood each year, cutting to the base; or shape into multi-trunked tree. Sun near coast, part shade inland; takes aridity, but better with water. Zone 4-9, 14-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Eschscholzia californica

California poppy

perennial groundcover

Ht. 8 - 24" long stems, free branching from base. Single flowers 2" wide on stem tips. Blooms close at night and on gray days. Unless dead flowers are trimmed off regularly, plants go to seed and all parts turn straw color. Full sun, summer water extends bloom. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,25,42,53

Eucalyptus rudis

Eucalyptus

evergreen tree

Ht. 30-60', upright, spreading, often weeping. Very robust. Rough trunk; 4-6" long leaves. Flowers in clusters spring and summer. Seed capsules follow flowers, 1/4" wide. Good shade or street tree. Tolerates valleys, beach, wind, much or little water, sandy and saline soil. Zone 5, 6, 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Red gum

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,8

Ht. 80-120', form varies -- typically has a curved trunk, spreading crown and graceful sweeping branches. Long, slender leaves, slightly pendulous. Flowers in summer followed by many, rounded, pea-sized seed capsules in long clusters. Endures alkaline soil. Full sun; extremely tolerant of aridity. Zone 5, 6, 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Eucalyptus citriodora

**Lemon-scented eucalyptus,
Citriodora**

evergreen tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 6,14

Ht. 75-100', one of the most graceful trees -- slender, trunk usually straight, sometimes curved. Long (3-7") leaves. Clusters of blooms at top of tree in winter -- cannot be seen easily on mature tree. Seed capsules 3/8" wide follow flowers. Weak trunk when young, must be staked stoutly. Cut back and thin often to strengthen. Tender to frosts. Full sun; very tolerant of aridity. Zone 5, 6, 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Eucalyptus globulus

***Eucalyptus globulus*, Blue gum**

evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,9,8

Ht. 150-200', straight trunks, heavy masses of foliage. Sickie shaped 6-10" leaves; shedding bark. Flowers in winter and spring; warty, ribbed seed capsules. Fruit drop added to leaf and bark litter makes this tree very messy. A great windbreak, but messy and brittle. Needs deep soil and lots of room. Full sun; extremely tolerant of aridity. Zone 5, 6, 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Eucalyptus polyanthemos

Silver dollar gum

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Ht. 20-60', slender, erect, single or multi-stemmed. Fairly fast growing. Mature leaves 2-3"; mottled bark. Flowers in clusters spring and summer. Seed capsules 1/2" wide in clusters. Grows almost anywhere. Full sun; extremely tolerant of aridity. Zone 5, 6, 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Eucalyptus viminalis

Manna gum

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,8

Ht. to 150', spreading tree with drooping willowlike branches. 4-6" narrow leaves; shedding white bark. Small flowers in long, thin, open clusters year round. Creates a lot of debris. Full sun; extremely tolerant of aridity, but does require low to moderate supplemental water in the warmer southern California inland areas and deserts. Zone 5, 6, 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Eunymous fortunei radicans

Winter creeper, Common winter creeper

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,30,41

Vining, trailing shrub if allowed to climb will form spreading mass to 20' or more. Tough with thick-textured leaves. Best in full sun or light shade; moderate water. Zone 4-9, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Euonymus fortunei

Winter creeper

evergreen vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 10', if allowed to climb will form spreading mass to 20' or more. One of the best broad leafed evergreens where temperatures drop below zero. Trails or climbs by rootlets. Flowers inconspicuous. Mature growth is shrubby and bears fruit; cuttings taken from this shrubby wood produce upright plants. Best in full sun or light shade; moderate water. Zone 1-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'

Winter creeper

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Vine or groundcover with sprawling growth habit spreading to 20' or more. Tough, trailing or vining shrub with thick-textured leaves. Provides more groundcover than "radicans" but is otherwise similar. Best in full sun or light shade; moderate water. Zone 4-9, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Fagus spp.

Beech

deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 90', though usually much shorter. Broad cone shape with lower branches sweeping the ground, unless pruned off. Glossy green foliage, little 3-sided nuts in spiny husks. Best in full sun; moderate to light water. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Feijoa sellowiana

Pineapple guava

evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 11 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,17,25,30,40,41,42,53,

Ht. 18-25', with equal spread if not trained or killed back by frosts. Large plant with many stems. Glossy 2-3" leaves; fleshy petaled flowers bloom May or June. Fruit follows blooms in 4-7 months, depending on location. Full sun; tolerates much aridity, but does need low to moderate supplemental water in warm inland and desert areas of southern California. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Festuca rubra

Creeping red fescue

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,15,25,40,41

Lawn grass usually mowed to 2" tall; fine blades, narrow and tends to grow clumpy. Unmowed, can make an attractive meadow. Full sun or partial shade; not much water for grasses. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Ficus macrophylla

Moreton Bay fig

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Huge tree, grows to enormous dimensions. Can be 150' tall with equal spread, massive buttressed trunk and surface roots. Blunt, leathery leaves 10" long, 4" wide. Leaf sheaths appear like candles at branch ends. Although tender when young, acquires hardness with size and age. Needs sun, regular water until well established. Zone 17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Fragaria californica

Wood strawberry

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Rootstock short, not thick. Leaves to 3/8" long in leaflets of 1-2". Leaves are smooth on top and silky on underside. Likes full sun, but will tolerate part shade. Moderate water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Fragaria chiloensis

Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry, ornamental

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 14 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,8,9,10,11,23,25,28,35,36,39,40, 41,53

Ht. 6-12", low, compact, lush mats. Glossy leaves, large white flowers in spring, followed by red seedy fruits in fall. Needs annual mowing or cutting back (early spring) to force new growth and prevent stem buildup. Sun at coast, sun or part shade inland; little to regular water. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Fraxinus* spp.**

Ash

deciduous tree

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18,34,40,41

Ht. 18-80', depending upon species. Fast growing. Leaves in divided leaflets; inconspicuous flowers, followed by clusters of single seeded, winged fruit, often in such abundance that they can be a serious litter problem. Full sun; water needs vary with species. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

***Fremontodendron* spp.**

Fremontia, Flannel bush

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,17

Ht. 6-20'. Leathery leaves; saucerlike flowers followed by conical seed capsules covered with bristly, rust-colored hairs. Plants need excellent drainage; hillside planting is best. Shallow roots, so stake plants; pinch and prune to shape. Usually short lived, so be careful of accumulation of dead matter. Full sun, no dry season water necessary. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Gaillardia grandiflora

Blanketflower

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 2-4', low growing, easy to grow plant for cutting and borders. Roughish foliage; flower head 3-4" wide, single or double. Blooms in June until frost. Full sun; light watering on coast and in milder climates, moderate water needed in warmer inland zones. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Galvezia speciosa

**Showy Island snapdragon,
Hummingbird flower**

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,12,15,25,30,53

Ht. 3-5' and equal in width. Can climb or lean on other shrubs and reach 8'. Tubular flowers bloom heaviest in midspring, but intermittent throughout the year. Sun near coast, light shade inland; no dry season water once established, except in warmer southern California zones where moderate supplemental water is recommended. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Garrya elliptica

Coast silktassel, Silktassel bush

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8, 11, 25

Shrub is 4-8', tree 20-30'. Branches densely clothed with leaves; clustered flower tassels in Dec-Feb. Female plants have clusters of fruit that hang on Jun-Sep. Sun or partial shade; takes summer water. Zone 5-9, 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Gaultheria shallon

Salal, Wintergreen

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. to 2', tufted plant in full sun and poor, dry soil. Will reach 4-10' in shade and good soil. Round, glossy leaves; flowers Mar-Jun. Edible black fruit follows. Only neglected planting need pruning; cut back in Apr, remove dead wood, and mulch with leaf mold or peat moss. Partial shade best; routine watering through dry season. Zone 3-7, 14-17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Gaura lindheimeri

Gaura

perennial shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,25

Ht. 2 - 4', stalkless leaves grow directly on stems. Branching flower spikes bear many 1" blooms; long blooming period. Blossoms drop off cleanly when spent, but seed-bearing spikes should be cut. Can take neglect. A very long-lived perennial. Full sun, light watering. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Gazania ringens leucolaena (G. uniflora)

Trailing ganzania

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 18 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,11,12,23,24,25,27,28,35,36, 37,38,39,40,41,42,53

Stems to about 16" long, glabrous or hairy. Leaves to 3-1/4" long, tomentose on underside. Showy flowers, spring through summer, close at night and during overcast days. Full sun, occasional dry-season watering. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Gazania uniflora (G.ringens leucolaena)

Trailing ganzania

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 18 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,11,12,23,24,25,27,28,35,36, 37,38,39,40,41,42,53

Stems to about 16" long, glabrous or hairy. Leaves to 3-1/4" long, tomentose on underside. Showy flowers, spring through summer, close at night and during overcast days. Full sun, occasional dry-season watering. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Genista spp.

Broom

deciduous or evergreen shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8

Ht. 1-8', depending upon species. Leaves small and short lived. Less aggressive than other brooms. Can be deciduous or evergreen. Needs good drainage, tolerates rocky or infertile soil. Full sun; no dry season water needed. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Geranium incanum

Stork's bill geranium

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 6-10", trailing ground cover, spreading habit. Spreads fast to make wide cushions of finely cut leaves. Flowers appear spring to fall. Affected by hard frost. Cut back every 2-3 years to keep neat. Full sun, part shade; little water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Geranium sanguineum

Geranium

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 1-1/2', trailing stems spread to 2'. Flowers bloom May-Aug. Full sun or partial shade; best with constant moisture. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Gleditsia triacanthos

Honey locust, Sweet locust,

Honeyshuck

deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 35-70', fast growing with upright trunk and spreading, arching branches. Late to leaf out; leaves drop in early fall. Inconspicuous flowers followed by broad, 1-1/2" long pods filled with sweetish pulp and roundish hard seeds -- these pods can be messy. Small leaflets dry up and decompose quickly. Full sun; takes aridity or lawn water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Grindelia stricta

Gum plant, Coastal wild gum

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41,53

Ht. to 3" with prostrate stems to 30" long. Firm basal leaves; stem leaves to 4" long that partially or completely surround the stem. Does well in California coastal climates. Zone 1-3, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Grindelia stricta venulosa

Coastal wild gum

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25,40,41

Similar to *G. stricta* in description, except that it has broader, fleshier, more rounded leaves. Well-suited to coastal climates of northern California and Oregon. Zone 1-3, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Hakea spp.

Hakea

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 6-30', depending upon species. Tough, especially good for seacoast. Blooms vary with species. Full sun; no dry season water needed. Zone 9, 12-17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Hedera canariensis

Algerian ivy

evergreen vine

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,8,9,10,13,20,21,22,23,24,28,31,35,36,39,53

Woody vine with 5-8" wide leaves, spreading almost indefinitely. Dependable, uniform and neat. Holds soil; roots grow deep and fill soil densely. Branches root as they grow, further knitting soil. Will take any exposure; requires regular moisture. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Hedera helix

English ivy

evergreen vine

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,10,23,24,28,31,35,36,53

Woody vine spreading to fill in as groundcover or along walls. Dependable, uniform and neat. Holds soil; roots grow deep and fill soil densely. Not as vigorous as Algerian ivy, better for small places. Any exposure; best with regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Helianthemum mutabile

Sunrose

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Cultivar of *H. nummularium*. Full sun; best with some dry season water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Helianthemum nummularium

Sunrose

evergreen shrub

Ht. 6-8", spreading to 3' wide. Small glossy leaves; blooms Apr-Jun. Each blossom only last one day, but new buds continue to open. Shear plants back after flowering to encourage fall bloom. Soil drainage must be good. In cold winters, lightly cover plants with branches from evergreens to keep foliage from drying out. Full sun; do not overwater. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,9,10,12,13,19,23,24,28,30,35,36

Helianthemum scoparium

Rush rose

evergreen shrub

Somewhat shrubby, rushlike, to 3'. 2" long leaves smooth or slightly hairy. Flowers to 1" in diameter. Thrives in full sun, little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Helichrysum petiolatum

Licorice plant, Curry plant

perennial shrub

Woody-based plant with trailing stems to 4'. Woolly, 1" leaves; insignificant flowers. Full sun, tolerates considerable aridity. Zone 16, 17, 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,17,25,40,41

Helictotrichon sempervirens

Blue-oat grass

perennial grass

Ht. 2-3', fountains of blue-gray leaves resemble giant clumps of blue fescue. Pull out occasional withered leaves. Full sun; good drainage and regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 12,25

***Hemerocallis* spp.**

Daylily

deciduous or evergreen shrub

Ht. 1-6', large clumps of arching, sword shaped leaves. Lilylike flowers stand well above the foliage. Tuberous, somewhat fleshy roots. Snap off faded flowers daily. Very tough, persistent and pest free. Adapts to almost any kind of soil. Divide crowded plants in early spring or late fall. Full sun, part shade in hottest areas; water thoroughly during bloom. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,14,25,40,41

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Herniaria glabra

Green carpet

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 10

Ht. under 2-3", trailing plant with crowded, tiny leaves. Bloom negligible. Spreads well, but never out of control. Full sun or shade; regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Hesperaloe parviflora

Red yucca

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25,40,41

Ht. to 4'; dense, yuccalike clump of very narrow, swordlike leaves. Flowers in 3-4' high clusters bloom in early summer, with repeat bloom in milder climates. In older plants, flower spikes can reach 8-9'. Full sun; no dry season water except in warmest desert climates. Zone 10-16, 18-21.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : no

Heteromeles arbutifolia (Photinia arbutifolia)

Toyon, Christmas berry, California holly

evergreen tree

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 4,9,11,12,13,15,17,25,26,27,30,39, 42,53

Ht. 6-10' for a dense shrub or 15-25' for a multitrunked small tree. Can be pruned to form small single-trunked tree. Thick, leathery, glossy leaves 2-4" long. Small flowers in flattish clusters, Jun-Jul. Red berries in clusters Nov-Jan. Full sun or partial shade; tolerates aridity but looks better with some water. Zone 5-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Heuchera maxima

Island alum root, Coral bells

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,12,15,25,40,41

Ht. less than 30"; foliage clumps 1-2' across. Leaves shiny, roundish and heart-shaped. Slender, wiry stems bear 1-1/2 - 2-1/2' clusters of flowers Feb-Apr. Sun, light shade in hottest areas; best with some summer water. Zone 15-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Heuchera micrantha

Coral bells

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. less than 30"; foliage clumps 1-2' across. Leaves 1-3" long, hairy on both sides, toothed and lobed. Slender, wiry stems bear 2-3' clusters of flowers Feb-Apr. Sun, light shade in hottest areas; best with some summer water. Zone 15-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Hibiscus spp.

Rose mallow, Hibiscus

perennial or annual shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 4-12', depending upon species. Some are deciduous, some perennial, some annual. Can be tree or shrub in form. Blooms and bloom time varies with species. Most do not tolerate much cold or frost. Full sun; regular deep watering. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Hypericum calycinum

St. John's wort, Aaron's beard

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,8,9,10,11,12,21,23,24,28,30,31, 35,36,38,39,40,41,53

Ht. to 1'; spreads by vigorous underground stems; fast growing. Short stalked leaves to 4" long. Tough, dense groundcover for sun or shade. Can invade other planting unless confined. Clip or mow off tops every 2-3 years during dormant season. Sun near coast, partial shade inland; tolerates some aridity, but is better with some water. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Iberis sempervirens

Evergreen candytuft, Edging candytuft

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41,53

Ht. 8-10" or higher, spreading about as wide. Leaves narrow, shiny. Flower cluster on long stems early spring to Jun, but first flowers may appear as early as Nov in mild climates. Full sun, regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Iberis umbellata

Globe candytuft

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 12-15", bushy annual. 3-1/2" lance shaped leaves; flowers in clusters from early spring to summer. Shear lightly after bloom to stimulate new growth. Full sun; regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Ilex aquifolium

Holly

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Shrub or tree, slow growing to 40', but usually less. Highly variable in leaf shape, color and degree of spininess. Some produce berries, but not all. Full sun to partial shade, regular water. Zone 4-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Iris 'Pacific Coast Hybrids'

California iris

bulb shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 2', leaves sword or grass like; flowers in spring. Grown from bulbs or rhizomes. Best conditions are sun to light shade, well drained soil, moderate to light water in summer. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Iris douglasiana

Pacific coast iris, Douglas iris

bulb shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,17,40,41

Ht. 1-2', leaves sword or grass like to 2'; flowers in spring. Grown from bulbs or rhizomes. Best conditions are sun to light shade, well drained soil, moderate to light water in summer, but will easily tolerate less than ideal conditions. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Iris longipetala

Long-petaled iris

bulb shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Stems to 2'; stout and usually branched. Leaves are sword shaped to 2-1/2' long. 3-4" blooms in spring. Well suited to temperate coastal and central California climates. Zone 7, 8, 9, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Iris macrosiphom

Ground iris

bulb shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Stems to 10". Leaves longer than stems and colorless at base. Flowers 2-2-1/2" long, usually 2 per spathe. Likes temperate climate of central and northern California. Sun; some water. Zone 7-9, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Isomeris arborea (Cleome isomeris)

Bladderpod, Bladderbush,

Burrofut

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 6,16,53

Rounded shrub or small tree to 9'. Small, thickish leaflets and leaves. Likes deserts, central California to Baja California. Full sun; prefers slightly dry soil. Zone 1-3, 10-13, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Isotoma fluviatilis* (*Laurentia fluviatilis*)**

Blue star creeper

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 10

Delicate, prostrate perennial 2-3" tall; 1/2" leaves. Blue flowers longer than leaves show in late spring and summer. Full sun or partial shade; regular water. Zone 4, 5, 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Iva hayesiana

San Diego marsh-elder, Poverty weed

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Sub-shrub less than 3' tall. Fleshy leaves, raceme-like flowers. Rare -- likes alkaline soil of San Diego county and Baja California. Full sun. Zone 23, 24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Jasminum ligustrifolium

Shiny leaf jasmine

evergreen vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 15', evergreen vine. Glossy, privetlike leaves and slightly fragrant flowers. Full sun or partial shade; regular water. Zone 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Jasminum polyanthum

Jasmine

evergreen vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Fast climbing, strong growing to 20'. Finely divided leaflets. Dense cluster of fragrant flowers, Feb-Jul, Apr-Jul in cooler areas. Prune annually to prevent tangling. Best with regular summer watering; full sun or partial shade. Zone 5-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Juglans californica

California walnut

deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 15-30'; usually with several stems from ground. Leaves 6-12", with 9-19 leaflets. Nuts are extremely hard with thick shells, but good flavor. Takes aridity and poor soil. Full sun; no water once established. Zone 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Juncus* spp.**

Rush

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. to 4' depending upon the species; resemble grasses. Leaflike stems are round and tiny inconspicuous flowers are clustered at or near their tops. Sun or light shade; ample water. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Juniperus chinensis

Hollywood juniper

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8

Ht. ranges from 4' to 20', 1' to 3' wide, depending upon variety. Woody, coniferous plant with fleshy, berrylike cones. Foliage is needlelike, scalelike or both. Can be prostrate, ground hugging, trailing, shrublike or almost treelike. Sun, partial shade on coast; requires some summer water in hot areas. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Juniperus conferta

Shore juniper

evergreen groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 1' by 6-8' wide, trailing or prostrate in form. Soft needles. Can have dense foliage; fleshy, berrylike cones. Sun, part shade on coast; some summer water in hot areas, particularly southern California inland valleys and deserts. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Kalanchoe pumila

Kalanchoe

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Smooth, with an erect bloom to 1'; succulent, fleshy leaves to 1". Sun, light shade or shade; very little water requirement. Zone 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

***Kennedia* spp.**

Coral pea

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Scandent shrub with showy flowers. Foliage usually pubescent. Can be grown in a greenhouse or in warmer climates outdoors.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Kniphofia uvaria

Red hot poker

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,17,25,40,41

Ht. 3-6'. Coarse with large, rather dense clumps of long, grasslike leaves. Flower stalks (always taller than leaves) topped with many, drooping tubular flowers; blooms spring through summer. Cut out flower spikes after bloom. Cut old leaves at base in fall; new leaves will replace them by spring. Increase by root divisions. Full sun or little shade; no dry season water. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Kochia spp.

