

**PUBLIC DRAFT**

**J. Fire-Resistant Plants to Favor and Restricted Plant List/Plants to Avoid<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**

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

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

**TABLE 1: FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS**

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

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Betsey Landis of the California Native Plant Society contributed to this list.

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

PUBLIC DRAFT

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

**PUBLIC DRAFT**

**TABLE 2: RESTRICTED PLANT LIST/PLANTS TO AVOID**

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