



## Sierra Foothill Garden Plant Maintenance

For some of the more common plants found in the Yuba County foothills

	Comments	Form	Water	Pruning	Transplanting/Moving
<b>Agapanthus</b> <i>Agapanthus spp.</i>	fire-resistant	evergreen or deciduous perennials	occasional growing season water	prune out dead, diseased or damaged leaves any time	spring, after danger of frost
<b>Birch</b> <i>Betula spp.</i>	fire-resistant	deciduous trees	ample water at all times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year round</li> <li>October</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October/November</li> <li>propagate by seed midsummer or late winter</li> </ul>
<b>Blackberry</b> <i>Rubus spp.</i>	can be invasive	berry producing vine	water during growing season	after harvest cut all canes that fruited to the ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>autumn or spring</li> <li>propagation by cuttings is easy to do</li> </ul>
<b>Blue-eyed grass</b> <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fire-resistant</li> <li>dormant over summer</li> </ul>	perennial	tolerates some aridity or some water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>can cut back stems to ground level</li> <li>late summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>propagate by seed</li> <li>divide rhizomes in fall</li> </ul>
<b>Bottle brush</b> <i>Callistemon spp</i>	fire-resistant	evergreen shrubs or small trees	Needs little water; except <i>C. viminalis</i> needs ample water	remove any weak or dead branches after bloom or before spring growth flush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>root-prune three months before moving, water well before moving in the spring</li> <li>propagate by cuttings in summer and autumn or sow seed in spring</li> </ul>
<b>Buck brush</b> <i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>native</li> <li>fire-resistant</li> </ul>	evergreen shrub	no, after first dry season	keep dead, damaged, diseased wood pruned out year round	difficult to move, October/November
<b>California buckeye</b> <i>Aesculus californica</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>native</li> <li>fire-resistant</li> <li>high wildlife value</li> <li>seed is toxic</li> </ul>	deciduous large shrub or small tree	2 times a month once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>remove suckers and shoots</li> <li>keep dead, damaged, diseased wood pruned out year round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>very young trees are difficult to transplant</li> <li>easy to grow from seed</li> </ul>

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<b>California Fuchsia</b> <i>Epilobium canum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• deer resistant</li> </ul>	semi-deciduous perennial or subshrub	little to no water once established	cut back to the ground after the flowers are gone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• self-seeds</li> <li>• transplant rhizomes in winter or spring</li> </ul>
<b>California Poppy</b> <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	perennial, often grown as annual	summer water extends bloom, max 2 times per month	cut down to the ground after the plant goes summer dormant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not transplant well</li> <li>• self-seeding</li> </ul>
<b>Camellia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	evergreen shrubs or small trees	needs water when young	right after flowering or during summer and fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• root-prune late fall, at least three months before move</li> <li>• winter is best time to move</li> </ul>
<b>Ceanothus</b> <i>Ceanothus spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	Evergreen shrubs, small trees, ground covers	some water okay	keep dead, damaged, diseased wood pruned out year-round	difficult to move, October / November
<b>Citrus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	evergreen trees and shrubs	do not let root zone become dry or soggy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• late spring or summer</li> <li>• remove suckers during summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mature trees do not transplant well</li> <li>• late fall or early spring but before or after danger of freezing</li> </ul>
<b>Coffeeberry</b> <i>Rhamnus spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	shrub	very little	keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year round	root-prune at least three months before moving, transplant in the spring
<b>Coyote brush</b> <i>Baccharis pilularis ssp. consanguinea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire prone</li> </ul>	evergreen shrub	low, max once a week once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• early spring</li> <li>• keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year-round</li> <li>• can be cut back to 6 inches in height in early spring</li> </ul>	fall, winter or early spring
<b>Crape myrtle</b> <i>Lagerstroemia spp</i>		deciduous shrub or tree	infrequent, deep water	winter or early spring	root-prune at least months before moving in late winter
<b>Daffodils</b> <i>Narcissus spp</i>	gophers and deer do not like	bulb	water as needed during growth and bloom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not needed</li> <li>• clean up leaves after they have died back</li> </ul>	after leaves die back, dig up and replant late summer, early fall