Summer cypress

annual shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 3'; fine textured coniferous-like shrub with a gently rounded form. Branches densely clothed with narrow, soft leaves. Insignificant flowers. Shear to shape if necessary. Can reseed easily and become a pest. Full sun; regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Koeleria glauca

Blue-hair grass

shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,25

Stems to 2', bulbous at the base. Leaf blades short, glaucous above, pubescent underneath. 2-3 flowers per spikelet. Likes temperate regions. Zone 1-3, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Lactuca serriola

Prickly lettuce

shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Biennial or winter annual to 5'; often prickly-bristly below, glabrous in upper part. Leaves to 8" long, prickly beneath main veins; milky sap. Considered a weed in most parts of the world. Full sun, some water.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

Lampranthus aurantiacus

**Trailing ice plant, bush gold,
bush ice plant**

succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,22,25,39,53

Ht. 10-15", spreading in habit. Woody at base, leaves fleshy and three-sided. Flowers Feb-May. Cut back lightly after bloom to eliminate fruit capsules and encourage new leafy growth. Full sun; little or no summer water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

<i>Lampranthus filicaulis</i> Redondo creeper succulent groundcover	RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,10,22,53
Ht. to 3"; spreads slowly to form a finely textured mat of thin, creeping stems. Woody at base with fleshy leaves. Flowers in early spring. Cut back lightly after bloom to eliminate fruit capsules and encourage new leafy growth. Full sun; little or no water in summer. Zone 14-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : ?</i>	
<i>Lampranthus spectabilis</i> Trailing ice plant succulent groundcover	RECOMMENDED by 10 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,9,10,11,22,24,25,38,42,53
Ht. 1', sprawling or trailing in habit to 2' wide. Woody at base with fleshy leaves. Makes carpets of color when in bloom, Mar-May. Cut back lightly after bloom to eliminate fruit capsules and encourage new leafy growth. Full sun; little or no water in summer. Zone 14-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes</i>	
<i>Lantana camara & cultivars</i> Trailing lantana, Yellow sage evergreen or annual groundcover	RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 9,23,28,35,36,53
Ht. to 6', coarse and upright in habit. Rough foliage; flowers, almost continuously if no frost. Prune hard in spring to remove dead wood and prevent general woodiness. Full sun; infrequent, deep watering. Zone 8-10, 12-22. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes</i>	
<i>Lantana montevidensis (L. sellowiana)</i> Trailing lantana, Lantana evergreen or annual groundcover	Conflicting information on fire performance. See Reference: 7,8,10,11,12,17,23,25,36,40,41,53
Ht. varies from 1-1/2' to 6', depending upon variety. Trailing in form; some varieties very compact, others looser in habit. Flowers almost continuously if no frost. Prune hard in spring to remove dead wood and prevent general woodiness. Full sun; infrequent, deep watering. Zone 8-10, 12-22. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes</i>	
<i>Larix spp.</i> Larch deciduous tree	NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 8,40,41
Ht. 30-60', slender pyramids with horizontal branches and drooping branchlets. Needles soft. Woody, roundish cones scattered all along branchlets. Needles fall in autumn. Full sun; accepts lawn watering. Zones vary with species. <i>Drought Tolerant : no Erosion Control : ?</i>	

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Laurus nobilis

Laurel

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 12-40', slow growing, compact, broad-based -- often multi-stemmed, gradually tapering cone in habit. Leaves are leathery; clusters of small flowers followed by berries. Full sun or partial shade; little water once established. Zone 5-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Lavandula dentata

French lavender

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 3', roundish in form with flowers in short spike-like clusters, each topped with a tuft of petals like bracts. In mild-winter areas, blooms almost continuously. Prune immediately after bloom to keep plants compact and neat. Full sun; little water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Lavandula stoechas

Spanish lavender

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 1-1/2 - 3', stocky in habit with flowers in dense, short spikes, topped with petal-like bracts. Blooms in early summer. Full sun; little water. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Lavatera assurgentiflora

Malva rose, tree mallow

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 12', treelike shrub, erect in habit. Flowers bloom almost throughout the year, heaviest Apr-Aug. Resists wind, salt spray. Good as a fast-growing windbreak -- will reach 5-10' and bloom the first year. Shear to keep dense. Full sun; little water needed except in warmest southern California areas where moderate supplemental water is recommended. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Leptospermum scoparium

New Zealand tea tree

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Groundcover to 10' in height, depending upon variety. Can be compact and spreading or trailing and open and rangy. Needlelike, densely set leaves; many flowers in spring or summer. Needs good drainage. Will take a good surface shearing to control shape. Full sun; no water on coast, summer water inland. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

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Landscape Vegetation Database

<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> Texas privet, Japanese privet evergreen shrub Ht. 10-12', dense, compact growth habit, but can be kept lower by trimming. Roundish, glossy leaves have thick, spongy feeling. Sun or some shade; regular water. Zone 4-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : no</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 41,53
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> Glossy privet evergreen tree Ht. 35-40', round headed tree. Can be kept lower as a big shrub or may form a multi-trunked tree. Glossy, leathery leaves with a slightly spongy feel. Flowers in especially large clusters followed by a profusion of fruit. Fruit crop can be a real litter problem; fallen seeds sprout easily. Sun or some shade; best with regular water. Zone 5, 6, 8-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 40
<i>Ligustrum texanum</i> Texas privet evergreen shrub Ht. 6-9', dense, compact growth habit, but can be kept lower by trimming. This variety is somewhat denser with lush foliage. Roundish, glossy leaves have thick, spongy feeling. Sun or some shade; regular water. Zone 4-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : no</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 11,30,40,41
<i>Lilium pardalinum</i> Leopard lily bulb shrub Ht. 4-8'; clumping in form with tall stems and flowers well above the plant. Flowers in spring and summer. Remove faded flowers and wait until stems and leaves turn yellow before cutting back. Divide and transplant in spring or fall. Roots in shade, tops in sun or filtered sun; never let root zone dry out. All zones. <i>Drought Tolerant : no</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 17

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Limonium perezii

Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender

perennial shrub

Ht. to 1', large, leathery basal leaves with clusters of small flowers on nearly leafless, many branched stems that may reach 3' high. Summer bloom over long season. Damaged by 25 F temperatures. Full sun; little water once established, except in warmest southern California areas where moderate supplemental water is recommended. Zone 13, 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : no

RECOMMENDED by 10 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,14,25,30,40,41,53

Linaria maroccana

Toadflax, Baby snapdragon

perennial shrub

Ht. to 1-1/2'; individual plant is wispy, with spurred flowers resembling snapdragons. Usually planted in masses. Blooms Jun-Sep. Full sun or light shade; moderate water. Zone 10-13.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,25

Linum spp.

Flax

perennial or annual shrub

Ht. 1-2', depending upon species; erect, branching stems, narrow leaves and abundant flowers bloom from late spring into summer or fall. Each bloom lasts one day, but many more keep coming. Most plants live only 3-4 years and then need to be removed. Difficult plant to divide. Full sun; tolerates some aridity. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 30

Lippia canescens

Carpet grass, Lippia

perennial groundcover

Creeping and spreading grass, rooting at the nodes. Plants are glabrous; leaves to 1-3/4" long, toothed with green or gray hairs. Native to warm and tropical regions. Full sun; looks best with some water. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Recommended by 3 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,41,42

Lippia repens (Phyla nodiflora)

Lippia, Frogfruit, Matgrass, Capeweed

perennial groundcover

Same as *Lippia canescens*, but has rose colored flowers. Full sun; some water recommended. Zone 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 31

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Liquidambar styraciflua
Liquidambar, Sweet gum
 deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Ht. to 60', narrow and erect in youth with lower limbs spreading to 20-25'; mature tree is generally upright, somewhat cone shaped. Flowers inconspicuous, fruits are spiny balls and will result in a lot of spring litter. Prune only to shape, trees branch from ground up. Full sun, water 1-2 times per month in dry season. Zone 1-12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Liriope gigantea
Giant turf lily
 perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,25,40,41

Large clump to 3', from fibrous root. Firm, curved leaves and small flowers, followed by a metallic violet blue fruit. Becomes ragged and brown with neglect; cut back shaggy old foliage after new leaves appear. Extended frosts may cause plant to turn yellow. Full sun on coast, shade inland; regular to ample water. Zone 5-10, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Lithocarpus densiflorus
Tanoak
 evergreen tree

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 11,15,17,40,41

Ht. 60-90', low and broad, with lower branches sometimes touching the ground. Leathery leaves covered with wool upon expanding, later they are smooth. Tiny flowers in branched clusters. Acorns in burrlike cups. Can resemble holly oak, but with lush foliage. Full sun or light shade; little water once established. Zone 4-7, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Lonicera hispidula
Pink honeysuckle
 perennial vine

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Erect or climbing shrub; branches produce long runners. Leaves to 2-1/2" long, pubescent beneath. 1/2" flowers in whorls, spring and summer. Sun, light shade inland; moderate summer water. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Lonicera japonica

Japanese honeysuckle

evergreen vine

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,40,41

Evergreen vine that runs rampant if given the chance. Late spring, summer bloom. Unless curbed, can become a weed and smother less vigorous plants. Partial or wholly deciduous in coldest regions. Sun or light shade; moderate summer water. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'

Hall's honeysuckle

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,53

Groundcover and sometimes vine that runs rampant if given the chance. Blooms show in late spring, summer. Can smother less vigorous plants if not kept in check. Partial or wholly deciduous in coldest regions. Sun or light shade; best with moderate summer water. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Lonicera subspicata

Wild honeysuckle

evergreen vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Clambering evergreen, 7-8' tall. Small leaves (1-1/4") are especially pubescent underneath. Flowers in short, compact leafy spikes to 5" long. Likes southern and central California climates. Sun, light shade inland; moderate water in summer. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Lotus berthollettii

Parrot beak

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 19

Trailing perennial with stems 2-3' long, thickly covered with foliage and very narrow blossoms (Jun-Jul). Dies back in cold weather. Cut back occasionally to induce bushiness. Full sun or partial shade; some summer water. Zone 9, 15-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Lotus corniculatus

Bird's foot trefoil

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Trailing stems, often completely prostrate. Goes dormant where winters are cold. Makes a mat of cloverlike leaves and forms clusters of small flowers in summer and fall. Should be mowed occasionally. Full sun or partial shade; some summer water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Lotus scoparius

Deerweed, California broom

shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,42

Stems clustered and erect, though sometimes prostrate and mat-forming, bushy branched to 6'. Leaves often deciduous. Likes chaparral, roadsides, coastal sand, desert slopes and other dry climates. Full sun, little water. Zone 2, 3, 11, 13, 18, 19.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Lupinus nanus

Sky lupine

annual shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 8-24", leaves divided into many leaflets with flowers in dense spikes at ends of stems. Flowers Apr-May. Self sows readily. Full sun, no dry season water. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Macadamia hybrids

Macadamia nut, Queensland nut

evergreen tree

Recommended by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,25,40,41

Ht. 25-30', 15-20' wide (even larger when very old). Prune to shape -- young trees tend to develop multiple trunks. Long (5-12"), glossy, leathery, durable leaves. Small flowers in winter and spring. Full sun; tolerates aridity but best with some water. Zone 9, 16, 17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Magnolia grandiflora

Magnolia

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 80', spreads to 40'; unpredictable in form and age of bloom. Glossy, leathery leaves 4-8" long. Blossoms carried throughout summer and fall. Its leaves turn hard and plasticlike and litter from tree is constant from May-Sep. Full sun, light shade in desert regions; deep thorough watering necessary. Zone 4-12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Mahonia aquifolium

Oregon grape

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. to 6' or more with tall, erect habit. Leaves 4-10" long with 5-9 spiny-toothed oval leaflets that can be glossy or dull. Flowers Mar-May; edible blue-black fruit with gray bloom follows. Control height and form by pruning. Takes any exposure in most areas; needs little water. Zone 1-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Mahonia aquifolium* "Golden Abundance"**

Golden abundance Oregon grape

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 5-6'; dense and heavily foliated. Glossy leaves with red mid-ribs. Heavy bloom Mar-May; edible blue-black fruit follows. Sun at the coast, shade inland; needs little water. Zone 1-21.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Mahonia nevinii

Nevin mahonia

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 3-10' tall, many-branched shrub. Leaves with 3-5 leaflets, about 1" long, bristly or spiny. Flowers in Mar-May, followed by red berries. Sun or light shade, any soil; much or little water. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Mahonia repens

Creeping mahonia

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,40,41

Ht. to 3' with spreading habit. Dull leaves have 3-7 spine-toothed leaflets. Flowers Apr-Jun, followed by blue berries in short clusters. Good groundcover in sun or partial shade; needs little water. Zone 1-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Malephora crocea

Ice plant, Croceum ice plant

succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 17 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,8,9,10,11,22,23,24,26,28,31,35,36,40,41,42,53

Ht. to 6", trailing plant with dense, smooth foliage. Sparse production of flowers nearly throughout the year, heaviest in spring. Good on moderate slopes; very hardy. Full sun; no water once established. Zone 11-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Malephora luteola

Yellow trailing ice plant

succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,22,24,40,41,53

Ht. to 1', trailing plant with dense, smooth foliage. Flowers 1" wide, May-Jun and throughout the year, though sparse production. Full sun; no water once established. Zone 15-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum

Small-leafed ice plant

annual groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 19

Ht. only a few inches tall, sprawling to several feet wide. The least ornamental of the ice plants. Oval, flat, stalked, fleshy leaves covered with tiny, transparent blisters. Flowers in spring. Plant is almost wild in parts of CA. Full sun; little or no water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Metrosideros excelsus

New Zealand Christmas tree,

Pohutukawa

evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,12,18,30,40,41,42,53

Ht. to 30' or more; generally branches heavily from ground up: Leaves are firm, leathery, densely spaced on branches; mature leaves are woolly on the underside. Flowers in big clusters May-Jul. In humid coastside gardens, old plants sometimes grow aerial roots that reach the ground. Requires careful staking and pruning to bring into tree form. Water through first two dry seasons only. Best near coast, beach. Zone 17, 23, 24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Mimulus longiflorus (Diplacus longiflorus)

Monkey flower

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,17,15,25,40,41,42,53

Much branched, sticky shrub to 3'. 3" leaves, pubescent on under side. Pruned after first flowering, they will often bloom again in fall. Well suited to southern California climate. Sun, part shade; tolerates some aridity. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Mimulus puniceus (Diplacus puniceus)

Red monkey flower

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Much branched, sticky shrub to 5'. Leaves to 3". Well suited to warm southern California climate. Sun, part shade; tolerates some aridity. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Miscanthus spp.

Eulalia grass

perennial grass

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8

Ht. 5-6', graceful, clumping grass. Grows in any soil. Plant turns tan or brown in winter and should be cut back before new growth starts in spring. Sun or shade; moderate to heavy watering. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Monardella villosa

Coyote mint

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 2', matted or erect; stems square in cross section and woody at base. Leaves to 1-1/4" long; flowers to 1-1/2" in diameter with leafy bracts. Blooms in summer. Suitable for rock gardens, rocky slopes, oak woodlands and chaparral. Full sun to partial shade; some water.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : yes

Moraea iridioides (Dietes)

Fortnight lily

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Ht. to 4', with 3" wide, waxy flowers with large leaves. Break off old blossoms individually to prevent self-sowing and prolong bloom. Each flower lasts only a day but is quickly replaced by another; bloom bursts occur at 2 week intervals. Full sun or partial shade; bloom more freely with regular watering. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Muehlenbergia spp.

Deer grass

perennial grass

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8

Ht. 3-6', depending upon species. Evergreen grasses in dense, tight clumps of narrow leaves resemble bamboo. Carries leaves and many, branching flower stalks on slender, woody stems. Full sun or light shade; little or no water once established. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Myoporum "Pacificum"

Pacifica saltbush

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 2', spreading to 30' wide. Extremely fast growing and tough, can cover 100 square feet in a year. Shiny leaves with translucent dots; small flowers in summer. Best near coast, full sun; little water once established. Zone 16-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Myoporum debile

No Common Name

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Low shrub to 3', spreading to 4' across. Long (4"), narrow, sparsely toothed leaves. 1-2" flowers followed by 1/2" rose-colored edible fruit. Useful for rock gardens and banks. Native to Australia; likes full sun and warm climate.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Myoporum insulare

Boobyalla

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 20-30', tree or shrub, dense foliage of narrow leaves. Shrubby near coast, treelike inland. Very tough and fast growing. Full sun; needs little water. Zone 8, 9, 15-17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Myoporum laetum

Myoporum

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,53

Ht. 15-20', spreading to equal width. Full sun; little or no supplemental water needed in most areas, though moderate supplemental water is recommended in the warmer inland regions of southern California.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Myoporum parvifolium prostrata

Creeping boobyalla, Myoporum

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 18 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8, 9,10,11,12,21,23,24,25,28,35, 36,38,39,40,41,42,53

Ht. 3", spreads to 9' wide. Dense foliage of small leaves. Very tough and fast growing, plants will fill in within 6 months, branches rooting where stems touch moist ground. Full sun; moderately tolerant of aridity -- does better with some summer water. Zone 8, 9, 12-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Myrica californica

Wax myrtle, Pacific wax myrtle,

California wax myrtle

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,17

Ht. can vary -- at the beach, it is a low, flattened mass; out of the wind its a big shrub or tree to 30', usually with many upright trunks. Clean looking foliage throughout the year. Branches are densely clad with tooth-edged, glossy 2-4" leaves. Spring flowers inconspicuous, fall fruits are nutlets covered with wax. Full sun; aridity tolerant. Zone 4-6, 14-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Nephrolepis exaltata

Sword fern

fern shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 27

Ht. to 5' with fronds to 6" wide. Tough and easy to grow. Plant spreads by thin, fuzzy runners and can be invasive if not watched. Shade; water when soil surface feels dry. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Nerine masonorum

Nerine

bulb shrub

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,25

Ht. to 9". Strap shaped, narrow, grassy, basal leaves appear during or after bloom (Aug-Jan). Fast multiplier. Do not disturb or divide for several years. Sun or partial shade; water during growth and bloom. Zone 5, 8, 9, 13-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Nerium oleander

Oleander

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 13 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,12,13,17,11,26,27,30,32,33,42, 40,41

Ht. 8-12', moderate to fast growth with equal spread in width. Ordinarily broad and bulky but easily trained into single or many trunked tree resembling an olive tree. Narrow, 4-12" long leaves, leathery and glossy. Flowers form in clusters at twig or branch ends in May or Jun-Oct. Prune in early spring to control size and form. Best in heat and strong light; little or no water once established, though moderate supplemental water is recommended in warm desert regions of southern California. Zone 8-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Nerium oleander 'Mrs. Roeding'

Dwarf pink oleander

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 4-6', moderate to fast growth with equal spread in width. Narrow, 4-12" long leaves, leathery and glossy. Flowers form in clusters at twig or branch ends in May or Jun-Oct. Prune in early spring. Best in heat and strong light; little or no water once established, but moderate watering recommended in warm desert regions. Zone 8-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : no

Nerium oleander 'Petite Salmon'

Dwarf salmon oleander

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 4-6', moderate to fast growth with equal spread in width. Narrow, 4-12" long leaves, leathery and glossy. Flowers form in clusters at twig or branch ends in May or Jun-Oct. Prune in early spring. Best in heat and strong light; little or no water once established, though moderate watering recommended in warm desert regions. Zone 8-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Nicotiana bigelovii

Indian tobacco

annual shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 4'; glandular and ill-smelling with ascending branches. Leaves 2-8" long. Easily grown but frost sensitive. Full sun, partial shade; regular summer water recommended. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Nicotiana glauca

Tree tobacco

perennial shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 20', shrubby or treelike. Upright with slightly sticky leaves and stems. Tubular flowers grow near top of branched stems in summer. Large, soft leaves. Reseeds readily. Full sun or partial shade; regular summer water. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Nolina longifolia

Mexican crasstree, Nolina

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 6-10', fountain-like form with grasslike leaves. Leaves are narrow, tough atop a thick trunk. Tiny flowers in spring. Full sun; tolerates much aridity once established. Zone 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Oenothera berlandieri

Mexican evening primrose

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,25,40,41

Ht. 10-12"; 1-1/2" blooms at stem tips. Profuse blooms during summer. Thrives with little or no care once established. Invasive if not controlled. Stems die back after bloom, so care is needed to trim dead matter. Full sun; little water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Oenothera hookeri

California evening primrose

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 2 - 6'. 3-1/2" flowers, hairy leaves. Biennial, western native. Grows in tough, rough places. Full sun; little water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Olea europaea

Olive

evergreen tree

Ht. 25 - 30', slow growing, with equal spread. Willowlike foliage, smooth trunks and branches become gnarled in maturity. Olives withstand heavy pruning; removing flowering-fruiting branches reduces or eliminates fruit crop, which can be a messy debris problem. Thrives in areas with hot, dry summers or coastal areas. Full sun; no water once established. Zone 8, 9, 11-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 9,27

Ophiopogon japonicus

Mondo grass

perennial grass

Rigid leaves to 15", very narrow (1/8") and commonly curved. Flowers in a short, loose raceme, followed by a small, blue, pea-sized fruit. An excellent sod-forming plant in mild climates. Sun or shade; best with regular water, but will tolerate some dry periods. Zone 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 10,53

Opuntia spp.

Prickly pear, cholla

succulent shrub

Ht. 2 - 15', depending upon species. Many kinds, varied appearances. Two major categories: those with flat, broad joints (prickly pear) or those with cylindrical joints (cholla). Hardiness variable. Flowers large and showy in spring. Full sun; little or no water once established. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Osteospermum fruticosum

Trailing South African daisy,

Freeway daisy

perennial groundcover

Ht. 6 - 12", spreads rapidly by trailing, rooting branches to 2 - 4' wide in a year. Blooms intermittently throughout the year, most heavily Nov-Mar. Needs well-drained soil. If it gets too high, stacked or weedy, mow or cut back in midsummer. Full sun; moderate water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

RECOMMENDED by 21 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 1,5,6,7,9,10,11,13,16,22,23,24,28,30,34,36,38,39,40,41,42

Palms

Palm

evergreen tree

Ht. varies with species. Most species do well in part shade while young, but mature plants do well in full sun, part sun or part shade with little maintenance or water. Does not drop leaves; dead matter must be removed. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,40,41

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Parkinsonia aculeata

Mexican palo verde

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 15 - 30', rapid growth at first, but then slowly until reaches full height with equal spread. Sparse foliage, spiny twigs; leaves in leaflets that quickly fall in drought or cold. Long bloom season in spring and intermittently throughout the year. Tolerates alkaline soil. Litter drop can be a problem. Full sun; no dry-season watering needed except in warmer southern California zones where moderate watering is recommended. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Pelargonium peltatum

Ivy geranium

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 14 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,11,12,23,24,25,28,36,38,40,41,53

Ht. 2 - 3', trailing. Leaves rather succulent, glossy, and ivylike. Flowers in rounded clusters at stem ends, spring. Remove faded blooms regularly to encourage new bloom. Full sun; water every 10 days to 2 weeks. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Pennisetum setaceum

Fountain grass

perennial grass

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8

Ht. 3 - 4', dense, rounded clump topped by fuzzy flower spikes in summer. Seeds freely and will crowd out other plants. Cut plumes before seeds mature to prevent spread. Likes dry locations, any soil, full sun. Needs no irrigation and is dormant in winter. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Penstemon varieties

Red penstemon, Beard tongue,

Firebird, Midnight, Skyline

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 6', depending upon species. Erect with tubular flowers. Needs fast drainage, gravelly soil. Usually short lived -- dead matter needs to be disposed of. Full sun; little water. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Penstemon heterophyllus

Penstemon

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. 1 - 2'; upright or spreading. Narrow, pointed leaves. Blooms Apr-Jul, bearing spikelike clusters of flowers. Full sun; little water. Zone 6-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Perovskia atriplicifolia

Russian sage

perennial shrub

Ht. to 3', woody based, multistemmed. Many branched, slender, spikelike clusters of flowers that form above the foliage; long summer bloom if old blooms are cut off. Dormant in winter. Likes summer heat, winter chill. Full sun; little water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,25

Philadelphus spp.

