

EROSION CONTROL & FIRE SCAPING with California NATIVE PLANTS

DROUGHT TOLERANT & FIRE RESISTANT SHRUBS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Lemonade Berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Coffee Berry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Epilobium canum (Zauschneria californica)</i>
Sugar Bush	<i>Malosma (Rhus) ovata</i>
California Lilac, Blue Blossom	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>
California Rose	<i>Rosa California</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Bush Poppy	<i>Dendromecon rigiela</i>

FIRE RESISTANT TREES (upland)

Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
Madrone	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>
CA Buckeye	<i>Aesculus californica</i>
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
California Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica californica</i>
California Bay Laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
Catalina Ironwood	<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>
Yellow Willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
Tanoak	<i>Lithocarpus densiflora</i>

FIRE RESISTANT TREES & SHRUBS (riparian, irrigated or wet areas) Where soil is moist year-round, all vegetation has higher moisture content, making it more fire-resistant than plants growing in dry locations

Coast Redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>
Western Sycamore	<i>Platanus racemose</i>

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Willow (red, yellow, arroyo)	<i>Salix, spp</i>
Big Leaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>
Blue Elderberry	<i>Sambucus Mexicana</i>
Thimbleberry	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>
California Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta var.californica</i>
Creek Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea ssp. occidentalis</i>
Flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum</i> <i>And/or California Blackberry</i>
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
Red or White Alder	<i>Alnus rubra</i> (red); <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> (white)

FIRE RESISTANT NATIVE PERENNIAL FORBS

Yarrow	<i>Achilea spp.</i>
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon spp.</i>
Blue-Eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum.</i>
California Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus californica</i>
Bracken Fern	<i>Pteridium aquilinum var.pubescens</i>

FIRE RESISTANT NATIVE GROUNDCOVERS / GRASSES

Douglas/Mt. Iris and related spp.	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> and other native Iris
Alum Root	<i>Heuchera, spp.</i>
Sword Fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>
Redwood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregano</i>
Dudleyas	<i>Dudleya, spp.</i>
Pine Grass	<i>Calamagrostis rubescens</i>
Idaho Fescue	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>
California Fescue	<i>Festuca californica</i>
Molate Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> (shade/drought tolerant)
California Oat Grass	<i>Danthonia californica</i>
Needlegrass	<i>Stipa lepida</i>

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Note: All the above plants have soil erosion and protection qualities. Many of the above plants are also drought tolerant but may require some supplemental irrigation during initial establishment.

In general, fire resistant plants:

1. Have a low sap or resin content;
2. Grow without accumulating dead branches, needles or leaves;
3. Are easily maintained and pruned;
4. Grow low to the ground with exception of trees and some shrubs;
5. Have low biomass or low density;
6. Have large and/or thick leaves with high moisture content that don't ignite quickly like plants with small leaves such as chamise and junipers.

Note: Space plants so there is horizontal and vertical discontinuity. This will decrease the likelihood of the fire spreading to tree canopies and from plant to plant.

INVASIVE AND/OR HIGH FIRE HAZARD SHRUBS AND TREES

Stay clear of non-native plants including but not limited to: Acacia; pampas and jubata grasses; juniper; eucalyptus; bamboo; palms; periwinkle/vinca; Algerian, English or German ivy; French, Spanish and Scotch broom, and hemlock..

Discourage the establishment of the following native plants in close proximity of homes and high value property improvements: Chamise; most conifers (except redwood) including knob cone pine, Monterey pine and Douglas fir; coyote brush/greasewood and other plants that have a high oil content and/or produce a lot of dead plant materials. These types of plants all have a higher fire hazard.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Regarding other plant choices and fire resistant landscaping ideas Contact: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at 831-475-1967 (Santa Cruz County); or the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County at 831-464-2950 or visit the RCD web site at: www.rcdsantacruz.org

Note: This list was prepared by Rich Casale, Certified Professional Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist #3 following the 2008 Summit Fire, Martin and Trabing Fires in Santa Cruz County when he was employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The list was developed in consultation with the Santa Cruz Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, NRCS Plant specialists, and local native plant ecologists.