	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Pruning</b>	<b>Transplanting/Moving</b>
<b>Deer grass</b> <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	native	grass	low, max once a month once established	can be cut back to 3" in winter	divide in winter
<b>Douglas fir</b> <i>Pseudotsuga spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-prone</li> </ul>	evergreen tree	little or no once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• late winter or late summer</li> <li>• remove dead, damaged or diseased wood any time</li> <li>• do not trim back past the last cluster of green foliage; new growth will not develop from these areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fall</li> <li>• root prune 3 to 6 months before moving if tree is large</li> <li>• water thoroughly before and after moving</li> </ul>
<b>Firs</b> <i>Abies spp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some native</li> <li>• fire prone</li> </ul>	evergreen tree	most tolerate aridity, some need water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• late winter or late summer</li> <li>• remove dead, damaged or diseased branches any time</li> <li>• do not trim back past the last cluster of green foliage; new growth will not develop from these areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fall</li> <li>• root prune 3 to 6 months before moving if tree is large</li> <li>• water thoroughly before and after moving</li> </ul>
<b>Flannel bush</b> <i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• native</li> <li>• intolerant of summer watering</li> <li>• site selection extremely important</li> <li>• hairs covering the leaves can irritate skin and eyes</li> </ul>	large shrub	never irrigate once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoid hard pruning</li> <li>• late summer or early fall – only when necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• difficult to transplant</li> <li>• seeds require stratification to germinate</li> <li>• hardwood cuttings late autumn to late winter</li> <li>• semi-hardwood cuttings late summer</li> </ul>

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<b>Geraniums</b> <i>Pelargonium sp.</i>	can only tolerate light frost	shrubby perennials	water needs vary by type	early spring or if need be late fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>late spring, early fall</li> <li>can be started from cuttings easily</li> </ul>
<b>Honeysuckle</b> <i>Lonicera spp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some natives</li> <li>fire-resistant</li> <li>deer resistant</li> </ul>	evergreen or deciduous shrubs or vines	moderate summer water; natives need very little if any	after bloom, winter is best	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seed, need stratification</li> <li>trim back by one-third about two months before transplanting in the fall</li> <li>root prune about two months before transplanting in the fall</li> </ul>
<b>Heavenly bamboo</b> <i>Nandina domestica</i>		evergreen or semi deciduous shrub	best with regular water, takes aridity	cut older canes to the ground each year before new growth begins in spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any time except during hot summer months</li> <li>existing plant can be divided</li> </ul>
<b>Incense cedar</b> <i>Calocedrus spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>native</li> <li>moderate fire resistance</li> </ul>	evergreen tree	none once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>remove dead, damaged or diseased wood any time</li> <li>winter</li> <li>do not trim back past the last cluster of green foliage; new growth will not develop from these areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fall</li> <li>root prune 3 to 6 months before moving if tree is large</li> <li>water thoroughly before and after moving</li> </ul>
<b>Iris</b> <i>Iris spp</i>	some natives fire-resistant	bulbs and rhizomes	regular water; natives do not need summer water	not needed	Divide clumps or move September/October
<b>Juniper</b> <i>Juniperus spp</i>	fire prone	evergreen trees and shrubs	some summer water in hot areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>late March, early April</li> <li>remove dead, damaged or diseased wood any time</li> </ul>	root prune 3 to 6 months before moving in the fall