Mock orange

deciduous shrub

Ht. 5 - 20', depending upon species. Large, vigorous plants of fountainlike form. Prune every year just after bloom. Partial shade in hottest areas; best with moderate water but will tolerate some dry periods. Zones vary with species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Phormium varieties

**Flax, New Zealand flax, Maori
maiden, Maori queen, Maori
sunset**

evergreen shrub

Ht. of leaves to 9', large, bold plant tending to spread. Many swordlike, stiffly vertical leaves in a fan pattern. Flowers in clusters on stems that reach high above the leaves. Sturdy, fast growing in almost any exposure. Increase by dividing large clumps. Harmed by temperatures below 20 F -- may cause leaves to change color; these leaves should be removed. Full sun or light shade; takes lots of water or little. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Photinia serrulata

Photinia

evergreen shrub

Ht. to 35', dense, broad growth, but can easily be held to 10' by 10' with pruning and shaping. Leaves stiff, crisp, 8" long, prickly along edges. Flowers Mar-May, red berries that may last until Dec. May freeze badly in continued 0-10 F cold, but usually recovers. Full sun; best with moderate water. Zone 4-16, 18-22.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Phyla nodiflora

Lippia

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,10,11,12,23,28,35,36,40,21,41

Creeps and spreads to form flat, ground-hugging mat sturdy enough to serve as a lawn. Small flowers in spring to fall. Dormant and unattractive in winter. Feed in early spring to bring it out of dormancy quickly. Full sun; looks best with regular water. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Picea spp.

Spruce

evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,8,40,41

Ht. 60 - 150' unless a dwarf variety. Large, cone-bearing trees take on a pyramidal or cone shape. Most trees are susceptible to aphids in late winter and will drop needles in warm weather if not sprayed. Prune only to shape. To make it more dense, remove part of each year's growth to force side growth. Full sun or light shade; infrequent water. Zone 1-6, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Pickeringia montana

Chaparral pea

evergreen shrub

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,40,41

Spiny, evergreen shrub 3-9'; much branched. Fruit is a flat legume. Best in chaparral or open woodlands. Full sun.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : yes

Pinus attenuata

Knobcone pine

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40

Ht. 20 - 80', rapid growth. Open, irregular and rough. Habit can depend on seed source -- some may be dense and symmetrical. Needles in 3s, 3-5"; narrow, oval cones. Quite hardy. Aridity tolerant when established; holds its cones for many years. Full sun; little water.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Pinus coulteri

Coulter pine

evergreen tree

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 30 - 80', moderate to fast growing. Shapely open growth; lower branches spread widely. Sometimes develops "oak tree" shape. Needles in 3s, 5-10" long, very stiff. Cones 10-13", heavy, persisting many years. Resistant to heat, aridity and wind. Huge cones may be potentially dangerous around play areas, patios or parked cars. Full sun; little water.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

<i>Pinus radiata</i> Monterey pine evergreen tree Ht. 80 - 100', fast growing. Shapely, broad cone in youth, then drops lower branches to develop a rounded or flattish crown when mature. Needles in 3s, 3-7" long. 3-6" cones, lop-sided, clustered and persisting for many years. Fast growing, but shallow rooted. Prune to maintain denseness. Keep healthy with occasional deep watering and feeding. Full sun; little water. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : yes</i>	Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 17,40
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> Chinese pistachio deciduous tree Ht. to 60', 50' wide. Moderate growth rate. Young trees often gawky and lopsided, but mature trees become dense and shapely with reasonable care. 2-4" leaves with 10-16 paired leaflets. Can take irrigation or aridity. Full sun. Zone 4-16, 18-23. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	Conflicting information on fire performance. See Reference: 8,11,14,40,41
<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i> Dwarf karo evergreen shrub Ht. to 3' and equally as wide when mature. 1-2" leaves densely set on branches. Clusters of little flowers in late spring, followed by conspicuous fruit. Notably wind resistant. Full sun to half shade; tolerates aridity, best with regular water. Zone 9, 14-17, 19-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 25,40,41
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> Mock orange, Wheeler's mock orange evergreen shrub Ht. 6 - 15', rarely to 30', dwarf varieties much smaller. Can be held to 6' by careful thinning. Clean-looking, dense foliage; leaves leathery, shiny, 2-5" long. Clusters of flowers in early spring; fruit follows and splits in fall to show seeds. Some varieties lose many leaves in winter and can be a debris problem. Full sun to half shade; tolerates aridity, but best with regular water. Zone 8-24. <i>Drought Tolerant : yes</i> <i>Erosion Control : ?</i>	RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 11,12,25,40,41

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Pittosporum undulatum

Victorian box

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 15' with moderate to fast growth, then slowing to 30- 40' with equal spread. Makes dense, single or multi-trunked, dome shaped tree with glossy foliage and flowers in spring. Flowers followed by fruit that opens to expose sticky, messy seeds in fall. Seeds can be debris problem on lawns or patios. Strong roots become invasive with age. Full sun to part shade; little water, but best with some water. Zone 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Platanus acerfolia

London plane tree

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 14

Ht. 40 - 80', fast growing with spread from 30 - 40'. Smooth upper trunk and limbs. Older bark sheds in patches to reveal smooth, new bark beneath. Leaves 3-5 lobed. Ball-like seed clusters hang from branches on long stalks through winter. Leaf and seed debris can be a problem. Common street tree. Full sun; best with some deep watering in summer. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Platanus orientalis

Plane, Oriental plane

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. to 100'. Smooth upper trunk and limbs. Older bark sheds in patches to reveal smooth, new bark beneath. Leaves have 5-7, coarsely toothed lobes. Ball-like seed clusters hang from branches on long stalks through winter. Bark, leaf and seed debris can be a problem. Full sun; best with some deep watering in summer. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Platanus racemosa

Western sycamore, California sycamore

deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,53

Ht. 50 - 100', fast growing and robust. Main trunk often divides into spreading or leaning secondary trunk. Older bark sheds. Ball-like seed clusters hang 3 to 7 together along a single stalk. In mild coastal areas, brown leaves will hang on until new growth starts. Rake and dispose of leaf and seed debris. Tolerant of much heat and wind. Full sun; best with some deep watering in summer. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Polystichum munitum

Sword fern

perennial fern

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Fronde ht. - 2-4'. Leathery, shiny, dark green fronds, depending on moisture available. Established plants need little water. Old plants may have 75-100 fronds. Shade loving. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Populus spp.

Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar

deciduous tree

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,18

Varies with species.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Populus tremuloides

Quaking aspen

deciduous tree

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,15

Ht. 20 - 60' fast growing. Trunk and limbs smooth, almost whitish. Dainty foliage. Brilliant color in fall -- leaves need to be raked. Generally performs poorly at low elevations and may be subject to sudden die back. Full sun; best with regular deep watering. Zone 1-7.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Portulacaria afra

Purslane tree, Elephant's food

succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,24,40,41,53

Ht. to 12' tall and almost as wide. Resembles a jade plant but is faster growing and more loosely branched, with limber, tapering branches and smaller leaves. Seldom blooms in the U.S. Requires overhead protection in zones 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18-21. Any exposure, no water once established. Hardy in zones 13, 16, 17, 22-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Potentilla tabernaemontanii (P.verna)

Spring cinquefoil

evergreen groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,37,40,41,53

Ht. 2 - 6", dainty, tufted creeper. Small flowers in clusters, spring and summer. May turn brown in cold winters. Fast-growing as groundcover and makes a good lawn substitute. Smothers weeds effectively when well established; tough and persistent. Sun, part shade in hot summer areas; little to moderate water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Prunus caroliniana
Carolina cherry laurel
 evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 30,53

Ht. 35 - 40', broad topped when grown as tree. Densely foliated with glossy leaves; small flowers in spikes in Feb-Apr; black fruit follows. Litter from flowers and fruit can be a problem. Full sun, likes coastal areas; needs no water once established, except in warmest southern California regions where moderate supplemental water is recommended. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies Erosion Control : ?

Prunus ilicifolia
Holly-leaved cherry
 evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 8,11,12,15,26,30

Ht. 20 - 30', moderate growth rate. Usually broader than high. Mature leaves resemble holly leaves. 3-6" flower spikes appear in Mar. Round edible fruit follows. Growth rate and appearance are improved by deep but infrequent watering. Best in sun; no water in normal rainfall years. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes

Prunus lyonii
Catalina cherry
 evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 11 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 5,8,9,11,12,13,25,37,40,41,53

Ht. to 45' if grown as tree; spreads to over 30' wide. Flowers in clusters Apr-May, followed by large stoned fruits. Prune to hold any height desired. Full sun; little or no irrigation once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes

Prunus spp.
Plum, Peach, Cherry, Apricot,
Evergreen cherry
 evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 11,15,42

Varies with species. Most are best in sun with little or no water once established. Zone 7-9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : varies

Pseudotsuga menziesii
Douglas-fir
 evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.
See Reference: 4,40,41

Ht. 70 - 250' in forests. Densely set, soft needles on upwardly swinging branches. 3" cones with trident bract obvious; tassels of new growth in spring. Where summers are dry, foliage is dense with shorter spaces between branches; too much shade or moisture yields a thinner looking tree. Full sun; little or no water once established. Zone 1-10, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : yes Erosion Control : yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Psoralea bituminosa

Arabian scurf pea

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 19

Ht. to 3'; lower leaflet ovate, upper ones linear. Flowers in dense heads on very long stalks appear in spring and early summer. Suited to a Mediterranean climate. Full sun or light shade inland; best with regular water. Zone 7-9, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Pteridium aquilinum

Bracken fern

perennial fern

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 2-7' under good conditions. Coarse fronds, much divided rising directly from deep, running rootstocks. Deep rootstocks can make it a tough, invasive weed. Tolerates some aridity. Full sun to medium shade. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Punica granatum

Pomegranate

deciduous shrub

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,30,40,41,42,53

Ht. 1 - 8', depending on variety. Compact, dense foliated bush. Some varieties can be trained as fountain shaped shrub or espalier. Narrow glossy leaves. Flowers in spring; some varieties fruit, others do not. All varieties tolerate great heat and will live and grow well in alkaline soil. Sun for best bloom and fruit; little water once established. Zone 5-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Punica granatum 'Nana'

Dwarf pomegranate

deciduous shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,8,11,12,25

Ht. to 6'. Compact, dense foliated bush, often grown as a low hedge. Leaves 3/4 - 1-1/2", narrow and glossy. Flowers in spring; fruit follows. Tolerates great heat and will live and grow well in alkaline soil. Sun for best bloom and fruit; little water once established. Zone 5-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Pyracantha 'Santa Cruz'

Pyracantha, Firethorn

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,12,25,40,41

Ht. easily kept below 3' by pinching out occasional upright branch. Low growing, branching from base, spreading. Small red fruit on spurs along wood of last year's growth. Clustered flowers are small and numerous. Can be used as ground or bank cover. Full sun; best where soil is not always wet. Supplemental water needed in warmer southern California regions. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Quercus agrifolia

Encina, Coast live oak, California

live oak

evergreen tree

RECOMMENDED by 10 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,15,17,25,30,31,33,53

Ht. 20 - 70', round headed, wide spreading tree. Smooth bark; dense foliage or hollylike leaves, slightly glossy. Green all year, unless hit by oak moth larvae. Drops almost all its old leaves in early spring -- litter problem. Full sun; planted ones do best with some water, natives need none. Zone 5, 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Quercus dumosa

Nuttall's scrub oak, California

scrub oak

evergreen tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,53

Ht. to 8'. Leaves to 1", spiny toothed, glossy and dark on top and pubescent and pale underneath. Well-suited to dry, barren surroundings. Full sun, not much water. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Quercus engelmannii

Engelmann oak

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 60', wide spreading tree. 2" smooth edged leaves; densely foliaged. Full sun; do not water natives, but planted ones do best with some water. Zone 7-9, 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Quercus lobata

Valley oak

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 31

Ht. to 70' or more; with equal spread or more. Trunk and limbs massive with thick, checked bark. Limbs often twisted. Deeply lobed leaves 3-4" long. "Oak balls" are lightweight, corky spheres about the size of a tennis ball; fall from the tree as a result of insect activity but do not harm the tree, though can be a debris concern. Full sun; best in soils where it can tap groundwater. Zone 1-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Quercus suber

Cork oak

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 70 - 100', moderate growth rate with equal width. Trunk and principal limbs covered with thick, corky bark. Toothed, 3" leaves form finely textured foliage. Needs good drainage. Full sun; established trees can take considerable aridity, but moderate watering recommended in deserts. Zone 5-7, 8-16, 18-23.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Ranunculus californica

Buttercup

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 1-2' with thick fibrous roots and runners growing several feet in a season, rooting at joints. Leaves glossy, roundish deeply cut, toothed. Spring bloom. Full sun, best if watered during growth period. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Rhamnus alaternus

Italian buckthorn

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,9,11,12,13,22,30,32,40,41,42,53

Ht. 12-20+', spreading as wide. Fast, dense growing. Easily trained as multistemmed or single stemmed small tree. Leaves oval, shiny. Flowers in Apr followed by 1/4" black fruit. Takes heat; water or not. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Rhamnus californica

Coffeeberry

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 9 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,12,15,17,25,26,30,53

Ht. 3-15'. Low spreading habit or upright growth. Leaves 1-3" long. Large berries. Some hybrids are very dense and compact. Full sun or half shade. Established plants need no water. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Rhamnus crocea

**Spiny redberry, Redberry,
Hollyleaf redberry, Red-berried
buckthorn**

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,25,53

Ht. 2-3', spreading with many stiff or spiny branches. Leaves roundish, 1/2" long often finely toothed. Small fruit Aug-Oct. Full sun to partial shade; needs just a little water once established. Zone 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

***Rhaphiolepis* spp.**

Indian hawthorn

evergreen shrub

Ht. 4-5'. Pointed leaves, small 1/2" flowers. Varieties differ in flower color, form and size. Full sun or partial shade; accepts infrequent or lawn watering. Zone 8-10, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,40,41,53

Rhododendron occidentale

Western azalea

evergreen shrub

Ht. to 8'; shrubby and deciduous. Flowers through spring and summer. Best in filtered shade; constantly moist soil and humid air. Zone 4-6, 15-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Recommended by 3 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17,40,41

Rhus integrifolia

Lemonade berry

evergreen shrub

Ht. 3 - 10' and as wide; rarely treelike to 30'. Oval, leathery 1- 2-1/2" leaves. Dense clusters of flowers Feb-Mar; small, flat, clustered fruit gummy, with acid pulp. Useful in erosion control. Full sun; little to no water. Zone 15-17, 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,12,13,14,15,22,26,37,40,41,53

Rhus lancea

African sumac

evergreen tree

Ht. to 25', slow growing; open spreading habit. Leaves divided into willowlike leaflets 4-5" long. Pea-size fruit grows in clusters on female tree -- can be messy on pavement. Stake and prune to establish desired form; can be trained to single or multi-trunked. Full sun; little to no water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,12,26,37,40,41

Rhus laurina

Laurel sumac

evergreen shrub

Ht. 6 - 15', grows rapidly; sometimes almost tree-like with a rounded crown. Must be pruned and trimmed to keep under control. Laurel-like 2-4" long leaves; small flowers in dense clusters May-Jul, sometimes to Dec. Can be tender to frost, but comes back quickly from stump. Full sun; little or no water. Zone 20-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 4,11,15,30,53

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Rhus ovata

Sugar bush

evergreen shrub

Ht. 2-1/2 - 10', upright or spreading shrub. Glossy, leathery leaves. Flowers in dense clusters Mar-May followed by small, hairy fruit coated with a sugary secretion. Hard to establish in hot weather. Full sun; little or no water. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 4,11,15,30,53

Ribes malvaceum

Chaparral currant

deciduous shrub

Ht. 4 - 5', shrubby. Spiny with hairy leaves and short clusters of flowers. Sun or partial shade; no water once established. Zone 6-9, 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 6,16

Ribes sanguineum

Red-flowering currant

deciduous shrub

Ht. 4 - 12'. 2-1/2" wide maple-like leaves. Small drooping clusters of 10-30 flowers bloom Mar-Jun, berries follow. Sun or partial shade; needs water away from the coast. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ribes speciosum

Gooseberry fuschia

evergreen shrub

Ht. 3 - 6'; erect with spiny, often bristly stems. Thick 1" leaves resemble those of a fruiting gooseberry. Drooping flowers are fuschia-like blooming Jan-May. Berries are gummy and bristly. Sun near the coast, light shade inland; tolerates aridity but loses leaves from summer through fall (with a little summer water it is nearly evergreen). Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 6,16

Ribes viburnifolium

Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume

evergreen shrub

Ht. to 3' and much wider (up to 12'). Low, arching or half trailing stems may root in moist soil. Leaves are leathery, 1" across; flowers Feb-Apr, followed by berries. Foliage turns yellow in hot sun; best in sun or half shade on coast and partial shade inland. Needs no irrigation once established. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,15,17,25,30,53

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Robinia pseudoacacia

Black locust

deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 75', fast growing. Rather open and sparse branching habit. Deeply furrowed bark; thorny branchlets. Leaves divided into 7-19 leaflets, 1-2" long. Flowers in dense, hanging clusters 4-8" long. Beanlike, 4" pods turn brown and hang on tree all winter. Full sun; no water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

***Romneya coulteri* & varieties**

Matilija poppy, Coulter's poppy

perennial shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,9,11,15,17,25,40,41,53

Ht. - 8+'. Stems and deeply cut leaves are gray green. Crepey flowers up to 9" wide, blooms May-Jul, into fall if watered. Invasive, spreading by underground rhizomes. Tolerates varying soils; withhold summer watering to keep growth in check. Cut nearly to ground in fall. New shoots emerge after first rains in winter. Easy to grow once established. Full sun, responds to water; tolerates some aridity. All zones.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

Rosa banksiae

Lady Bank's rose

evergreen vine

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,40,41

Ht. to 20+'. Vigorous grower, evergreen climber. Aphid resistant and almost immune to disease. Glossy, leathery leaves have 3-5 leaflets. Large clusters of small flowers bloom in early to late spring, depending upon zone. Full sun or partial shade; best with regular watering. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

Rosmarinus officinalis

Rosemary

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 32,40,41,53

Ht. 2-6'. Rugged with narrow, two tone leaves. Small clusters of flowers in winter, spring; blooms occasionally repeat in fall. Endures hot sun and poor soil, but good drainage is a must. Feeding and excess water result in woodiness. Prune older plants lightly, cut to side branch or shear. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus

Dwarf rosemary, Creeping or Prostrate rosemary
evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 6,7,8,9,10,11,16,18,19,21,22,23,25,26,27,28,30,31,32,35,36,32,34,37,38,39

Prostrate to 12"; spreading to 18". Rugged, with narrow leaves. Small clusters of flowers in winter, spring; bloom occasionally repeats in fall. Endures hot sun and poor soil. Prune older plants lightly. Full sun, little or no water once established. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Salix lasiolepis

Arroyo willow
deciduous tree

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Shrub or small tree to 35'. Branchlets usually pubescent; leaves to 4" long and glaucous underneath. Catkins appear before the leaves. Full sun; regular water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Salvia aurea

Sage
perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Much-branched shrub 3-8'; white tomentose. Leaves to 2-1/2" long, flowers spring and summer. Tender shrub requiring sandy, well-drained soil. Full sun. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Salvia chamaedryoides

Sage
perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Low plant. Mounding, spreading by underground runners. Small silvery foliage mass a backdrop for bright flowers in spring. Endures some aridity. Full sun. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Salvia columbariae

Chia
annual shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 42,53

Ht. 4-20". Leaves mostly basal, 1-4" long. Small blue flowers, spring and summer. Well suited to southern California climate. Full sun, little water. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

<i>Salvia leucantha</i> Mexican bush sage perennial shrub Ht. 3-4' with arching stems. Long velvety spikes with small flowers, summer and fall. Takes some aridity, sun or light shade. Cut old stems to the ground. Zone 10-24. <i>Drought Tolerant</i> : yes <i>Erosion Control</i> : ?	Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 25
<i>Salvia leucopylla</i> Purple sage perennial shrub Ht. 3-4'; Erect or spreading shrub. Wide with white woolly leaves. Summer flowers in long, open clusters. Chaparral plant; needs no irrigation once established. Full sun. Zone 8, 9, 14-17, 19-24. <i>Drought Tolerant</i> : yes <i>Erosion Control</i> : yes	Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 25
<i>Salvia mellifera</i> Black sage perennial shrub Ht. to 7'. Stems often pubescent. Leaves 3/4 to 2-1/2" long with very small, shallow teeth; tomentose underneath. Flowers in small spikes, spring and summer. Full sun, little water. Zone 8, 9, 14-24. <i>Drought Tolerant</i> : yes <i>Erosion Control</i> : yes	Conflicting information on fire performance. See Reference: 6,8,9,40,41
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i> Sonoma sage, Creeping sage perennial shrub Ht. to 16". Sprawling, mat forming plant with hairy leaves. Flowers in erect clusters. No summer water needed once established. Hard to maintain. Full sun. Zone 7, 14-24. <i>Drought Tolerant</i> : yes <i>Erosion Control</i> : yes	RECOMMENDED by 14 references for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 7,9,10,11,15,16,21,25,27,38,40,41, 42,53
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> Mexican elderberry tree Ht. 4-10' or spreading tree to 50'. Leaves 5-8" long, divided into 5 to 9 rather firm, toothed 1-6" long leaflets. Flowers in Apr-Aug. Cluster of berries follow. Forms from southern California and deserts have fewer leaflets and berries are fewer, smaller and drier. Sun or light shade; best with moderate water. All zones. <i>Drought Tolerant</i> : yes <i>Erosion Control</i> : ?	Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas. See Reference: 53

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Santolina chamaecyparissus

**Santolina, Lavender, Gray
lavender**

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 14 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,17,23,24,25,32,36,37,40,41,42,53

Ht. to 2', but best to clip it to 1'. Brittle, woody stems densely clothed with rough, finely divided leaves. Flower heads in summer on unclipped plants. Replace plant if woodiness takes over. Full sun; little to no water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Santolina virens

Green lavender, Santolina

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,9,10,16,17,19,21,23,24,25,28,30,32,35,36,39,38,40,41,42,53

Ht. can range to 2', but looks best when clipped to 1'. Narrow leaves of striking texture; plants look like puffs of green smoke. Fast growing in any soil, little to no water, and full sun. Cut back in early spring. May die to ground in coldest areas, but roots will live and resume growth. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Satureja douglasii

Yerba buena

perennial vine

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. to 3'; slender stems root as they grow in a spreading habit. Roundish, 1" long leaves; tiny flowers Apr-Sep. Needs rich, moist soil and full sun/partial shade. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Satureja montana

Winter savoury

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,37

Ht. 6-15". Low spreading. Stiff, narrow to roundish, 1/2 to 1" long leaves. Profusion of small blooms attractive to bees. Keep clipped. Grow in sun, in sandy, well-drained soil. Needs little to moderate water on regular basis. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Scaevola 'Muave Clusters'

Fan flower

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,11,12,25

Ht. 4-6" mat eventually 3-5' across. Small flowers in clusters, almost ever blooming. Can be used as hanging basket plant or groundcover. Full sun; two soakings per month are adequate, but will tolerate some aridity. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Schinus molle

Peruvian pepper tree, California
pepper tree

evergreen tree

Ht. 25-40' fast growing; as wide as is tall. Trunk of old tree is heavy and gnarled, with knots and burls that frequently sprout leaves or small branches. Branchlets light and drooping. Leaves are divided into many narrow, 1.5-2" leaflets. Numerous tiny summer flowers give way to berries in the fall and winter. Messy litter, greedy surface roots. Needs no water once established. Full sun. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 12 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,9,11,13,17,22,25,30,37,40,41,53

Schinus terebinthifolius

Brazilian pepper tree

evergreen tree

Ht. to 30', with equal spread, moderate growth rate. Coarse, glossy leaves with 5-13 leaflets; berries in winter. With little training, makes a broad umbrella shaped crown. Stake young trees well. Many variations in foliage habit. Single or multi-trunked. Feed and water infrequently and deeply to discourage surface roots. Late-summer thinning necessary to prevent wind damage in the fall and winter. Full sun. Zone 13, 14, 15-17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

RECOMMENDED by 9 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 5,9,11,12,22,40,41,42,53

Sedum acre

Goldmoss sedum

succulent creeper

Ht. to 2"; carpet or cushion type groundcover. Shoots densely covered with fleshy leaves. Clusters of yellow flowers Jun-Jul. Potentially very invasive. Zone 4.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,53

Sedum album

Green stonecrop

succulent creeper

Ht. 2-6". Creeping evergreen with fleshy leaves 1/4 - 1/2" long. Roots from smallest fragment; beware of placing it near delicate plants. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,53

Sedum brevifolium

Stonecrop

succulent groundcover

Ht. 2-3". Tightly packed, fleshy leaves less than 1/8" long. Pinkish, red flowers. Sunburns in hot, dry places. Needs good drainage. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,24,25

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Sedum confusum
Stonecrop, Sedum
 succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,24,40,41,53

Ht. 6-12". Fleshy, shiny leaves, 3/4 - 1-1/2" tend to cluster in rosettes toward branch ends. Dense cluster of flowers in spring. Sometimes dies back in wet soils, hot weather; looks best during cooler weather. Zone 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :no

Sedum guatemalense
Pork and beans
 succulent groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 38

Ht. to 16"; leaves like jelly beans, 3/4" long. Sprawling, leaning stems 6-8" tall. Easily detached leaves root readily. Zone 8, 9, 12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

Sedum lineaere
Sedum
 succulent groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,53

Ht. to 1'; sprawling, spreading, trailing rooting stems. Closely set with narrow, fleshy, leaves 1" long. Flowers profuse in late spring, early summer. Vigorous spreader. All zones.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :no

Sedum rosea
Roseroot
 succulent groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Stems simple and erect, 6-16". Fleshy leaves, 1/2 - 1-1/2" long, greenish yellow or purple and somewhat toothed toward the tip. Flowers in late spring, early summer. Full sun to considerable shade; best with some dry season water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

Sedum rubrotinctum (S. guatemalense)
Brown bean, Pork and beans
 succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,24,38,40,41,53

Ht. to 16"; leaves like jelly beans, 3/4" long. Sprawling, leaning stems 6-8" tall. Easily detached leaves root readily. Zone 8, 9, 12, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Sedum spathulifolium

Stonecrop

succulent groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,25

Blue-green leaves are spoon shaped, fleshy and tightly packed into rosettes on short, trailing stems. Flowers spring and summer. Good in sunny or partially shaded areas. After it has rooted, it needs no water in cool summer climates. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Sedum spathulifolium 'Purpureum'

Stonecrop

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9

Leaves are spoon shaped, fleshy and tightly packed into rosettes on short, trailing stems. Similar to *S. spathulifolium*, except that it has deep purple leaves. Flowers spring and summer. Good in sunny or partially shaded areas. After it has rooted, it needs no water in cool summer climates. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Sedum spurium

Stonecrop

succulent groundcover

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 32

Ht. 4-5"; trailing stems with thick 1" leaves and dense flower clusters at stem ends during summer. Full sun to considerable shade. Little summer water required. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Senecio 'Vira-Vira'

Dusty miller

perennial shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 25

Ht. to 4'; broad, sprawling habit. Leaves woolly, white and finely cut into narrow, pointed segments. Summer flowers. In full sun, densely leafy; in partial shade looser, more sparsely foliaged, with larger, greener leaves. Tip-pinning will keep plants compact. Needs light watering. Zone 3-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Senecio cineraria

Dusty miller

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 2 - 2-1/2'. Spreading plant, woolly white leaves cut into many blunt tipped lobes. Clustered heads of flowers at almost any season. Plants should be sheared occasionally. Easy to grow, needs only light watering. Sun loving. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Senecio mandraliscae

Blue ice plant

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,10,25

Ht. 1 - 1-1/2'; somewhat shrubby with branches to 1-1/2' tall, spreading wider. Leaves cylindrical, 3" long. Takes some water or aridity. Zone 12, 13, 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :no

Senecio serpens (Kleinia repens)

Senecio, Dusty miller, Blue-chalksticks

succulent shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,24,40,41,53

Ht. to 1'; with 1-1/2" leaves. Succulent perennial. Zone 16, 17, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

Sidalcea malvaeflora

Checkerbloom

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Ht. 2-3'. Low, sprawling perennials with roundish leaves to 2-1/2" across. With water, plants will bloom all summer. Without water, they go dormant and reappear with fall rains. Sun loving; water varies. Zone 4-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

Silene vulgaris maritima (S.uniflora)

Indian pink, Campion

perennial shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,11,25

Low, cushion forming perennial. Gray-green foliage. Profusion of white flowers (spring, summer) each nearly enclosed in a balloon-like inflated calyx. Sun, partial shade. All zones.

Drought Tolerant :?

Erosion Control :?

Silybum marianum

Milk thistle, St. Mary's thistle, Holy thistle

annual or biennial shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 4'; glabrous, simple or slightly branched stems. Glossy, white marbled leaves to 2-1/2' long, 6-12" across. Likes a mediterranean climate. Full sun; little water. Zone 7-9, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Simmondsia chinensis

Pignut, Jojoba, Goatnut

evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 7 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,15,40,41,42,53

Ht. 3-6', rarely 16'. Dense, rigid-branching, spreading shrub. Leathery 1-2" leaves; flowers inconspicuous. Young plants are tender. Can be clipped to a hedge. Full sun and heat, little water needed. Zone 10-13, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Sisyrinchium bellum

Yellow-eyed grass, Blue-eyed grass

perennial grass

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,40,41,53

Ht. 4-16". Narrow leaves. 1/2" flowers bloom early to midspring. Several forms available, including dwarf. Sun or light shade. Tolerates some aridity. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Sisyrinchium californicum

Yellow-eyed grass

perennial grass

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 15,25,41

Ht. 4-20"; broad, dull leaved grass. Flowers, May-Jun. Sun or light shade. Tolerates some aridity. Can grow in wet, low, or poorly drained areas. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Solanum crispum

Potato vine

evergreen vine

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17

Ht. to 12'; climber with 5" leaves and 4" clusters of flowers. May lose leaves in hard frost. Best with little to moderate water; sun or partial shade. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Solanum jasminoides

Potato vine

evergreen or deciduous vine

RECOMMENDED by 9 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,12,17,26,30,37,40,41

Fast growth to 30', twining in habit. Leaves 1-1/2 - 3". Clustered flowers of about an inch. Nearly perpetual bloom; heaviest in spring. Cut back severely at any time to prevent tangling, promote vigorous new growth and to control rampant runners that grow along the ground. Sun or partial shade; best with little to moderate water. Zone 8, 9, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Solanum xanti
Purple nightshade
 evergreen shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 17,40,41

Ht. to 2'. Leaves 1-3/4" long, 1" flowers late winter or spring. Erect or sprawling in habit. Sun or partial shade; best with little to moderate watering. Zone 7-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Solidago spathulata
Goldenrod, Coast goldenrod
 perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. 1-3' with a characteristic goldenrod plume of flowers topping leafy stems. Plants grow best in poorer soil. Full sun, moderate water. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Spartium junceum
Spanish broom
 evergreen shrub

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,40,41

Ht. from 6-10'; forms a shrub of many erect, almost leafless stems. 1" flowers in clusters at branch ends bloom continuously from Jul to frost. Flowers followed by hairy seed pods. Gaunt looking woody shrub, but pruning creates a denser plant. Takes poor, rocky soil. Full sun, little water requirement. Zone 5-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Stachys byzantina
Lamb's ears
 perennial shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,17,25,40,41

Ht. to 1-1/2'. Soft, thick, woolly leaves grow densely on spreading stems. Flower stalks with many whorls of small flowers form in Jun-Jul. Rain smashes foliage down, makes it mushy. Frost damages leaves. Cut back in spring. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Stipa lepida (Nassella lepida)
Foothill needlegrass, Stipa
 perennial grass

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 1 - 1-1/2'; generally unbranched and widely spreading. Clumpy; flowering stems to about 3'. Likes dry slopes and chaparral. Full sun; very little water. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : ?

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Stipa pulchra (Nassella pulchra)

Purple needlegrass, Stipa

perennial grass

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 1 - 1-1/2' tall in clumps, flowering stems to 3'. Flowers with long bristles mature in summer. Plants remain dormant until winter rains. Full sun. Zone 5, 7-9, 11, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

Strelitzia reginae

Bird of paradise

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 27,40,41

Ht. to 5'; trunkless plants. Leathery, long stalked leaves (1-1/2'). Frost sensitive and slow to recover. Flowers on long, stiff stalks bloom throughout the year, but best in cool season. Divide infrequently, since large clumps bloom best. Full sun, light shade; regular water. Zone 9, 12-21.

Drought Tolerant :no

Erosion Control :?

Symphoricarpos mollis

Waxberry, Creeping snowberry,

Trip vine

deciduous groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15,40,41

Ht. to 1-1/2'. Low growing, spreads by root suckers. Small flowers; berry like fruit when leaves fall. Best used in sun or shade for erosion control on steep banks. Needs no summer water once established. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :?

Syzygium paniculatum

Brush cherry

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 27

Ht. 30-60'. Single or multi-trunked, with dense foliage crown. Mature leaves oblong, 1-1/2 - 3", glossy. Flowers are small, followed by fruit. Foliage burns at 25-26 F -- very frost sensitive. Hedges need frequent clipping to stay neat and heavy root system can crowd out other plants. Best in sun, regular water. Zone 16, 17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant :no

Erosion Control :?

Tamarix aphylla

Athel tree

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 10-50'; fast growing to 10' in 3 years, then to full height over 15 years with deep soil and water. Deciduous, but has an evergreen appearance due to jointed green branchlets. True leaves are minute. Small flowers in clusters at ends of branches in late summer. Very competitive roots. Full sun; can tolerate long periods of dryness. Zone 10-13.

Drought Tolerant :yes

Erosion Control :yes

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Landscape Vegetation Database

Taxus spp.

Yew

evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,40,41

Ht. 50-60'. Tree of loose, open growth with needles <1" in length. Slow growing, long lived, tolerant of much shearing and pruning. Benefits from being washed with a hose every 2 weeks during hot, dry weather. Little water once established. Sun to light shade. Zone 3-9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Tecomaria capensis

Cape honeysuckle

evergreen vine

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,26,37,40,41,42,53

Ht. 15-25', if tied to a support. With hard pruning, 6-8' upright shrub. Foliage is informal and fine textured. 2" blossoms grow in compact clusters Oct-winter. Needs good drainage. Takes heat, wind, salt air. Little water once established; full sun or light shade. Zone 12, 13, 16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Teucrium chamaedrys

Germander, Prostrate germander

evergreen shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,9,10,24,40,41,53

Ht. to 1', spreading to 2' wide. Low growing, with many upright, woody based stems densely set with toothed leaves. To keep neat, shear back once or twice a year to force side branching. Tough plants, enduring poor, rocky soils. Can't stand wet or poorly drained soil. Full sun. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Thevetia peruviana neriifolia

Yellow oleander

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Ht. 6-8'. Fast growing; leaves 3-6" long, very narrow and glossy. Flowers bloom anytime in clusters at branch ends. Shallow rooted. Protect from wind or prune to thicken stems. Full sun, regular water. Zone 12-14, 21-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Thuja spp.

Arborvitae

evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 4 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 4,8,40,41

Ht. 40-200' depending upon the species. Neat, symmetric, even geometric plants. Scalelike leaves in flat sprays; juvenile foliage feathery. Western species are dense, and vary from narrow and erect to broad and shrublike. Water requirements vary with species, but most tolerate some aridity. Full sun, summer shade. Zone 1-9, 14-24, for western species.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Thymus praecox articus
Mother of thyme, Creeping thyme
 perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,10,23,36,40,41

Ht. 2-6"; forms flat mat with upright branches. Roundish, 1/4" long leaves. Small clusters of small flowers in Jun-Sep. Soft underfoot. Full sun to light shade, some summer water required for best appearance. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Thymus pseudolanuginosus (T. lanuginosus)

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,23,28,35,36

Woolly thyme, Thyme
 perennial groundcover

Ht. 2-3". Forms a flat to undulating mat groundcover. Stems densely clothed with small woolly leaves. Plants become a little unsightly in winter. Full sun to light shade; some summer water necessary for best appearance. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Thymus serpyllum

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,53

Mother of thyme, Lemon thyme, Wild thyme

perennial groundcover

Mat-forming perennial groundcover. Stems woody at base, erect to 4" and hairy on all sides. Very small (5/16") leaves and very small purple flowers in spring, summer. Full sun to light shade; some summer water recommended. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : no

Tilia vulgaris

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Linden

deciduous tree

Ht. from 20-50'. Dense compact crown, small flowers in drooping clusters. Growth rate slow to moderate. Young trees need staking and shaping; older trees need corrective pruning. Full sun, regular water requirement. Zone 1-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Trachelospermum jasminoides

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,12,17,25,40,41,53

Star jasmine

evergreen groundcover

Twining vine to 20'. Growth rate is slow at first but eventually moderately fast. New foliage is glossy green, mature leaves lustrous, to 3" long. 1" flowers profuse in small clusters Jun-Jul. After 3-4 years, growth is thick enough to discourage most annual weeds. Can be trained as a groundcover by pruning upright shoots. Regular water, full sun. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Trichostema lanatum

Woolly blue curls, Romero

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 8 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,11,12,15,25,26,42,53

Ht. 3-5', much branched, neat plant. Narrow (to 2") leaves shiny on top, woolly beneath. Flowers in clusters along a long stalk bloom Apr-Jun. Needs excellent drainage and full sun. No irrigation required for established plants. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Trifolium fragiferum

O'Connor's legume

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41,53

Ht. 6-7" mat of green, deep rooted (6-7") groundcover. High tolerance of heat, aridity and moderate salinity. Water well until established, then average water requirement. Full sun or part shade. Zone 4-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Tsuga spp.

Hemlock

evergreen tree

NOT RECOMMENDED by 3 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,40,41

Range in ht. from 50-200', depending upon species. Mostly gigantic trees with unusually graceful foliage. Needlelike leaves flattened and narrow with short stalks. Small cones hang down from branches. Best in acid soil, high summer humidity and protection from hot sun and wind. Best with ample water. Zone 1-7, 14-17.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : yes

Tulbaghia violacea

Society garlic

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 5 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 8,9,25,40,41

Ht. 1-2' stems, 1' leaves. Many narrow leaves grow from a central point to make a broad clump. Flowers in a bloom cluster most of the year. Frost damage at 20 F, but quick recovery. Requires full sun and looks best with regular water. Zones 13-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Ulex europea

Gorse

shrub

Not recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Very spiny shrub to 6'. Spines to 1", deeply furrowed. Fragrant flowers to 3/4" followed by hairy fruit -- all year in warm climates, spring elsewhere. Old plants can be very flammable. Likes sun; little water once established. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Ulmus spp.

Elm

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 18

Ht. 100+', fast growing; stately with divided trunk or wide spreading. Root systems are aggressive -- may be difficult to grow anything else under these trees. Branch crotches are often narrow and are easily split. Best with regular watering and full sun. Zone 1-11, 14-21.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Umbellularia californica

California laurel

evergreen tree

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 4,13,22,30,37,40,41,53

Varies in height from a huge, gum-dropped shaped shrub to a tall and free-ranging 75' high and 100' wide tree. Leaves are 2-5" long and 1/2 - 1" wide. Tiny yellow flowers in spring, followed by a olive-like fruit. In gardens, tends to grow slowly to about 20-25'. Casts very dense shade if not thinned. Always neat, often multi-trunked. Heavy autumn fallout of leaves. Grows best in deep soil with ample water, but will tolerate some aridity. Zone 4-10, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Urtica urens

Burning nettle, Dwarf nettle

annual shrub

Not recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. 4-24" covered with non-stinging hairs. Small flowers followed by very small fruit. Sun; requires some water. Likes mild California climates. Zone 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Vaccinium ovatum

Huckleberry

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 15

Ht. 2-3' in sun, 8-10' in shade. Young plants spreading in habit, older plants taller than wide and compact. Leathery, lustrous leaves 1/2 - 1-1/4" long. Flowers Mar-May. Black berries in summer. Best when watered moderately. Zone 4-7.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Verbena peruviana

Peruvian verbena

perennial groundcover

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 7,18,24,30,32,37,40,41,53

Ht. to 6"; forms very flat mat rapidly. Leaves are neat, small, closely set. Flat topped flower clusters on slender stems cover foliage. Modest water requirements. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Veronica spp.

Veronica, Brooklime, Speedwell

perennial groundcover

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,15

Ht. ranges from 4" to 2-1/2', small flowers are massed together. Prostrate, mat-forming kinds tolerate less frequent watering than bushy kinds. Full sun. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Vinca major

Periwinkle

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 13 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,9,10,11,20,23,24,30,34,36,38,39, 53

Ht. usually 6-12", can be as high as 2'. Tough plant, long trailing stems root as they spread and carry many broad-based oval glossy leaves. Short flowering branches with lavender blue flowers. Shear close to the ground to promote growth as groundcover. Zone 5-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Vinca minor

Dwarf periwinkle myrtle, Dwarf running myrtle

perennial groundcover

RECOMMENDED by 11 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 7,10,11,23,24,28,30,36,38,39,53

Ht. less than 12". Short stems and flowering branches. Best with 2-3 good soakings per month. Lavender blue flowers 1" in diameter throughout spring. Closely packed. Shade loving. Zone 1-3, 7, 10-13.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

Vulpia myuros

Zorro annual fescue

annual grass

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 28"; solitary or loosely clumped. Unbranched with slender stalked spikelets. Likes open spaces and sandy soil. Sun; minimal water requirements. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Washingtonia filifera

California fan palm

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 60'. Long stalked leaves stand apart in open crown. Leaves bend down as they mature to form thatch. Robust single trunk. Moderate supplemental water needed in warm inland and desert areas. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Washingtonia robusta

Mexican fan palm

evergreen tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. to 100'. Leaf stalks are short, compact crown, rough thatch. Fast growing. Old plants take on a natural curvature. Tolerates aridity in mild climates, but moderate supplemental water recommended in warm southern California inland and desert areas. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : ?

Wisteria spp.

Wisteria

deciduous vine

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,17,32,37,40,41

Ht. varies with how the plant is trained. Can be twining, woody vines, shrub or tree. Long living and very adaptable. Mature plant has low water requirement. Prune blooming plants every winter, cutting back and/or thinning side shoots. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Xylosma congestum

Xylosma, Compact xylosma

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 11,14

Ht. 8-10'. Spreading shrub. Height can be controlled with pruning. If left unattended, angular main stem will zigzag upward and side branches grow long, sometimes lying on the ground. Can take awhile to get started. Adaptable to most soils; requires moderate supplemental watering only in warmer regions of southern California. Zone 8-24.