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<b>Lavender</b> <i>Lavendula spp.</i>	fire-resistant	evergreen shrubs or subshrubs	little water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spring or fall, do not cut back all the way to woody stem</li> <li>• remove dead, damaged or diseased wood any time</li> </ul>	late winter early spring
<b>Lupine</b> <i>Lupinus spp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• some natives</li> </ul>	shrub	very low; natives will survive without water	cut back to the ground in fall after foliage starts to yellow, however this will prevent reseeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• do not transplant easily</li> <li>• gather seed late summer/fall</li> </ul>
<b>Madrone</b> <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• a lot of leaf litter</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	tree	none needed once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep to a minimum</li> <li>• keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year round</li> <li>• December or January</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very difficult to transplant</li> <li>• propagate from seed</li> </ul>
<b>Maple</b> <i>Acer spp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some natives</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	Tree	moderate to high, keep moist in summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large pruning cuts in February</li> <li>• small pruning cuts late spring</li> <li>• keep dead, diseased or damaged wood pruned out year round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• root-prune 3 – 6 months and water thoroughly before moving if ground is dry</li> <li>• between leaf fall and bud break, late fall/early winter to <u>early</u> spring</li> </ul>
<b>Manzanita</b> <i>Arctostaphylos spp</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• moderate fire-resistance</li> </ul>	shrub	very low	remove old, damaged or dead wood to the ground any time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October/November</li> <li>• propagate by seed or from cuttings in fall</li> </ul>
<b>Mahonia</b> <i>Berberis spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some natives</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• deer resistant</li> <li>• high wildlife value</li> </ul>	evergreen shrub	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• after blooming season</li> <li>• remove old, damaged or dead wood to the ground any time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October/November</li> <li>• cut branches back about one-third to one-half before moving</li> </ul>
<b>Monkey flower</b> <i>Mimulus spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• natives</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• deer resistant</li> </ul>	shrub	very low	spring before growth starts and/or fall after first flowering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spring after danger of frost has passed</li> </ul>

	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Pruning</b>	<b>Transplanting/Moving</b>
<b>Oaks</b> <i>Quercus spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• natives</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> </ul>	tree	no water once established	<u>only</u> prune December through February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oaks are very hard to transplant successfully, especially once they are planted out</li> <li>• The best time to try and move established trees would be late fall or early spring (best).</li> <li>• Oaks can be propagated from cuttings in early to mid-autumn</li> </ul>
<b>Palms</b> <i>Areaceae spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not recommended</li> <li>• fire prone</li> </ul>	shrubs, trees	regular deep watering	remove dead or dying fronds in spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• easy to move</li> <li>• late spring or early summer</li> <li>• soil over 65°</li> </ul>
<b>Pampas grass</b> <i>Cortaderia spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not recommended</li> <li>• fire prone</li> </ul>	evergreen grass	takes the driest to the wettest	prune to the ground each year late winter	divide clump in spring
<b>Pines</b> <i>Pinus spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• many natives</li> <li>• fire prone</li> <li>• Ponderosa less fire-prone than others</li> </ul>	evergreen trees	most need little water, natives need none once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remove dead, damaged or diseased wood any time</li> <li>• December or January</li> <li>• light pruning okay in October or November</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• root prune 3 to 6 months before moving</li> <li>• early spring</li> </ul>
<b>Plumbago</b> <i>Plumbago auriculata</i>		semi evergreen shrub or vine	very little once established	prune back hard late winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• divide in autumn after flowers faded</li> <li>• can propagate by seed or by cuttings</li> </ul>
<b>Redbud (western)</b> <i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire resistant</li> <li>• high wildlife value</li> </ul>	shrub	low	late fall to winter or right after bloom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• late fall</li> <li>• root-prune three months before moving, water well before moving</li> </ul>

	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Pruning</b>	<b>Transplanting/Moving</b>
<b>Redwood</b> <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	native to the California coast	evergreen tree	max once a month once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December or January</li> <li>keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October/November</li> <li>very difficult unless tree is small</li> </ul>
<b>Rosemary</b> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	poor fire-resistance	evergreen shrub, herb	little or no water once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut the entire plant back in late winter to early spring to renovate an older rosemary, do not trim back past the lowest cluster of the rosemary's needlelike foliage</li> <li>Younger plants, during spring or summer</li> <li>keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move established plants early spring or late fall</li> <li>Rosemary can also be propagated from hardwood cuttings taken late autumn to late winter or from seed in spring</li> </ul>
<b>Roses</b> <i>Rosa spp</i>		deciduous or evergreen shrubs	regular water, some exceptions	February/March	early spring
<b>Salvia (sage, mint)</b> <i>Salvia spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>some natives</li> <li>fire-resistant</li> </ul>	annuals, perennials, shrubs	depends on species, most like aridity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deadhead July and August</li> <li>in the fall prune to 2 or 3 inches above the ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>best early spring or fall</li> <li>propagate from cuttings or seed</li> <li>perennials can be divided</li> </ul>
<b>Scotch Broom</b> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>remove</li> <li>highly invasive</li> <li>fire prone</li> </ul>				remove