Drought Tolerant : varies

Erosion Control : yes

Yucca aloifolia

Spanish bayonet

perennial shrub

Not enough information available on fire performance to make a recommendation.

See Reference: 11

Slow growth to 10+'. Trunk either single or branched or sprawling in habit. Sharp pointed leaves to 2-1/2' long and 2" wide densely clothed stems. Summer bloom. Zone 7-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Yucca elephantipes

Giant yucca

evergreen shrub

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 27

Ht. 15-30', fast growing. Usually with several trunks. Leaves 4' by 3". Large spikes of flowers in spring. Does best in good, well drained soil, with ample water but will tolerate periods of aridity. Zones 12, 13, 16, 17, 19-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Landscape Vegetation Database

Yucca whipplei

Yucca, Our Lord's candle

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,25

Stemless, with dense cluster of rigid leaves 12-21", needle tipped. Flowering stems 6-14'. Drooping blossoms in large, branched, spikes 3-6' long. Plants die after blooming and producing seed; new plants come from seeds or offsets. Full sun; periodic soaking desired but will tolerate periods of aridity. Zone 2-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Common calla, Calla lily

perennial shrub

Conflicting information on fire performance.

See Reference: 8,17,40,41

3' stems, with 18" x 10" shiny leaves. Invasive rhizome. Cut back in winter. Nearly evergreen in mild climates. Requires well-drained soil, thrives best on heavy watering. Zones 5, 6, 8, 9, 14-24.

Drought Tolerant : no

Erosion Control : ?

Zauschneria californica

California fuschia, Hummingbird flower

perennial shrub

RECOMMENDED by 6 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 9,11,17,40,41,53

Ht. 1-2'. Stems upright or somewhat arching. Plants sometimes shrubby at base. Evergreen in mild climate, otherwise becomes twiggy and ungroomed through the winter. Little or no water once established. Invasive roots; will go to seed and reseed itself. Zones 2-10, 12-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : no

Zigadenus fremontii

Star lily

perennial shrub

Recommended by 2 references for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 40,41

Stems to 3'; basal leaves 2' long are rough with very small hairs. Small flowers in racemes in summer. Likes grassy or wooded slopes. Full sun; low water requirement. All zones.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : ?

Zizyphus jujuba

Chinese jujuba

deciduous tree

Recommended by 1 reference for use in high fire risk areas.

See Reference: 53

Ht. - 20-30'. Slow growing. Branches spiny, gnarled, somewhat pendulous. Leaves 1-2", glossy. Clusters of small yellow flowers in May-Jun. Shiny, datelike fruit in fall. Deep rooted, tolerates drought, saline and alkaline soils. Prune in winter. Foliage drops in fall. Zone 7-16, 18-24.

Drought Tolerant : yes

Erosion Control : yes

NOTE: A "?" means that there was not enough information available to make a recommendation, or, that there was conflicting information in the references regarding the characteristics of the plant.

Appendix 1. Climate Zones

Zone 1: Snowy winter climate, high elevation, and a very short growing season (75-150 days) characterize this zone. Zone 1 is the coldest of the western snowy winter regions.

Zone 2: Snowy winter climate with lower elevations and consequently, higher winter temperatures than Zone 1. Winter temperatures range from -3 to -34°F for a 20 year period. Growing season is from May through September.

Zone 3: Mildest of the snowy winter climate zones. Slightly lower elevation than Zone 2 combined with the influence of Pacific air moderates winter temperatures (10 to 15°F). Growing season is generally from May through September.

Zone 4: Western Washington and British Columbia.

Zone 5: Northwest coast with marine influence. Minimum temperatures range from 28 to 1°F over a 20 year period. Growing season is typically March through November.

Zone 6: Willamette Valley, Oregon.

Zone 7: Low elevations of the Rogue Valley, Oregon and middle elevations of California's low mountains comprise this climate zone. Hot summers and mild, but pronounced winters (lows range from 23 to 9°F). Growing season is from May through September, and often into October.

Zone 8: Cold-air basins of California's Central Valley. Winter lows range from 29 to 13°F over a 20 year period. Summer daytime temperatures are high and sun is nearly constant throughout the growing season (February through November). Long, hot summers. Tule fog appears often during winter months.

Zone 9: Thermal belts of California's Central Valley. Very similar climate to Zone 8, only temperatures are not as cold. Growing season is from late-February through November. Winter nights more suitable for citrus; deciduous fruits and vegetables do well in this climate.

Zone 10: High deserts at 3300 to 4500' elevations. Definite winter season with temperatures below 32°F and plenty of summer heat. Rainfall averages 12 inches/year; growing season is from April through October.

Zone 11: Medium to high deserts have cold winters, very hot summers. Hot summer days (90 to 117°F) followed by cool nights. Often windy and dry. Growing season is April through late-October.

* This appendix summarizes the Sunset Western Garden Book's climate zones for California, see reference 44.

Zone 12: Intermediate deserts have cold winters and hard frosts spread over a lengthy cold season. Strong winds from March to May; summer rains can be expected. Growing season is from mid-March to mid-November.

Zone 13: Subtropical desert areas ranging from below sea level to 1100'. Average summer temperatures from 106 to 108°F. Winters are short and mild, with brief frosts from December to February. Spring winds and summer storms are common. Growing season from mid-February through May, growth stops due to high temperatures in June, July and August, and then growth period resumes in September through November.

Zone 14: Northern California's inland areas with milder winters and marine influence, as well as cold winter inland valleys comprise this climate zone. Over a 20 year period, low temperatures range from 26 to 16°F. Marine air moderates these areas that would otherwise have much colder winters and much hotter summers. Growing season is from March to mid-November.

Zone 15: California coastal regions that have a heavy marine influence and somewhat colder winters due to cold-air basins, higher elevations or higher latitudes. Moist atmosphere; common to have afternoon winds in summer. Low temperatures over a 20 year period range from 28 to 21°F. Growing season is from March through November.

Zone 16: Mild climate of central and northern California's coastal thermal belts. Typical lows range from 32 to 19°F. Somewhat warmer in summer than Zone 17, summer afternoon winds common. One of northern California's best horticultural climates. Growing season is late-February to late-November.

Zone 17: Cool, moist, frostless winters and cool, foggy summers characterize this northern California coastal climate zone. Low winter temperatures range from 36 to 23°F, summer highs range from 60 to 75°F. Growing season is March through November.

Zone 18: Chilly hilltops and valley floors of southern California have an interior climate. Winter lows range from 28 to 10°F, frosts are common. Summers generally warmer and drier than Zone 19. Growing season is April to mid-November.

Zone 19: Very similar to Zone 18 -- interior climate, but with milder winters. Winter lows range from 27 to 22°F. Hot summers. Growing season is from early March through November.

Zone 20: Cool winters characterize this southern California climate region. This area has both maritime and interior influence and can support a much wider variety of plants than other zones. Winter lows range from 28 to 23°F. Growing season is from late-March to mid-November.

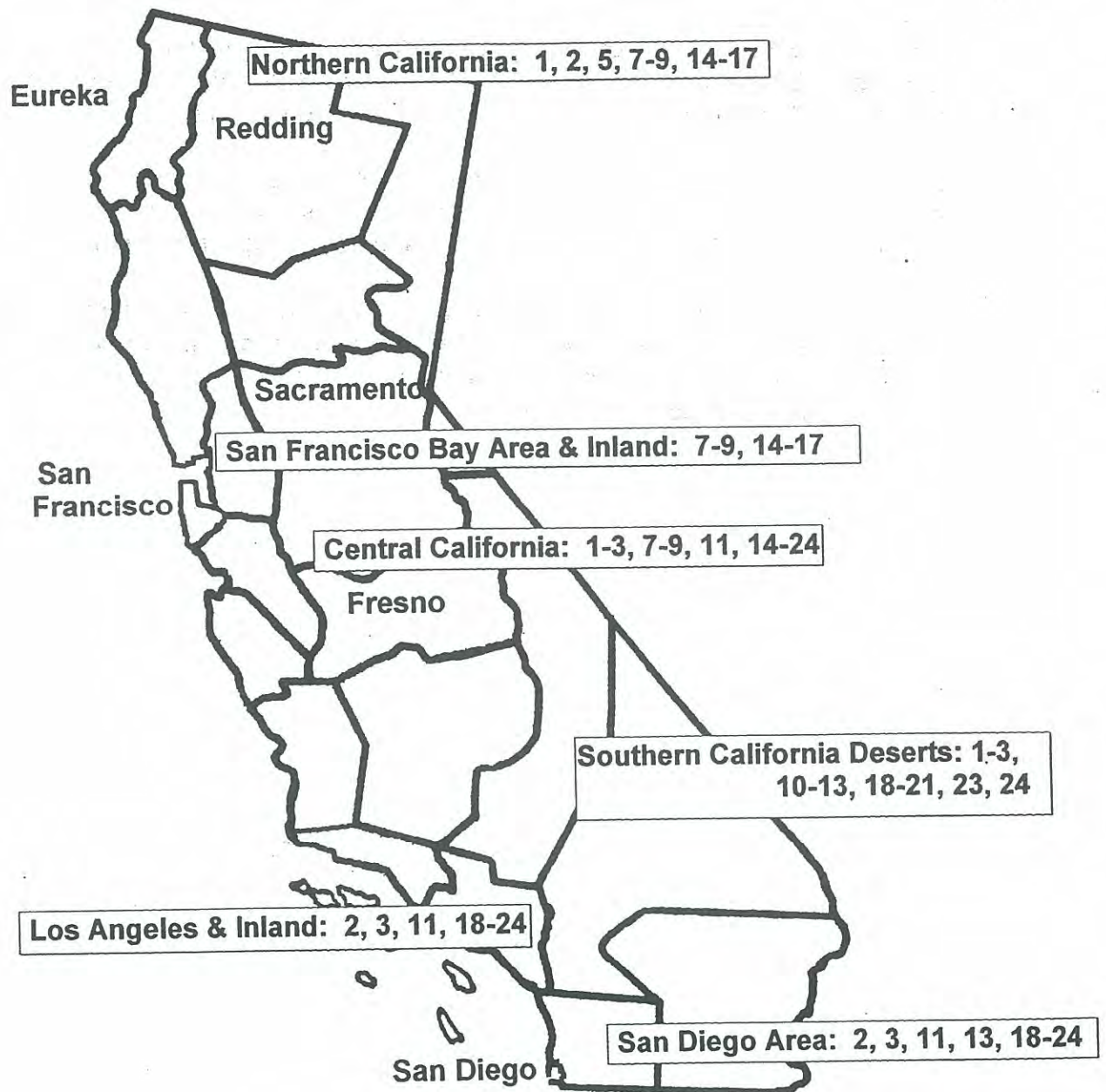
Zone 21: Very similar to Zone 20, but this region is considered a thermal belt with much warmer temperatures and milder winters than Zone 20. Fog or Santa Ana winds not uncommon. Winter lows from 36 to 23°F. Growing season from mid-March through November.

Zone 22: Coastal climate of southern California's canyons, heavily influenced by the ocean. Lower winter temperatures than Zone 23, but still very mild with no pronounced chilling period. Growing season from March through November.

Zone 23: Very mild, warm, coastal climate of southern California. Few frosts in winter, Santa Ana winds common in summer. Winter lows range from 38 to 23°F. Growing season almost year-round, mid-January through December.

Zone 24: Mild, heavily marine influenced, coastal climate of southern California. Winters are mild, summers cool and often foggy, moist air throughout the year. Winter lows range from 44 to 24°F; the average all-time high temperature is 105°F. Growing season is year-round.

Climate Zone Summary Map



Appendix 2. Common Name Cross Reference

Common Name Cross Reference

Abelia

Glossy abelia

Abelia hybrid

Acacia

Acacia

Acacia ongerup

Prostrate acacia

Acacia ongerup, prostrate

Prostrate acacia

Acacia redolens

Aeonium

Aeonium

Aeonium arboreum

Aeonium

Aeonium caespitosum

Aeonium

Aeonium decorum

Aeonium

Aeonium simsii

African

African daisy

Arctotis spp.

African sumac

Rhus lancea

Trailing South African daisy, Freeway daisy

Osteospermum fruticosum

Wild yellow iris, African iris

Dietes bicolor

Agave

Agave

Agave victoriae-reginae

Blue agave

Agave attenuata 'Nova'

Alder

Italian alder

Alnus cordata

White alder

Alnus rhombifolia

Algerian

Algerian ivy

Hedera canariensis

Aloe

Aloe

Aloe brevifolia

Aloe

Aloe nobilis

Aloe

Aloe vera

Aloe, Dwarf aloe

Aloe aristata

Coral aloe

Aloe striata

Spider aloe

Aloe x sprinosissima

Torch aloe

Aloe arborescens

Anemone

Bush anemone

Carpenteria californica

Japanese anemone

Anemone japonica

Angel

Angel's trumpet

Brugmansia spp.

Common Name Cross Reference

Aptenia

Red apple aptenia, ice plant

Aptenia cordifolia x "Red Apple"

Arborvitae

Arborvitae

Thuja spp.

Arroyo

Arroyo willow

Salix lasiolepis

Artichoke

Wild artichoke, Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Ash

Ash

Fraxinus spp.

Aspen

Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar

Populus spp.

Quaking aspen

Populus tremuloides

Aster

Beach aster

Erigeron glaucus

Wild aster

Aster chilensis

Athel

Athel tree

Tamarix aphylla

Atlas

Atlas cedar

Cedrus atlantica

Australian

Australian fuschia

Correa pulchella

Azaea

Western azalea

Rhododendron occidentale

Bamboo

Bamboo

Bambusa spp.

Bayonet

Spanish bayonet

Yucca aloifolia

Bearberry

Bearberry

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

Bearberry cotoneaster

Cotoneaster dammeri

Beard

Red penstemon, Beard tongue, Firebird, Skyline,
Midnight

Penstemon varieties

Beech

Beech

Fagus spp.

Bellflower

Serbian bellflower

Campanula poscharskyana

Berber

Berber orchard grass, Cock's foot, Orchard grass

Dactylis glomerata

Bergenia

Bergenia

Bergenia spp.

Common Name Cross Reference

Berry

Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Bearberry cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster dammerii</i>
Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Gooseberry fuschia	<i>Ribes speciosum</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>
Lemonade berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Mexican elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>
Mock strawberry	<i>Duchesnea indica</i>
Silverberry	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>
Spiny redberry, Redberry, Red-berried buckthorn, Hollyleaf redberry	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>
Strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Toyon, Christmas berry, California holly	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia (Photinia arbutifolia)</i>
Waxberry, Creeping snowberry, Trip vine	<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>
Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry, ornamental	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Wood strawberry	<i>Fragaria californica</i>

Bigleaf

Bigleaf maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>
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Bird

Bird of paradise	<i>Strelitzia reginae</i>
Bird's foot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
California fuschia, Hummingbird flower	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
Showy Island snapdragon, Hummingbird flower	<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>

Black

Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Black mustard	<i>Brassica nigra</i>
Black sage	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>

Bladder

Bladderpod, Bladderbush, Burrofat	<i>Isomeris arborea (Cleome isomeris)</i>
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Blanketflower

Blanketflower	<i>Gaillardia grandiflora</i>
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Bleeding

Western bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>
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Blood-red

Blood-red trumpet vine	<i>Disticis buccinatoria</i>
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Common Name Cross Reference

Blue

Blue agave	<i>Agave attenuata</i> 'Nova'
Blue ice plant	<i>Senecio mandraliscae</i>
Blue palo verde	<i>Cercidium floridum</i>
Blue star creeper	<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i> (<i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>)
Blue-hair grass	<i>Koeleria glauca</i>
Blue-oat grass	<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>
Blueblossom	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>
Eucalyptus globulus, Blue gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>
Snow flurry blueblossom	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> 'Snow Flurry'
Woolly blue curls, Romero	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>
Yellow-eyed grass, Blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>

Boobyalla

Boobyalla	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>
Creeping boobyalla, Myoporum	<i>Myoporum parvifolium prostrata</i>

Bottlebrush

Lemon bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>
Weeping bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>

Bougainvillea

Bougainvillea	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>
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Box elder

Box elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
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Boxwood

Japanese boxwood	<i>Buxus microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i>
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Bracken

Bracken fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
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Brazilian

Brazilian pepper tree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
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Breath

Breath of heaven	<i>Coleonema</i> 'Diosma'
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Brittlebrush

Brittlebrush	<i>Encelia farinosa</i>
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Brome

California brome	<i>Bromus carinatus</i>
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Brooklime

Veronica, Brooklime, Speedwell	<i>Veronica</i> spp.
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Broom

Broom	<i>Genista</i> spp.
Deerweed, CA broom	<i>Lotus scoparius</i>

Common Name Cross Reference

Broom

French broom
Scotch broom
Spanish broom

Cytisus monspessulanus
Cytisus scoparius
Spartium junceum

Brown

Pork and beans, Brown bean

Sedum rubrotinctum (*S. guatemalense*)

Brush

Brittlebrush
Brush cherry
California sagebrush
Dwarf coyote brush
Dwarf coyote brush, Twin Peaks
Lemon bottlebrush
Weeping bottlebrush

Encelia farinosa
Syzygium paniculatum
Artemisia californica
Baccharis pilularis, var. *prostrata*
Baccharis pilularis
Callistemon citrinus
Callistemon viminalis

Buckeye

California buckeye

Aesculus californica

Buckthorn

Italian buckthorn
Spiny redberry, Redberry, Red-berried buckthorn,
Hollyleaf redberry

Rhamnus alaternus
Rhamnus crocea

Buckwheat

California buckwheat
Italian buckwheat
Santa Cruz Island buckwheat
Sea cliff buckwheat

Eriogonum fasciculatum
Eriogonum grande rubescens
Eriogonum arborescens
Eriogonum parvifolium

Bulbine

Bulbine

Bulbine caulescens

Bull

Wild artichoke, Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Burning

Burning nettle

Urtica urens

Burro

Bladderpod, Bladderbush, Burrofat

Isomeris arborea (*Cleome isomeris*)

Bush

Bush anemone
Bush morning glory
Butterfly bush
Coast saltbush

Carpenteria californica
Convolvulus cneorum
Buddleia spp.
Atriplex californica

Common Name Cross Reference

Bush

Coast silktassel, Silktassel bush	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>
Four-wing saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
Fremontia, Flannel bush	<i>Fremontodendron</i> spp.
Hopseed bush	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>
Mexican bush sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>
Quail saltbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex halimus</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis breweri</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>
Sugar bush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>
Trailing ice plant, bush gold, bush ice plant	<i>Lampranthus aurantiacus</i>

Buttercup

Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus californica</i>
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Butterfly

Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleia</i> spp.
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California

California brome	<i>Bromus carinatus</i>
California buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>
California buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>
California croton	<i>Croton californicus</i>
California encelia	<i>Encelia californica</i>
California evening primrose	<i>Oenothera hookeri</i>
California fan palm	<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>
California fuschia, Hummingbird flower	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
California iris	<i>Iris</i> 'Pacific Coast Hybrids'
California laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
California walnut	<i>Juglans californica</i>

Calla

Common calla, Calla lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
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Camellia

Camellia	<i>Camellia</i> spp.
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Camphor

Camphor laurel	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>
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Common Name Cross Reference

Campion

Indian pink, Campion

Silene vulgaris maritima (S.uniflora)

Candytuft

Evergreen candytuft, Edging candytuft

Iberis sempervirens

Globe candytuft

Iberis umbellatum

Cape

Cape chestnut

Calodendrum capense

Cape honeysuckle

Tecomaria capensis

Frogfruit, Matgrass, Capeweed, Lippia

Lippia repens (Phyla nodiflora)

Carob

Carob, St. John's beard

Ceratonia siliqua

Carolina

Carolina cherry laurel

Prunus caroliniana

Carpet

Carpet bugle

Ajuga reptans

Carpet grass, Lippia

Lippia canescens

Catalina

Catalina cherry

Prunus lyonii

Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume

Ribes viburnifolium

Ceanothus

Anchor Bay ceanothus

Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay'

Blueblossom

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus

Carmel ceanothus

Ceanothus griseus

Carmel creeper

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis

Emily Brown ceanothus

Ceanothus gloriosus exaltatus 'Emily Brown'

Green bark ceanothus

Ceanothus spinosus

Joyce Coulter ceanothus

Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter'

Louis Edmunds ceanothus

Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds'

Maritime ceanothus

Ceanothus maritimus

Point Reyes ceanothus

Ceanothus gloriosus

Ray Hartman ceanothus

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'

Snow flurry blueblossom

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Snow Flurry'

Squaw carpet

Ceanothus prostratus

Wart-stem ceanothus

Ceanothus verrucosus

Wheeler Canyon ceanothus

Ceanothus 'Wheeler Canyon'

Yankee Point ceanothus

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis 'Yankee Point'

Common Name Cross Reference

Cedar

Atlas cedar

Cedrus atlantica

Cedar

Chamaecyparis spp.

Cedar of Lebanon

Cedrus libani

Deodara cedar

Cedrus deodara

Incense cedar

Calocedrus decurrens

Centaurea

Velvet centaurea, Dusty miller

Centaurea gymnocarpa

Century

Century plant

Agave americana 'Alba Picata'

Chalk

Chalk lettuce, Dudleya

Dudleya pulverulenta

Chamise

Greasewood chamise

Adenostoma fasciculatum

Chamomile

Chamomile

Anthemis nobilis

Stinking chamomile, Mayweed

Anthemis cotula

Chaparral

Chaparral currant

Ribes malvaceum

Chaparral pea

Pickeringia montana

Checkerbloom

Checkerbloom

Sidalcea malvaeflora

Cherry

Brush cherry

Syzygium paniculatum

Carolina cherry laurel

Prunus caroliniana

Catalina cherry

Prunus lyonii

Holly-leaved cherry

Prunus ilicifolia

Plum, Peach, Cherry, Apricot, Evergreen cherry

Prunus spp.

Chestnut

Cape chestnut

Calodendrum capense

Horsechestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

Chia

Chia

Salvia columbariae

Chicks

Echeveria, Hens and chicks

Echeveria

Chinese

Chinese jujuba

Zizyphus jujuba

Chinquapin

Giant chinquapin

Castanopsis chrysophylla

Common Name Cross Reference

Cholia

Prickly pear, cholia

Opuntia spp.

Christmas

New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa

Metrosideros excelsus

Toyon, Christmas berry, California holly

Heteromeles arbutifolia (*Photinia arbutifolia*)

Cinquefoil

Spring cinquefoil

Potentilla tabernaemontanii (*P. verna*)

Spring cinquefoil

Potentilla verna (*P. tabernaemontanii*)

Citriodora

Lemon-scented eucalyptus, Citriodora

Eucalyptus citriodora

Citrus

Citrus

Citrus spp.

Clematis

Evergreen clematis

Clematis armandii

Cliff

Dudleya, Cliff lettuce

Dudleya farinosa

Clover

Hyron rose clover

Trifolium hirtum "Hyron"

Coast

Coast saltbush

Atriplex californica

Coast silktassel, Silktassel bush

Garrya elliptica

Coastal wild gum

Eriogonum crocatum

Coastal wild gum

Grindelia stricta venulosa

Encina, Coast live oak, CA live oak

Quercus agrifolia

Goldenrod, Coast goldenrod

Solidago spathulata

Gum plant, Coastal wild gum

Grindelia stricta

Pacific coast iris, Douglas iris

Iris douglasiana

Coffee

Coffeeberry

Rhamnus californica

Columbine

Western columbine

Aquilegia formosa

Common

Winter creeper, Common Winter creeper

Eunymous fortunei radicans

Coprosma

Creeping coprosma

Coprosma kirkii

Prostrate coprosma

Coprosma pumila

Coral

Coral aloe

Aloe striata

Coral bells

Heuchera micrantha

Common Name Cross Reference

Coral

Coral pea

Kennedia spp.

Island alum root, Coral bells

Heuchera maxima

Coreopsos

Coreopsis, Tickseed, Calliopsis

Coreopsis lanceolata

Cork

Cork oak

Quercus suber

Cotoneaster

Bearberry cotoneaster

Cotoneaster dammerii

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster lactea

Rock cotoneaster

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Rockspray cotoneaster

Cotoneaster microphyllus

Willowleaf cotoneaster

Cotoneaster salicifolius

Cottonwood

Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar

Populus spp.

Cotyledon

Cotyledon

Cotyledon barbenyii

Cotyledon

Cotyledon macrantha

Cotyledon

Cotyledon orbiculata

Coulter

Coulter pine

Pinus coulteri

Coyote

Coyote mint

Monardella villosa

Dwarf coyote brush

Baccharis pilularis, var. prostrata

Dwarf.coyote brush, Twin Peaks

Baccharis pilularis

Crasstree

Mexican crasstree, Nolina

Nolina longifolia

Crassula

Crassula

Crassula lactea

Crassula

Crassula multiclava

Crassula

Crassula tetragona

Creeper

Blue star creeper

Isotoma fluviatilis (Laurentia fluviatilis)

Carmel creeper

Ceanothus griseus var. horizontalis"Yankee Point"

Redondo creeper

Lampranthus filicaulis

Trumpet vine, Trumpet creeper

Campsis radicans

Winter creeper

Euonymus fortunei

Common Name Cross Reference

Creeper

Winter creeper, Common Winter creeper

Eunymus fortunei radicans

Winter creeper, Purple leaf winter creeper

Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'

Creeping

Creeping boobyalla, Myoporum

Myoporum parvifolium prostrata

Dwarf rosemary, Creeping or Prostrate rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus

Crimson

Crimson rockrose

Cistus ladaniferus maculatus

Gum rockrose, Crimson rockrose

Cistus ladaniferous maculatus

Croceum

Ice plant, Croceum ice plant

Malephora crocea

Croton

California croton

Croton californicus

Cryptomeria

Cryptomeria

Cryptomeria japonica

Cupressocyparis

Cupressocyparis leylandii

Currant

Chaparral currant

Ribes malvaceum

Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume

Ribes viburnifolium

Red-flowering currant

Ribes sanguineum

Curry

Licorice plant, Curry plant

Helichrysum petiolatum

Cypress

Italian cypress

Cupressus sempervirens

Sargent cypress

Cupressus sargentii

Summer cypress

Kochia spp.

Daisy

African daisy

Arctotis spp.

Santa Barbara daisy, Fleabane

Erigeron karvinskianus

Trailing South African daisy, Freeway daisy

Osteospermum fruticosum

Daylily

Daylily

Hemerocallis spp.

Deer

Deer grass

Muehlenbergia spp.

Deerweed, CA broom

Lotus scoparius

Deodara

Deodara cedar

Cedrus deodara

Common Name Cross Reference

Dew flower

Drosanthemum, Dew flower

Drosanthemum speciosum

Dogwood

Evergreen dogwood

Cornus capitata

Redtwig dogwood, Creek dogwood

Cornus stolonifera

Douglas

Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Pacific coast iris, Douglas iris

Iris douglasiana

Dudleya

Chalk lettuce, Dudleya

Dudleya pulverulenta

Dudleya, Cliff lettuce

Dudleya farinosa

Dusty miller

Dusty miller

Centaurea cineraria

Dusty miller

Eriophyllum nevinii

Dusty miller

Senecio 'Vira-Vira'

Dusty miller

Senecio cineraria

Senecio, Dusty miller, Blue-chalksticks

Senecio serpens (Kleinia repens)

Velvet centaurea, Dusty miller

Centaurea gymnocarpa

Dwarf

Aloe, Dwarf aloe

Aloe aristata

Dwarf coyote brush

Baccharis pilularis, var. prostrata

Dwarf coyote brush, Twin Peaks

Baccharis pilularis

Dwarf karo

Pittosporum crassifolium

Dwarf periwinkle myrtle, Dwarf running myrtle

Vinca minor

Dwarf pink oleander

Nerium oleander 'Mrs. Roeding'

Dwarf pomegranate

Punica granatum 'Nana'

Dwarf rosemary, Creeping or Prostrate rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus

Dwarf salmon oleander

Nerium oleander 'Petite Salmon'

Lily of the Nile, dwarf

Agapanthus 'Peter Pan'

Dymondia

Dymondia

Dymondia margaretae

Elderberry

Mexican elderberry

Sambucus mexicana

Elephant

Purslane tree, Elephant's food

Portulacaria afra

Elm

Elm

Ulmus spp.

Common Name Cross Reference

Encelia

California encelia

Encelia californica

Encina

Encina, Coast live oak, CA live oak

Quercus agrifolia

Engelmann

Engelmann oak

Quercus engelmannii

English

English ivy

Hedera helix

Escallonia

Escallonia

Escallonia fradesii

Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus rudis

Eucalyptus globulus, Blue gum

Eucalyptus globulus

Lemon-scented eucalyptus, Citriodora

Eucalyptus citriodora

Manna gum

Eucalyptus viminalis

Red gum

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Silver dollar gum

Eucalyptus polyanthemus

Eulalia

Eulalia grass

Miscanthus spp.

Evergreen

Evergreen candytuft, Edging candytuft

Iberis sempervirens

Evergreen clematis

Clematis armandii

Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume

Ribes viburnifolium

Evergreen dogwood

Cornus capitata

Plum, Peach, Cherry, Apricot, Evergreen cherry

Prunus spp.

Eyed

Brown-eyed rockrose, Spotted rockrose

Cistus ladanifer

Yellow-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium californicum

Yellow-eyed grass, Blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium bellum

Fan

California fan palm

Washingtonia filifera

Fan flower

Scaevola 'Muave Clusters'

Mexican fan palm

Washingtonia robusta

Fern

Bracken fern

Pteridium aquilinum

Sword fern

Nephrolepis exaltata

Sword fern

Polystichum munitum

Common Name Cross Reference

Fescue

Creeping red fescue

Festuca rubra

Zorro annual fescue

Vulpis myuros

Fig

Ice plant, Hottentot fig, Sea fig

Carpobrotus edulis

Moreton Bay fig

Ficus macrophylla

Fir

Douglas-fir

Pseudotsuga menziesii

Fir

Abies spp.

Firebird

Red penstemon, Beard tongue, Firebird, Skyline, Midnight

Penstemon varieties

Firethorn

Pyracantha, Firethorn

Pyracantha 'Santa Cruz'

Flannel

Fremontia, Flannel bush

Fremontodendron spp.

Flax

Flax

Linum spp.

Flax, New Zealand flax, Maori maiden, Maori queen, Maori sunset

Phormium varieties

Fleabane

Santa Barbara daisy, Fleabane

Erigeron karvinskianus

Foothill

Foothill needlegrass, Stipa

Stipa lepida (Nasella lepida)

Foothill wallflower

Erysimum capitatum

Fortnight

Fortnight lily

Dietes vegeta

Fortnight lily

Moraea iridioides (Dietes)

Lemon Drop fortnight lily

Dietes 'Lemon Drop'

Fountain

Fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum

Four-wing

Four-wing saltbush

Atriplex canescens

Foxglove

Foxglove

Digitalis spp.

Fragrant

Fragrant wallflower

Erysimum suffrutescens (E.concinnum)

Freeway

Trailing South African daisy, Freeway daisy

Osteospermum fruticosum

Fremontia

Fremontia, Flannel bush

Fremontodendron spp.

Common Name Cross Reference

French

French broom

Cytisus monspessulanus

French lavender

Lavandula dentata

Frog

Frogfruit, Matgrass, Capeweed, Lippia

Lippia repens (Phyla nodiflora)

Fruit

Plum, Peach, Cherry, Apricot, Evergreen cherry

Prunus spp.

Fuschia

Australian fuschia

Correa pulchella

California fuschia, Hummingbird flower

Zauschneria californica

Gooseberry fuschia

Ribes speciosum

Garlic

Society garlic

Tulbaghia violacea

Gaura

Gaura

Gaura lindheimeri

Gazania

Trailing gazania

Gazania ringens leucolaena

Trailing gazania

Gazania uniflora

Geranium

Geranium

Geranium sanguineum

Ivy geranium

Pelargonium peltatum

Stork's bill geranium

Geranium incanum

Germander

Germander, Prostrate germander

Teucrium chamaedrys

Giant

Giant chinquapin

Castanopsis chrysophylla

Giant turf lily

Liriope gigantea

Giant yucca

Yucca elephantipes

Ginger

Wild ginger

Asarum caudatum

Globe

Globe candytuft

Iberis umbellata

Glossy

Glossy abelia

Abelia hybrid

Glossy privet

Ligustrum lucidum

Golden

Golden abundance Oregon grape

Mahonia aquifolium "Golden Abundance"

Golden yarrow

Eriophyllum confertiflorum

Goldenrod, Coast goldenrod

Solidago spathulata

Common Name Cross Reference

Gooseberry

Gooseberry fuschia

Ribes speciosum

Gorse

Gorse

Ulex europea

Grape

Golden abundance Oregon grape

Mahonia aquifolium "Golden Abundance"

Oregon grape

Mahonia aquifolium

Grass

Berber orchard grass, Cock's foot, Orchard grass

Dactylis glomerata

Blue-hair grass

Koeleria glauca

Blue-oat grass

Helictotrichon sempervirens

Carpet grass, Lippia

Lippia canescens

Deer grass

Muehlenbergia spp.

Eulalia grass

Miscanthus spp.

Foothill needlegrass, Stipa

Stipa lepida (*Nasella lepida*)

Fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum

Frogfruit, Matgrass, Capeweed, Lippia

Lippia repens (*Phyla nodiflora*)

Grass nut

Brodiaea laxa

Jubata grass

Cortaderia jubata

Mondo grass

Ophiopogon japonicum

Pampas grass

Cortaderia selloana

Purple needlegrass, Stipa

Stipa pulchra (*Nasella pulchra*)

Yellow-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium californicum

Yellow-eyed grass, Blue-eyed grass

Sisyrinchium bellum

Gray

Santolina, Lavender, Gray lavender

Santolina chamaecyparissus

Green

Evergreen candytuft, Edging candytuft

Iberis sempervirens

Evergreen clematis

Clematis armandii

Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume

Ribes viburnifolium

Evergreen dogwood

Cornus capitata

Green bark ceanothus

Ceanothus spinosus

Green carpet

Herniaria glabra

Green lavender, Santolina

Santolina virens

Green stonecrop

Sedum album

Natal green carpet plum

Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carpet'

Common Name Cross Reference

Green

Plum, Peach, Cherry, Apricot, Evergreen cherry

Prunus spp.

Salal, Wintergreen

Gaultheria shallon

Ground

Ground iris

Iris macrosiphom

Guadalupe

Guadalupe palm

Brahea edulis

Guava

Pineapple guava

Feijoa sellowiana

Gum

Coastal wild gum

Eriogonum crocatum

Coastal wild gum

Grindelia stricta venulosa

Eucalyptus globulus, Blue gum

Eucalyptus globulus

Gum plant, Coastal wild gum

Grindelia stricta

Gum rockrose, Crimson rockrose

Cistus ladaniferous maculatus

Liquidambar, Sweet gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Manna gum

Eucalyptus viminalis

Red gum

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Silver dollar gum

Eucalyptus polyanthemom

Hackberry

Hackberry

Celtis occidentalis

Hakea

Hakea

Hakea spp.

Hall's

Hall's honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'

Heath

Heath

Erica spp.

Hemlock

Hemlock

Tsuga spp.

Hens

Echeveria, Hens and chicks

Echeveria spp.

Hibiscus

Rose mallow, Hibiscus

Hibiscus spp.

Holly

Holly

Ilex aquifolium

Holly-leaved cherry

Prunus ilicifolia

Hollywood juniper

Juniperus chinensis

Spiny redberry, Redberry, Red-berried buckthorn,
Hollyleaf redberry

Rhamnus crocea

Common Name Cross Reference

Holly

Summer holly

Comarostaphylis diversifolia

Toyon, Christmas berry, California holly

Heteromeles arbutifolia (*Photinia arbutifolia*)

Hollywood

Hollywood juniper

Juniperus chinensis

Holy

Milk thistle, St. Mary's thistle, Holy thistle

Silybum marianum

Honey

Honey locust, Sweet locust, Honeyshuck

Gleditsia triacanthos

Honeysuckle

Cape honeysuckle

Tecomaria capensis

Hall's honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica 'Halliana'

Japanese honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Pink honeysuckle

Lonicera hispidula

Wild honeysuckle

Lonicera subspicata

Hopseed

Hopseed bush

Dodonaea viscosa

Horse

Horsechestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

Hottentot

Ice plant, Hottentot fig, Sea fig

Carpobrotus edulis

Huckleberry

Huckleberry

Vaccinium ovatum

Hummingbird

California fuschia, Hummingbird flower

Zauschneria californica

Showy Island snapdragon, Hummingbird flower

Galvezia speciosa

Ice plant

Blue ice plant

Senecio mandraliscae

Ice plant, Croceum ice plant

Malephora crocea

Ice plant, Hottentot fig, Sea fig

Carpobrotus edulis

Ice plant, Rosea ice plant

Drosanthemum floribundum rosea

Red apple aptenia, ice plant

Aptenia cordifolia x "Red Apple"

Rosea ice plant

Drosanthemum hispidum

Small-leaved ice plant

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum

Trailing ice plant

Lampranthus spectabilis

Trailing ice plant, bush gold, bush ice plant

Lampranthus aurantiacus

White trailing ice plant

Delosperma alba

Yellow trailing ice plant

Malephora luteola

Common Name Cross Reference

Incense

Incense cedar

Calocedrus decurrens

Indian

Indian hawthorn

Raphiolepis spp.

Indian pink, Campion

Silene vulgaris maritima (S.uniflora)

Indian tobacco

Nicotiana bigelovii

Iris

California iris

Iris 'Pacific Coast Hybrids'

Ground iris

Iris macrosiphom

Long-petaled iris

Iris longipetala

Pacific coast iris, Douglas iris

Iris douglasiana

Wild yellow iris, African iris

Dietes bicolor

Island

Island alum root, Coral bells

Heuchera maxima

Santa Cruz Island buckwheat

Eriogonum arborescens

Showy Island snapdragon, Hummingbird flower

Galvezia speciosa

Italian

Italian alder

Alnus cordata

Italian buckthorn

Rhamnus alaternus

Italian buckwheat

Eriogonum grande rubescens

Italian cypress

Cupressus sempervirens

Ivy

Algerian ivy

Hedera canariensis

English ivy

Hedera helix

Ivy geranium

Pelargonium peltatum

Jade

Jade plant

Crassula argentea

Silver jade plant

Crassula arborescens

Japanese

Japanese anemone

Anemone japonica

Japanese boxwood

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica*

Japanese honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Japanese maple

Acer palmatum

Texas privet, Japanese privet

Ligustrum japonicum

Jasmine

Jasmine

Jasminum polyanthum

Shiny leaf jasmine

Jasminum ligustrifolium

Common Name Cross Reference

Jasmine

Star jasmine

Trachelospermum jasminoides

Jojoba

Pignut, Jojoba, Goatnut

Simmondsia chinensis

Jubata

Jubata grass

Cortaderia jubata

Judas

Judas tree

Cercis siliquastrum

Jujuba

Chinese jujuba

Zizyphus jujuba

Juniper

Hollywood juniper

Juniperus chinensis

Juniper myrtle

Agonis juniperina

Shore juniper

Juniperus conferta

Jupiter

Red valerian, Jupiter's beard

Centranthus ruber

Kalanchoe

Kalanchoe

Kalanchoe pumila

Karo

Dwarf karo

Pittosporum crassifolium

Knobcone

Knobcone pine

Pinus attenuata

Lady

Lady Bank's rose

Rosa banksiae

Lamb

Lamb's ears

Stachys byzantina

Lantana

Lantana

Lantana montevidensis (L. sellowiana)

Trailing lantana

Lantana camara & cultivars

Larch

Larch

Larix spp.

Laurel

California laurel

Umbellularia californica

Camphor laurel

Cinnamomum camphora

Carolina cherry laurel

Prunus caroliniana

Laurel

Laurus nobilis

Laurel sumac

Rhus laurina

New Zealand laurel

Corynocarpus laevigatus

Lavender

French lavender

Lavandula dentata

Common Name Cross Reference

Lavender

Green lavender, Santolina
Santolina, Lavender, Gray lavender
Spanish lavender
Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender

Santolina virens
Santolina chamaecyparissus
Lavandula stoechas
Limonium perezii

Lebanon

Cedar of Lebanon

Cedrus libani

Legume

O'Connor's legume

Trifolium fragiferum

Lemon

Lemon Drop fortnight lily
Lemon bottlebrush
Lemon-scented eucalyptus, Citriodora
Lemonade berry
Mother of thyme, Lemon thyme

Dietes 'Lemon Drop'
Callistemon citrinus
Eucalyptus citriodora
Rhus integrifolia
Thymus serpyllum

Lemonade

Lemonade berry

Rhus integrifolia

Leopard

Leopard lily

Lilium pardalinum

Lettuce

Chalk lettuce, Dudleya
Dudleya, Cliff lettuce
Prickly lettuce

Dudleya pulverulenta
Dudleya farinosa
Lactuca serriola

Licorice

Licorice plant, Curry plant

Helichrysum petiolatum

Likiano

Likiano

Cotoneaster congestus

Lilac

Mountain lilac

Ceanothus 'Frosty Blue'

Lilly pilly

Lilly pilly

Acmena smithii

Lily

Common calla, Calla lily
Daylily
Fortnight lily
Fortnight lily
Giant turf lily
Lemon Drop fortnight lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica
Hemerocallis spp.
Dietes vegeta
Moraea iridioides (Dietes)
Liriope gigantea
Dietes 'Lemon Drop'

Common Name Cross Reference

Lily

Leopard lily
 Lily of the Nile
 Lily of the Nile
 Lily of the Nile
 Lily of the Nile, dwarf
 Mariposa lily
 Soap lily, wild potato
 Star lily

Lilium pardalinum
Agapanthus africanus
Agapanthus campanulatus
Agapanthus orientalis
Agapanthus 'Peter Pan'
Calochortus spp.
Chlorogalum pomeridianum
Zigadenus fremontii

Linden

Linden

Tilia vulgaris

Lippia

Carpet grass, Lippia
 Frogfruit, Matgrass, Capeweed, Lippia
 Lippia

Lippia canescens
Lippia repens (Phyla nodiflora)
Phyla nodiflora

Liquidambar

Liquidambar, Sweet gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

Little Sur

Little Sur manzanita

Arctostaphylos edmundsii

Lizardtail

Lizardtail

Eriophyllum stachaeifolium var. artemisaefolium

Locust

Black locust
 Honey locust, Sweet locust, Honeyshuck

Robinia pseudoacacia
Gleditsia triacanthos

London

London plane tree

Platanus acerfolia

Long-petaled

Long-petaled iris

Iris longipetala

Lupine

Sky lupine

Lupinus nanus

Macadamia

Queensland nut, Macadamia

Macadamia hybrids

Madrone

Madrone

Arbutus menziesii

Magnolia

Magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora

Mahogany

Mountain mahogany

Cercocarpus betuloides

Common Name Cross Reference

Mahonia

Creeping mahonia

Mahonia repens

Nevin mahonia

Mahonia nevinii

Mallow

Malva rose, tree mallow

Lavatera assurgentiflora

Rose mallow, Hibiscus

Hibiscus spp.