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<b>Snowberry</b> <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• high wildlife value</li> <li>• can be invasive</li> <li>• berries poisonous to humans</li> </ul>	Shrub	very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• late winter or early spring</li> <li>• can be cut back, but cut no lower than first pair of buds above the ground</li> <li>• to thin remove largest, heaviest canes all the way to the ground spring or fall</li> <li>• remove any dead, diseased or damaged branches any time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spring or fall</li> <li>• avoid freezing or hot weather</li> </ul>
<b>Star jasmine</b> <i>Trachelospermum spp.</i>		evergreen vines or sprawling shrubs	regular water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• after flowering</li> <li>• if needed a light pruning at the end of summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In October/November cut back to about 25% of the foliage before digging up and moving</li> <li>• can propagate by cuttings and seed</li> </ul>
<b>Toyon (Christmas holly)</b> <i>Hetermeles abutilifolia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• native</li> <li>• fire-resistant</li> <li>• high wildlife value</li> </ul>	shrub	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep dead, diseased, or damaged wood pruned out year round</li> <li>• December or January</li> <li>• light pruning okay in October/November</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October/November</li> <li>• propagate from seed</li> </ul>
<b>Vinca</b> <i>Vinca spp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• invasive</li> <li>• fire prone</li> <li>• remove</li> </ul>	creeping vine		shear or mow before new spring growth	early spring or after blooming ends in autumn



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<b>Wormwood (Mugwort)</b> <i>Artemisia spp.</i>		evergreen or deciduous shrubs, perennials	best with a little water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cut non woody-stemmed perennials to ground in fall</li> <li>prune back shrubs and woody perennials before first flush of spring growth</li> </ul>	divide and transplant every 2 - 3 years in autumn
<b>Yucca</b> <i>Yucca spp.</i>	fire-resistant	evergreen perennials, shrubs, trees	periodic deep soakings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cut dead leaves back to trunk</li> <li>flower stalks can be removed at their base after flowers fade</li> <li>regularly snip or saw off sprouts out of base of yucca to control size</li> <li>can be cut back completely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in fall</li> <li>can be divided</li> </ul>
<b>Yarrow</b> <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fire-resistant</li> <li>native</li> </ul>	perennial herb	low	cut to ground level in the autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dig up clump and divide</li> <li>late winter, early spring</li> </ul>
<b>Zebra grass (Eulalia grass)</b> <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	not recommended	perennial grass	heavy watering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cut back to ground early spring</li> <li>divide every 2 -3 years to limit clump size</li> </ul>	divide or dig up, water thoroughly then cut back to about 6 inches in early spring or early fall

**Sources:**

Calscape (Native Plant Society) - <https://calscape.org>

CalFlora - <https://calflora.org>

Sunset Western Garden guide

UC ANR IPM - <http://ipm.ucanr.edu>

FIRESafe Marin - <https://www.firesafemarin.org>

National Fire Protection Association - <http://npa.org>

CAL FIRE - <https://www.readyforwildfire.org>

UCCE Fire in California - [https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/prepare/landscaping/plant\\_choice](https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/prepare/landscaping/plant_choice)

Fire Resistant Plants - [http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/firewise\\_landscaping/fire\\_resistant\\_plants](http://sonomamg.ucanr.edu/firewise_landscaping/fire_resistant_plants)

UC ANR - [https://cargardenweb.ucanr.edu/general/landscaping\\_for\\_fire\\_protection](https://cargardenweb.ucanr.edu/general/landscaping_for_fire_protection)

Plant Propagation American Horticultural Society

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