Malva

Malva rose, tree mallow

Lavatera assurgentiflora

Manzanita

Carmel Sur manzanita

Arctostaphylos edmundsii 'Carmel Sur'

Little Sur manzanita

Arctostaphylos edmundsii

Manzanita

Arctostaphylos 'Dr. Hurd'

Manzanita

Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'

Manzanita

Arctostaphylos manzanita

Manzanita

Arctostaphylos pajaroensis 'Paradise'

Monterey manzanita

Arctostaphylos hookeri 'Monterey Carpet'

Pacific mist manzanita

Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist'

Maori

Flax, New Zealand flax, Maori maiden, Maori queen,
Maori sunset

Phormium varieties

Maple

Bigleaf maple

Acer macrophyllum

Japanese maple

Acer palmatum

Vine maple

Acer circinatum

Marigold

Desert marigold

Baileya multiradiata

Mariposa

Mariposa lily

Calochortus spp.

Marsh

San Diego marsh-elder, Poverty weed

Iva hayesiana

Matilija

Matilija poppy, Coulter's poppy

Romneya coulteri & varieties

Mayweed

Mayweed

Anthemis cotula

Mexican

Mexican bush sage

Salvia leucantha

Mexican crasstree, Nolina

Nolina longifolia

Mexican elderberry

Sambucus mexicana

Mexican evening primrose

Oenothera berlandieri

Common Name Cross Reference

Mexican

Mexican fan palm

Washingtonia robusta

Mexican orange

Choisya ternata

Mexican palo verde

Parkinsonia aculeata

Midnight

Red penstemon, Beard tongue, Firebird, Skyline,
Midnight

Penstemon varieties

Milk

Milk thistle, St. Mary's thistle, Holy thistle

Silybum marianum

Mint

Coyote mint

Monardella villosa

Mirror plant

New Zealand mirror plant

Coprosma repens

Mock

Mock orange

Philadelphus spp.

Mock orange, Wheeler's mock orange

Pittosporum tobira

Mock strawberry

Duchesnea indica

Mondo

Mondo grass

Ophiopogon japonicum

Monkey

Monkey flower

Diplacus longifolius (*Mimulus* sp.)

Monkey flower

Mimulus longiflorus (*Diplacus longiflorus*)

Red monkey flower

Diplacus puniceus (*Mimulus* sp.)

Red monkey flower

Mimulus puniceus (*Diplacus puniceus*)

Monterey

Monterey manzanita

Arctostaphylos hookeri 'Monterey Carpet'

Monterey pine

Pinus radiata

Moreton Bay

Moreton Bay fig

Ficus macrophylla

Morning

Bush morning glory

Convolvulus cneorum

Mother

Mother of thyme, Creeping thyme

Thymus praecox *articus*

Mother of thyme, Lemon thyme

Thymus serpyllum

Mountain

Mountain lilac

Ceanothus 'Frosty Blue'

Mustard

Black mustard

Brassica nigra

Wild turnip, yellow mustard

Brassica rapa

Common Name Cross Reference

Myoporum

Boobyalla

Creeping boobyalla, Myoporum

Myoporum

Myoporum insulare

Myoporum parvifolium prostrata

Myoporum laetum

Myrtle

Dwarf periwinkle myrtle, Dwarf running myrtle

Juniper myrtle

Wax myrtle, Pacific wax myrtle, California wax myrtle

Vinca minor

Agonis juniperina

Myrica californica

Natal

Natal green carpet plum

Natal plum

Natal plum

Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carpet'

Carissa macrocarpa

Carissa macrocarpa 'Tuttle'

Nerine

Nerine

Nerine masonorum

Nettle

Burning nettle

Urtica urens

New Zealand

Flax, New Zealand flax, Maori maiden, Maori queen, Maori sunset

New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa

New Zealand laurel

New Zealand mirror plant

New Zealand tea tree

Phormium varieties

Metrosideros excelsus

Corynocarpus laevigatus

Coprosma repens

Leptospermum scoparium

Nightshade

Purple nightshade

Solanum xanti

Nut

California walnut

Cape chestnut

Grass nut

Horsechestnut

Pignut, Jojoba, Goatnut

Queensland nut, Macadamia

Juglans californica

Calodendrum capense

Brodiaea laxa

Aesculus hippocastanum

Simmondsia chinensis

Macadamia hybrids

Oak

Cork oak

Encina, Coast live oak, CA live oak

Engelmann oak

Nuttall's scrub oak, CA scrub oak

Quercus suber

Quercus agrifolia

Quercus engelmannii

Quercus dumosa

Common Name Cross Reference

Oak

Tanoak

Lithocarpus densiflorus

Valley oak

Quercus lobata

Oleander

Dwarf pink oleander

Nerium oleander 'Mrs. Roeding'

Dwarf salmon oleander

Nerium oleander 'Petite Salmon'

Oleander

Nerium oleander

Yellow oleander

Thevetia peruviana neriifolia

Olive

Olive

Olea europaea

Onion

Onion

Allium spp.

Orange

Mexican orange

Choisya ternata

Mock orange

Philadelphus spp.

Mock orange, Wheeler's mock orange

Pittosporum tobira

Orchid

Orchid rockrose, Purple rockrose

Cistus purpureus

Stream orchid

Epipactis gigantea

Oriental

Plane, Oriental plane

Platanus orientalis

Our Lord's

Yucca, Our Lord's candle

Yucca whipplei

Pacific

Pacific coast iris, Douglas iris

Iris douglasiana

Pacific mist manzanita

Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist'

Wax myrtle, Pacific wax myrtle, California wax myrtle

Myrica californica

Pacifica

Pacifica saltbush

Myoporum "Pacificum"

Palm

California fan palm

Washingtonia filifera

Guadalupe palm

Brahea edulis

Mexican fan palm

Washingtonia robusta

Palm

Palms

Palo verde

Blue palo verde

Cercidium floridum

Littleleaf palo verde

Cercidium microphyllum

Mexican palo verde

Parkinsonia aculeata

Common Name Cross Reference

Pampas

Pampas grass

Cortaderia selloana

Paradise

Bird of paradise

Strelitzia reginae

Parrot

Parrot beak

Lotus bertholletii

Pea

Arabian scurf pea

Psoralea bituminosa

Chaparral pea

Pickeringia montana

Coral pea

Kennedia spp.

Pear

Prickly pear, cholla

Opuntia spp.

Pearly

Pearly everlasting

Anaphalis margaritacea

Penstemon

Penstemon

Penstemon heterophyllus

Red penstemon, Beard tongue, Firebird, Skyline,
Midnight

Penstemon varieties

Pepper

Brazilian pepper tree

Schinus terebinthifolius

Peruvian pepper tree, CA pepper tree

Schinus molle

Periwinkle

Dwarf periwinkle myrtle, Dwarf running myrtle

Vinca minor

Periwinkle

Vinca major

Peruvian

Peruvian pepper tree, CA pepper tree

Schinus molle

Peruvian verbena

Verbena peruviana

Photinia

Photinia

Photinia serrulata

Pine

Coulter pine

Pinus coulteri

Knobcone pine

Pinus attenuata

Monterey pine

Pinus radiata

Pink

Dwarf pink oleander

Nerium oleander 'Mrs. Roeding'

Indian pink, Campion

Silene vulgaris maritima (S.uniflora)

Pink honeysuckle

Lonicera hispidula

Sea pink

Armeria alliacea

Sea pink, thrift

Armeria pseupaemia (formosana)

Common Name Cross Reference

Pistachio

Chinese pistachio

Pistacia chinensis

Plane

London plane tree

Platanus acerfolia

Plane, Oriental plane

Platanus orientalis

Plum

Natal green carpet plum

Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carpet'

Natal plum

Carissa macrocarpa

Natal plum

Carissa macrocarpa 'Tuttle'

Plum, Peach, Cherry, Apricot, Evergreen cherry

Prunus spp.

Pohutukawa

New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa

Metrosideros excelsus

Poker

Red hot poker

Kniphofia uvaria

Pomegranate

Dwarf pomegranate

Punica granatum 'Nana'

Pomegranate

Punica granatum

Poplar

Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar

Populus spp.

Poppy

California poppy

Eschscholzia californica

Matilija poppy, Coulter's poppy

Romneya coulteri & varieties

Tree poppy

Dendromecon rigida

Pork

Pork and beans

Sedum guatemalense

Pork and beans, Brown bean

Sedum rubrotinctum (*S. guatemalense*)

Potato

Potato vine

Solanum crispum

Potato vine

Solanum jasminoides

Soap lily, wild potato

Chlorogalum pomeridianum

Poverty

San Diego marsh-elder, Poverty weed

Iva hayesiana

Pride of Maderia

Pride of Maderia, Echium

Echium fastuosum

Primrose

California evening primrose

Oenothera hookeri

Mexican evening primrose

Oenothera berlandieri

Privet

Glossy privet

Ligustrum lucidum

Common Name Cross Reference

Privet

Texas privet	<i>Ligustrum texanum</i>
Texas privet, Japanese privet	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>

Prostrate

Dwarf rosemary, Creeping or Prostrate rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus</i>
Germander, Prostrate germander	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>
Prostrate acacia	<i>Acacia ongerup, prostrate</i>
Prostrate acacia	<i>Acacia redolens</i>
Prostrate coprosma	<i>Coprosma pumila</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus salviifolius (C.villosus 'Prostratus')</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus villosus 'Prostratus' (C.salviifolius)</i>

Purple

Orchid rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus purpureus</i>
Purple sage	<i>Salvia leucopylla</i>
Rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus incanus (C.villosus)</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus salviifolius (C.villosus 'Prostratus')</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus villosus 'Prostratus' (C.salviifolius)</i>
Winter creeper, Purple leaf winter creeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'</i>

Purslane

Purslane tree, Elephant's food	<i>Portulacaria afra</i>
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Quail

Quail saltbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>
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Red

Blood-red trumpet vine	<i>Disticis buccinatoria</i>
Creeping red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>
Red apple aptenia, ice plant	<i>Aptenia cordifolia x "Red Apple"</i>
Red gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Red hot poker	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>
Red monkey flower	<i>Diplacus puniceus (Mimulus sp.)</i>
Red monkey flower	<i>Mimulus puniceus (Diplacus puniceus)</i>
Red penstemon, Beard tongue, Firebird, Skyline, Midnight	<i>Penstemon varieties</i>
Red shanks	<i>Adenostoma sparsifolium</i>
Red valerian, Jupiter's beard	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
Red yucca	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>
Red-flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>

Common Name Cross Reference

Red

Redtwig dogwood, Creek dogwood

Cornus stolonifera

Spiny redberry, Redberry, Red-berried buckthorn,
Hollyleaf redberry

Rhamnus crocea

Western redbud

Cercis occidentalis

Red shanks

Red shanks

Adenostoma sparsifolium

Redbud

Western redbud

Cercis occidentalis

Redondo

Redondo creeper

Lampranthus filicaulis

Redtwig

Redtwig dogwood, Creek dogwood

Cornus stolonifera

Rock

Rock cotoneaster

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Rockrose

Brown-eyed rockrose, Spotted rockrose

Cistus ladanifer

Gum rockrose, Crimson rockrose

Cistus ladaniferous maculatus

Orchid rockrose, Purple rockrose

Cistus purpureus

Rockrose

Cistus 'Sunset'

Rockrose

Cistus crispus

Rockrose, Purple rockrose

Cistus incanus (C.villosus)

Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose

Cistus salviifolius (C.villosus 'Prostratus')

Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose

Cistus villosus 'Prostratus' (C.salviifolius)

White rockrose

Cistus hybridus (C.corbariensis)

White-leafed rockrose

Cistus albidus

Rockspray

Rockspray cotoneaster

Cotoneaster microphyllus

Romero

Woolly blue curls, Romero

Trichostema lanatum

Rose

Brown-eyed rockrose, Spotted rockrose

Cistus ladanifer

California evening primrose

Oenothera hookeri

Dwarf rosemary, Creeping or Prostrate rosemary

Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus

Gum rockrose, Crimson rockrose

Cistus ladaniferous maculatus

Hyron rose clover

Trifolium hirtum "Hyron"

Ice plant, Rosea ice plant

Drosanthemum floribundum rosea

Lady Bank's rose

Rosa banksiae

Common Name Cross Reference

Rose

Malva rose, tree mallow	<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>
Mexican evening primrose	<i>Oenothera berlandieri</i>
Orchid rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus purpureus</i>
Rockrose	<i>Cistus 'Sunset'</i>
Rockrose	<i>Cistus crispus</i>
Rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus incanus (C.villosus)</i>
Rose mallow, Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus spp.</i>
Rose root	<i>Sedum rosea</i>
Rosea ice plant	<i>Drosanthemum hispidum</i>
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Rush rose	<i>Helianthemum scoparium</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus salviifolius (C.villosus 'Prostratus')</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus villosus 'Prostratus' (C.salviifolius)</i>
Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender	<i>Limonium perezii</i>
Sunrose	<i>Helianthemum mutabile</i>
Sunrose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>
White rockrose	<i>Cistus hybridus (C.corbariensis)</i>
White-leafed rockrose	<i>Cistus albidus</i>

Rosea

Ice plant, Rosea ice plant	<i>Drosanthemum floribundum rosea</i>
Rosea ice plant	<i>Drosanthemum hispidum</i>

Rosemary

Dwarf rosemary, Creeping or Prostrate rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus</i>
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender	<i>Limonium perezii</i>

Rush

Rush	<i>Juncus spp.</i>
Rush rose	<i>Helianthemum scoparium</i>

Russian

Russian sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
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Sage

Black sage	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>
California sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
Mexican bush sage	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>
Purple sage	<i>Salvia leucopylla</i>

Common Name Cross Reference

Sage

Russian sage	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia aurea</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia hybrids</i>
Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i> (C.villosus 'Prostratus')
Sandhill sage	<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>
Sonoma sage, Creeping sage	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>
Yellow sage	<i>Lantana camara</i> & cultivars

Sageleaf

Sageleaf rockrose, Prostrate rockrose, Purple rockrose	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i> (C.villosus 'Prostratus')
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Salal

Salal, Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>
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Salmon

Dwarf salmon oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i> 'Petite Salmon'
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Saltbush

Coast saltbush	<i>Atriplex californica</i>
Four-wing saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
Pacifica saltbush	<i>Myoporum "Pacificum"</i>
Quail saltbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex halimus</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis breweri</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex nuttallii</i>
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>

San Diego

San Diego marsh-elder, Poverty weed	<i>Iva hayesiana</i>
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Sand

Sandhill sage	<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>
Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry, ornamental	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>

Sandhill

Sandhill sage	<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>
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Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara daisy, Fleabane	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
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Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Island buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>
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Sargent

Sargent cypress	<i>Cupressus sargentii</i>
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Common Name Cross Reference

Saucer plant

Saucer plant

Aeonium undulatum

Savoury

Winter savoury

Satureja montana

Scotch

Scotch broom

Cytisus scoparius

Scrub

Nuttall's scrub oak, CA scrub oak

Quercus dumosa

Sea

Ice plant, Hottentot fig, Sea fig

Carpobrotus edulis

Sea cliff buckwheat

Eriogonum parvifolium

Sea pink

Armeria alliacea

Sea pink, thrift

Armeria pseupaemia (formosana)

Sea urchin

Echinopsis spp.

Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender

Limonium perezii

Sedum

Rose root

Sedum rosea

Sedum

Sedum lineaere

Senecio

Senecio, Dusty miller, Blue-chalksticks

Senecio serpens (Kleinia repens)

Shiny leaf

Shiny leaf jasmine

Jasminum ligustrifolium

Shore

Shore juniper

Juniperus conferta

Silktassel

Coast silktassel, Silktassel bush

Garrya elliptica

Silver

Silver dollar gum

Eucalyptus polyanthemos

Silver jade plant

Crassula arborescens

Silver spreader

Arctotheca calendula

Silver spreader

Artemisia caucasica

Silverberry

Elaeagnus pungens

Skyline

Red penstemon, Beard tongue, Firebird, Skyline, Midnight

Penstemon varieties

Small-leafed

Small-leafed ice plant

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum

Snapdragon

Showy Island snapdragon, Hummingbird flower

Galvezia speciosa

Toadflax, Baby snapdragon

Linaria maroccana

Common Name Cross Reference

Snow

Snow in summer

Cerastium tomentosum

Waxberry, Creeping snowberry, Trip vine

Symphoricarpos mollis

Soap

Soap lily, wild potato

Chlorogalum pomeridianum

Sonoma

Sonoma sage, Creeping sage

Salvia sonomensis

Spanish

Spanish bayonet

Yucca aloifolia

Spanish broom

Spartium junceum

Spanish lavender

Lavandula stoechas

Speedwell

Veronica, Brooklime, Speedwell

Veronica spp.

Spider

Spider aloe

Aloe x sprinosissima

Spiny

Spiny redberry, Redberry, Red-berried buckthorn,
Hollyleaf redberry

Rhamnus crocea

Spotted

Brown-eyed rockrose, Spotted rockrose

Cistus ladanifer

Spring

Spring cinquefoil

Potentilla tabernaemontanii (P.verna)

Spring cinquefoil

Potentilla verna (P.tabernaemontanii)

Spruce

Spruce

Picea spp.

St. John

Carob, St. John's beard

Ceratonia siliqua

St. John's wort, Aaron's beard

Hypericum calycinum

St. Mary

Milk thistle, St. Mary's thistle, Holy thistle

Silybum marianum

Star

Star jasmine

Trachelospermum jasminoides

Star lily

Zigadenus fremontii

Statice

Statice, Marsh rosemary, Sea lavender

Limonium perezii

Stipa

Foothill needlegrass, Stipa

Stipa lepida (Nasella lepida)

Purple needlegrass, Stipa

Stipa pulchra (Nasella pulchra)

Stonecrop

Goldmoss sedum

Sedum acre

Common Name Cross Reference

Stonecrop

Green stonecrop

Stonecrop

Stonecrop

Stonecrop

Stonecrop

Stonecrop, Sedum

Sedum album

Sedum brevifolium

Sedum spathulifolium

Sedum spathulifolium 'Purpureum'

Sedum spurium

Sedum confusum

Stork

Stork's bill geranium

Geranium incanum

Strawberry

Mock strawberry

Duchesnea indica

Strawberry tree

Arbutus unedo

Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry, ornamental

Fragaria chiloensis

Wood strawberry

Fragaria californica

Sugar

Sugar bush

Rhus ovata

Sumac

African sumac

Rhus lancea

Laurel sumac

Rhus laurina

Summer

Snow in summer

Cerastium tomentosum

Summer cypress

Kochia spp.

Summer holly

Comarostaphylis diversifolia

Sunrose

Sunrose

Helianthemum mutabile

Sunrose

Helianthemum nummularium

Sweet

Honey locust, Sweet locust, Honeyshuck

Gleditsia triacanthos

Sword

Sword fern

Nephrolepis exaltata

Sword fern

Polystichum munitum

Sycamore

Western sycamore, CA sycamore

Platanus racemosa

Tanoak

Tanoak

Lithocarpus densiflorus

Texas

Texas privet

Ligustrum texanum

Thistle

Milk thistle, St. Mary's thistle, Holy thistle

Silybum marianum

Common Name Cross Reference

Thistle

Wild artichoke, Bull thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Thrift

Sea pink, thrift

Armeria pseupaemia (formosana)

Thrift

Armeria maritima

Thyme

Mother of thyme, Creeping thyme

Thymus praecox articus

Mother of thyme, Lemon thyme

Thymus serpyllum

Woolly thyme, Thyme

Thymus pseudolanuginosus (T.lanuginosus)

Toadflax

Toadflax, Baby snapdragon

Linaria maroccana

Tobacco

Indian tobacco

Nicotiana bigelovii

Tree tobacco

Nicotiana glauca

Torch

Torch aloe

Aloe arborescens

Toyon

Toyon, Christmas berry, California holly

Heteromeles arbutifolia (Photinia arbutifolia)

Trailing

Trailing South African daisy, Freeway daisy

Osteospermum fruticosum

Trailing gazania

Gazania ringens leucolaena

Trailing gazania

Gazania uniflora

Trailing ice plant

Lampranthus spectabilis

Trailing ice plant, bush gold, bush ice plant

Lampranthus aurantiacus

Trailing lantana

Lantana camara & cultivars

Trailing lantana

Lantana montevidensis (L. sellowiana)

White trailing ice plant

Delosperma alba

Yellow trailing ice plant

Malephora luteola

Tree

Athel tree

Tamarix aphylla

Brazilian pepper tree

Schinus terebinthifolius

Judas tree

Cercis siliquastrum

London plane tree

Platanus acerfolia

Malva rose, tree mallow

Lavatera assurgentiflora

Mexican crasstreet, Nolina

Nolina longifolia

New Zealand Christmas tree, Pohutukawa

Metrosideros excelsus

New Zealand tea tree

Leptospermum scoparium

Common Name Cross Reference

Tree

Peruvian pepper tree, CA pepper tree
 Purslane tree, Elephant's food
 Strawberry tree
 Tree poppy
 Tree tobacco

Schinus molle
Portulacaria afra
Arbutus unedo
Dendromecon rigida
Nicotiana glauca

Trefoil

Bird's foot trefoil

Lotus corniculatus

Trumpet

Angel's trumpet
 Blood-red trumpet vine
 Trumpet vine, Trumpet creeper

Brugmansia spp.
Disticlis buccinatoria
Campsis radicans

Turf

Giant turf lily

Liriope gigantea

Turnip

Wild turnip, yellow mustard

Brassica rapa

Twin Peaks

Dwarf coyote brush, Twin Peaks

Baccharis pilularis

Urchin

Sea urchin

Echinopsis spp.

Valerian

Red valerian, Jupiter's beard
 White valerian

Centranthus ruber
Centranthus ruber 'Albus'

Valley

Valley oak

Quercus lobata

Verbena

Peruvian verbena

Verbena peruviana

Victorian

Victorian box

Pittosporum undulatum

Vine

Vine maple

Acer circinatum

Wallflower

Foothill wallflower
 Fragrant wallflower
 Wallflower
 Wallflower

Erysimum capitatum
Erysimum suffrutescens (E.concinnum)
Erysimum cheiri (Cheiranthus spp.)
Erysimum linifolium

Walnut

California walnut

Juglans californica

Common Name Cross Reference

Wax

Wax myrtle, Pacific wax myrtle, California wax myrtle	<i>Myrica californica</i>
Waxberry, Creeping snowberry, Trip vine	<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>

Weed

Deerweed, CA broom	<i>Lotus scoparius</i>
Frogfruit, Matgrass, Capeweed, Lippia	<i>Lippia repens (Phyla nodiflora)</i>
Mayweed, Stinking chamomile	<i>Anthemis cotula</i>
San Diego marsh-elder, Poverty weed	<i>Iva hayesiana</i>

Western

Western bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra formosa</i>
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Wheeler

Mock orange, Wheeler's mock orange	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>
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White

White alder	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>
White rockrose	<i>Cistus hybridus (C.corbariensis)</i>
White trailing ice plant	<i>Delosperma alba</i>
White valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber 'Albus'</i>
White yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium white</i>
White-leafed rockrose	<i>Cistus albidus</i>

Wild

Coastal wild gum	<i>Eriogonum crocatum</i>
Coastal wild gum	<i>Grindelia stricta venulosa</i>
Gum plant, Coastal wild gum	<i>Grindelia stricta</i>
Soap lily, wild potato	<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>
Wild artichoke, Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Wild aster	<i>Aster chilensis</i>
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum caudatum</i>
Wild honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera subspicata</i>
Wild lilac	<i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i>
Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry, ornamental	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>
Wild turnip, yellow mustard	<i>Brassica rapa</i>
Wild yellow iris, African iris	<i>Diets bicolor</i>

Willow

Arroyo willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>
Willowleaf cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>

Common Name Cross Reference

Winter

Salal, Wintergreen
 Winter creeper
 Winter creeper, Common Winter creeper
 Winter creeper, Purple leaf winter creeper
 Winter savoury

Gaultheria shallon
Euonymus fortunei
Euonymus fortunei radicans
Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'
Satureja montana

Wisteria

Wisteria

Wisteria spp.

Wood

Wood strawberry

Fragaria californica

Woolly

Woolly blue curls, Romero
 Woolly thyme, Thyme
 Woolly yarrow

Trichostema lanatum
Thymus pseudolanuginosus (T.lanuginosus)
Achillea tomentosa var. Moonshine

Xylosma

Xylosma, Compact xylosma

Xylosma congestum

Yarrow

Golden yarrow
 White yarrow
 Woolly yarrow
 Yarrow

Eriophyllum confertiflorum
Achillea millefolium white
Achillea tomentosa var. Moonshine
Achillea taygetea

Yellow

Wild turnip, yellow mustard
 Wild yellow iris, African iris
 Yellow oleander
 Yellow sage
 Yellow trailing ice plant
 Yellow-eyed grass
 Yellow-eyed grass, Blue-eyed grass

Brassica rapa
Diets bicolor
Thevetia peruviana neriifolia
Lantana camara & cultivars
Malephora luteola
Sisyrinchium californicum
Sisyrinchium bellum

Yerba

Yerba buena
 Yerba santa, Hairy yerba santa

Satureja douglasii
Eriodictyon trichocalyx

Yew

Yew

Taxus spp.

Yucca

Giant yucca
 Red yucca

Yucca elephantipes
Hesperaloe parviflora

Common Name Cross Reference

Yucca

Yucca, Our Lord's candle

Yucca whipplei

Zorro

Zorro annual fescue

Vulpis myuros

References

1. California Department of Forestry Date Unknown

Fire Safe: Inside and Out

California Department of Forestry Publication

Defines fire retardant plants as those easily maintained and pruned, drought tolerant in some cases, can be grown without accumulating dead branches, needles or leaves, have a low sap or resin content, and grow close to the ground.

2. Gaidula, Peter 1976

Wildland Fuel Management Guidelines for the CA State Park System

California Department of Parks and Recreation

This reference does not offer a definition of fire retardance with respect to plants, however it offers suggestions of certain plant characteristics to keep in mind when clearing brush to reduce fire hazard: plant vigor, poisonous plants, effects of plants on soils, value for wildlife food and cover, aesthetic values, and relative flammability.

3. Tarbes, J.A. 1980

Physical Characteristics of Chamise in Relation to Flammability and Combustibility

San Francisco State University, CA

Defines fire performance characteristics of chamise species only.

4. Sunset 1992

Big Job #1: Landscape to Fight the Fire

Lane Magazine and Book Company, June

Defines highly flammable plants as those that are accumulators of fuel, not maintained or pruned periodically, and contain high oil, high resin or low moisture in leaves and branches.

5. Sunset 1968

Brush Clearing for Fire Safety

Lane Magazine and Book Company, October

Describes fire retardant plants as those that are low-growing shrubs, non-native brush, and well maintained and watered brush.

6. California State Fire Marshal Journal 1989

Landscape for Home Fire Safety

CSFM Journal, No. 2, March/April

Defines flammable vegetation as plants containing volatile resins, oils, gums and terpenes, and plants that have accumulations of dead twigs and branches on mature live plants. This reference also defines fire retardant plants as those with a high moisture content, high in ash, well irrigated, free of dead matter, and low volume shrubs.

7. City of Los Angeles, Department of Arboreta & Botanic Gardens Date Unknown

Green Belts for Brush Fire Protection and Soil Erosion Control in Hillside Residential Areas

City of Los Angeles, Dept. of Arboreta & Botanic Gardens, Arcadia, CA

The term fire retardant is used to describe plants inherently less flammable than others. Rates plants as HIGH(greatest fire retardance) low-growing succulent plants with thick, fleshy leaves and/or stems. MODERATE(moderate fire retardance) low-growing herbaceous perennials and sub-shrubs not distinctly succulent. LOW(low fire retardance) low-growing shrubs and sub-shrubs with rather dry, leathery or rigid leaves and branches. Defines rating for erosion control as follows: LOW - useful on gentle slope, from 0-30 degrees. MODERATE - useful on slopes from 30-60 degrees. HIGH - useful on steep slopes from 60 degrees and steeper. Drought tolerance ratings in this reference are: HIGH - little or no supplemental irrigation required during the dry season, or, occasional watering needed (2-4 times during the dry season). MODERATE - requires moderate water (about once a month through the summer and fall). LOW - requires watering every 2-3 weeks, or, needs frequent watering to thrive (every week to 10 days or more often during dry winds).

References

8. East Bay Municipal Utility District Water Conservation Division 1995

Firescape: Landscaping to Reduce Fire Hazard

Community Services Department and EBMUD Board of Directors

Defines flammable or hazardous vegetation as any vegetation, including ornamental, that either by its intrinsic characteristics, placement, or lack of care is easy to ignite, spreads fire rapidly, produces high heat, or creates fires that are difficult to suppress. Defines a fire resistant plant as less likely to burn, grows close to the ground and takes longer to ignite. Drought tolerant plants defined as those that may reduce water use by 20-50% when compared with conventional landscapes.

9. Brende and Shapiro Tree And Shrub Care Date Unknown

List of More and Less Fire Prone Plants

Brende and Shapiro Tree and Shrub Care, Berkeley, CA

This reference suggests that any plant can be fire-prone if not properly maintained. Arrangement, spacing, density and dryness of the vegetation is probably more crucial than what species are planted.

This reference only states whether a particular species is suitable for erosion control - no criteria or ranking of usefulness is offered. Offers drought tolerant recommendations, but does not offer a definition of the term.

10. Gilmer, Maureen 1994

California Wildfire Landscaping

Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, TX

Plants are grouped as the most fire retardant if they retain high levels of moisture in their leaves and stems; these plants are mostly succulents and have low-growth habits. Moderate fire retardance is given to plants that are non-succulent with leaves that retain a high moisture content. Plants with low fire retardance are those with leathery and dry leaves.

11. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Date Unknown

Fire-Safe Demonstration Garden

Santa Clara Ranger Unit

A list of plants is offered without definition of fire retardance.

12. Berkeley Horticulture Nursery 1991

Fire Resistant Plants

Berkeley Horticulture Nursery, Berkeley, CA

Defines fire resistant as being able to withstand high temperatures for prolonged periods without igniting and does not readily support open flames.

13. Maire, Richard G. 1962

Landscape to Prevent Fire

University of California Agricultural Extension Service

Fire retardance is not defined in this publication.

14. Northeast Ridge, Southwest Diversified 1990

Final Habitat Fire Buffer Program

Northeast Ridge, Brisbane, CA, Southwest Diversified, INC.

This reference states that all plants will burn under the worst conditions, but some are more suitable for fire-prone areas because of one or more of the following characteristics: high mineral content, high moisture content, low volume of fuel.

15. D'Alcamo, Susan; Rice, Carol L. Date Unknown

Appropriate Landscaping Plants to Reduce Fire Hazard

East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Berkeley, CA

Supplies a list of California native plants to be used to establish a more fire retardant environment because of one or more of the following characteristics: high mineral content, low fuel volume, high moisture content.

References

16. Red Shingle & Handsplit Shake Bureau 1988

The Green Fireman Plan

Red Cedar Shingle & Handsplit Shake Bureau, Bellevue, WA

This reference bases its recommendations of fire retardance on the following: plants with a high moisture content, low volume shrubs, and (up to a point) plants with a high ash content.

17. Phoenix Team of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin 1996

After the Vision Fire

Phoenix Team of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

This reference provides a list of suggested fire retardant plants; fire retardant is not defined. Plants that are thought to be drought tolerant are noted in this publication; criteria for classification is not offered.

18. Morris, Wendy; Barbar, J.R. Date Unknown

Design and Siting Guidelines: Bush Fire Protection for Rural Houses

Country Fire Authority, Victoria

This reference suggests that the degree of fire retardance of a tree or shrub depends on the amount of moisture in the leaves, the amount of oil or resin in the leaves, and/or the amount of dead matter that remains on the tree. Trees and shrubs were rated as follows: HIGH - most suitable; MODERATE - suitable. Groundcovers were rated as follows: HIGH - very succulent, MODERATE - semi-succulent.

19. Brush Fire Safety Committee Date Unknown

Make it Safe to Live in the Hills: Fire Resistant Plants

Brush Fire Safety Committee, Los Angeles, CA

This reference explains that some plants are relatively non-flammable because they are able to withstand high temperatures for prolonged periods without igniting and do not readily support open flames. Plants' drought tolerance was grouped as follows: HIGH - drought-resistive, seldom needs water. MODERATE - less drought-resistive, water once each summer month.

20. Radtke, Klaus W.H. 1993

A Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Management at the Chaparral/Urban Interface

County of Los Angeles, CA

Fire retardance was rated as follows: HIGH - very highly fire retardant. MODERATE - medium fire retardance. LOW - low very retardance. Erosion control was rated as follows: LOW - suitable to slope of 25 degrees. MODERATE - suitable to slope of 25-35 degrees. HIGH - suitable to slope of 35+ degrees.

21. Radtke, Klaus W.H. Date Unknown

Living More Safely in the Chaparral/Urban Interface

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Gen. Technical Report PSW-67

Fire retardance was rated as follows: HIGH - very highly fire retardant. MODERATE - medium fire retardance. LOW - low very retardance. Erosion control was rated as follows: LOW - suitable to slope of 25 degrees. MODERATE - suitable to slope of 25-35 degrees. HIGH - suitable to slope of 35+ degrees.

22. Maire, Richard G.; Goodin, J.R. 1969

Landscape for Fire Protection

University of California Agricultural Extension Service

Refers to Los Angeles Arboretum research. Makes clear the point that the term "fire resistant" is used, but that there is not a plant that exists that will not burn given the right conditions. Also suggests that well-maintained and well-watered plants will not burn as readily as those left dry and unmaintained.

23. Grounds Maintenance 1988

Flirting With Fire

Grounds Maintenance, August 23(8):32,36,38,104.

Erosion control was rated as : LOW - 30% or less. MODERATE - 60%. HIGH - 60% or steeper.

References

24. County of Los Angeles Arboreta & Botanical Gardens 1970

Fire Retardant Plants for Hillside Areas

County of Los Angeles Arboreta and Botanical Gardens, Los Angeles, CA

Bases fire retardance on relatively high moisture content and prostrate or creeping growth characteristics. Rated as follows: HIGH - succulents (90-95% moisture content). MODERATE - non-succulents (80-95% MC) or 70-80% MC. LOW - 60-75% MC. Erosion control was rated as: HIGH - 60+ degree slope. MODERATE - 30-60 degree slope. LOW - 0-30 degree slope. Drought tolerance was rated as: HIGH - excellent or very good tolerance for drought. MODERATE - good tolerance. LOW - fair or poor tolerance.

25. Santa Barbara City Fire Department Date Unknown

Firescape Demonstration Garden

Santa Barbara City Fire Department, Santa Barbara, CA.

This reference offers only a list of suggested fire retardant plants, no criteria are given. Drought tolerance is noted within the list of fire retardant plants if the plant also has that characteristic. However, no definition of drought tolerance is given.

26. Coate, Barrie 1990

Water-Conserving Plants and Landscapes for the Bay Area

East Bay Municipal Utility District

Only offers a list of plants considered to be more fire retardant than most plants. No criteria offered.

27. Rice, Carol 1991

Effects of Drought on Landscaping in the Paint Fire

Wildland Resource Management, Walnut Creek, CA

Lists species with the highest moisture content and therefore probably the most fire retardant. Also lists the driest plants -- these were classified as not being recommended for fire prone areas.

28. City of San Carlos 1996

Fire Resistive Plants

The City of San Carlos, CA

Gives a list of herbaceous perennials, succulents, trees and groundcovers considered to be fire retardant. No definition offered.

29. Beatty, Russell 1991

Designing Gardens for Fire Safety

Department of Landscape Architecture, University of California, Berkeley

Rates plants fire retardance based on the following: Broad-leaved plants tend to be more fire retardant than those with needle-like or very fine leaves; dense compact forms and low prostrate plants are more effective at retarding fire than more open or upright plants.

30. Harlass, Sherry 1993

How to Firescape to Reduce the Fire Hazard

Nursery Manager, December

Defines a fire retardant plant as one that burns slowly.

31. Orinda Fire Protection District Date Unknown

Protect Your Home: Landscape For Fire Protection

Orinda Fire Protection District

Offers a few fire retardant landscape plants with no criteria for classifying them as such.

32. California Department of Forestry Date Unknown

Fire Safe, California!

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento, CA

Classifies fire retardant plants as those that are hardy succulents and flat ground covering plants that are kept groomed and free of dry leaves.

References

33. City of Santa Barbara Fire Department Date Unknown

City of Santa Barbara Firescapes Demonstration Garden

City of Santa Barbara Fire Department, Santa Barbara, CA

Defines fire resistant plants as those plants that can regenerate growth, despite burning and fire retardant plants as those which are less flammable than others.

34. Bowker, Mike 1995

High Danger this Year: Preventing the Firestorm

Motorland/CSAA, July/August

Considers that fire retardant plants share the following characteristics: grow close to the ground, have a low sap or resin content, grow without accumulating dead matter, are easily maintained and pruned, and are often drought tolerant.

35. South County Fire Date Unknown

Protecting Your Home From a Brush Fire

South County Fire

Offers only a list of plants, without explanation or definition.

36. Sunset 1983

Protecting Your Home Against Brushfire

Lane Publishing Company

Lists succulents as having the greatest fire retardance. Herbaceous perennials if well-watered and woody groundcovers if well-watered are also highly recommended. Rating for erosion control: LOW - steepest slope of 30 degrees. MODERATE - steepest slope of 60 degrees. HIGH - steepest slope of 60 degrees or more.

37. Department of Water Resources, The Resources Agency 1979

Plants for California Landscapes: A Catalog of Drought Tolerant Plants

State of California, The Resources Agency, Department of Water Resources, Bulletin 209, September

Offers a list of recommended plants without explanation or definition. Offers a list of drought tolerant plants without a definition of terms.

38. LeMay, David B; Wayne G. Mitchell 1978

Recommended Low-Fuel Volume Species for San Luis Obispo County

San Luis Obispo, CA: Central Coast Fire Prevention Association

Rates species of plants as either having HIGH/MODERATE or LOW fire retardance; no explanation or definition of terms. Rating for erosion control: HIGH - 60 + degrees slope. MODERATE - 30-60 degrees slope. LOW - 0-30 degrees slope. Rates drought tolerance as: HIGH - excellent and/or very good drought tolerance. MODERATE - good and/or fair. LOW - fair.

39. Martin-Richardson, Brenda; San Luis Obispo County Fire Department Date Unknown

A Homeowner's Guide to Fire Resistant Plants for the San Luis Obispo Area

San Luis Obispo, CA: CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection and The San Luis Obispo County Fire Dept.

Lists fire retardant plants for the San Luis Obispo area; no criteria offered.

40. Moritz, Ray; Pavel Svihra 1996

Pyrophytic vs. Fire Resistant Plants

University of California Cooperative Extension HortScript February No. 18

Defines fire resistant as: most broad leaf deciduous trees; leaves tend to be supple, moist and easily crushed; trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood; shrubs are low-growing (<2') with minimal dead material; tall shrubs are clean, not bushy; sap is water-like and typically does not have a strong odor; and plants that will not sustain a flame when ignition is attempted.

References

41. Moritz, Ray 1995

Pyrophytic vs. Fire Resistant Plants

San Rafael Fire Department, FireSafe Marin. May

Defines fire resistant as: most broad leaf deciduous trees; leaves tend to be supple, moist and easily crushed; trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood; shrubs are low-growing (<2') with minimal dead material; tall shrubs are clean, not bushy; sap is water-like and typically does not have a strong odor; and plants that will not sustain a flame when ignition is attempted.

42. Perry, Bob 1989

Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes

Land Design Publishing, Claremont, CA

Fire retardance was rated as follows: LOW - high fire hazard species and undesirable domestic plant. MODERATE - acceptable domestic plant that requires ample amounts of water for best performance and valuable watershed species that should be thinned to reduce foliage mass, and be retained in limited numbers to prevent high intensity fires. HIGH - low-growing and high fire retarding plants and low fuel volume native and introduced species.

43. Ellefson, Connie Lockhart; Thomas L. Stephens; Doug Welsh, Ph.D. 1992

Xeriscape Gardening

Macmillian Publishing Company, New York

Offers plant lists only with no definition of drought or drought tolerance. Offers lists of plants recommended for drought conditions, defined as requiring little or no maintenance once established.

44. Brenzel, Kathleen Norris (editor) 1995

Sunset Western Garden Book

Menlo Park, CA: Sunset Publishing Corporation, March

This reference was used to gather mature plant characteristics and information on drought tolerance, climate zones and erosion control. Drought tolerance is defined as requiring little or no dry season water. Climate zones are defined for the western states, each species is listed with a list of zones that it will tolerate. The zone map for this publication was generated from Sunset Western Garden Book's climate zone information. Note is made if a plant is considered to be useful in erosion control, but further explanation is not offered.

45. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Davis, CA 1976

Plant Materials Study

U.S Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Davis, CA

Offers information on plants suitable for erosion control.

46. Deering, Robert Bowman 1955

A Study of Drought Resistant Ornamental Plants

Davis, CA: University of California, Davis

Offers plant lists only with no definition of drought or drought tolerance.

47. International Erosion Control Association 1977

Proceedings of International Erosion Control Association, 8th Conference

Seattle, WA: The Association. Feb 24-25, 1977, Airport Marina Hotel, Burlingame, CA.

Offers species recommended for erosion control without providing a rating or a definition.

48. Edmudson, George C. 1976

Plant Materials Study: A Search for Drought-Tolerant Plant Materials for Erosion Control, Revegetation and Landscaping along California Highways: Final Report

U.S Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Davis, CA

Offers plant lists only with no definition of drought or drought tolerance.

49. Resource Management International, Inc. 1988

Windbreaks Demonstration Project: Final Report

Sacramento, CA: The Office of Land Conservation, California Department of Conservation

Offers plant lists only with no definition of drought or drought tolerance.

References

50. Lenz, Lee W.; Dourley, John 1981

California Native Trees And Shrubs

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA

Offers plant lists only with no definition of drought or drought tolerance.

51. Nehrling, Arno; Irene Nehrling 1975

Easy Gardening with Drought-Resistant Plants

New York: Dover Publications, Inc.

Defines drought as less than 1" of rainfall/week or ≤ 20 " for growing season. Plants considered drought tolerant will survive under these conditions.

52. Hazlewood, Walter G. 1968

A Handbook of Trees, Shrubs, and Roses

Sydney, Australia: Angus & Robertson, LTD

Defines drought tolerant plants as those recommended for "hot, dry areas where they will not get any watering."

53. Orange County Fire Department 1994

Report of the Wildland/Urban Interface Task Force

Developed by the Orange County Wildland/Urban Interface Task Force Subcommittee on Fuel Modification. July Attachment C

Defines plants that are not suitable for fire prone areas as possessing some or all of the following characteristics: are known to be especially combustible; have dry or deciduous foliage during part of the year; develop deciduous or shaggy bark; develop dry or dead undergrowth. Makes note of plants that are either suitable for unsuitable for slopes; offers no definitions or ratings. Only offers whether or not a plant is recommended for drought; does not include definitions.

54. Perry, Bob 1992

Landscape Plants for Western Regions: An Illustrated Guide to Plants for Water Conservation

Claremont, CA : Land Design Publishing

Categorizes landscape plants based on the water needs. Also provides information on the mature characteristics of plants.

55. Hickman, James C. (editor) 1993

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California

University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA

Provides information on plant classification and mature plant characteristics.

56. The Staff of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University 1976

Hortus Third: A Concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the United States and Canada

New York, NY: MacMillan Publishing Company, Inc.

Provides detailed information on mature plant characteristics.

57. Costello, L.R.; K.A. Jones 1994

Water Use Classification of Landscape Species: A Guide to the Water Needs of Landscape Plants

Half Moon Bay, CA: University of California Cooperative Extension, San Mateo/San Francisco Counties

Provides recommended watering for over 1200 landscape plants based on 6 climate regions of California.