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# Firewise Landscaping in a Weather Resilient Garden

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Visualize and map your own property. Resolve that you will leave here today with a plan of action!

California law mandates 100’ of defensible space around your house and other structures. You may have to clear an even larger area, depending on your slope:

**slope**

A	0 – 20%	Level – congratulations
B	21 – 40%	Moderate – fairly easy to walk and to work
C	+40%	Steep – a challenge to climb and to clear

## How does your house rank according to one insurance company’s assessment?

Grass, weeds, small shrubs	+1	20 – 40 degree slope	+3	Rough terrain in the area	+1
Shrubs, small trees	+2	+40 degree slope	+4	History of fire in area	+1
Timber woodland	+3	Less than 1 home/10 ac.	+1	Extreme fire weather	+1
1 – 10 degree slope	+1	1 home per 5 - 10 ac.	+2	Good water, roads, signs	-1
10 - 20 degree slope	+2	1 home per 0 – 5 ac.	+3	Strict local fire ordinances	-1

The 3 R’s of Fire Safe Landscaping (courtesy of Sonoma County Fire Safe Council):

### REMOVE, REDUCE, REPLACE

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council has provided 6 specific steps to creating a firewise landscape and we added 2.

1. Determine your DEFENSIBLE SPACE.
2. Remove all DEAD or DYING vegetation or material.
3. Break up CONTINUOUS vegetation.
4. Eliminate LADDER FUELS.
5. Make your defensible space LEAN, GREEN and CLEAN.
6. Keep up with regular MAINTENANCE.
7. Make your PLANS.
8. Use available RESOURCES.

#### REMOVE

#### STEP 1 - Determine the perimeter of your 100’ DEFENSIBLE SPACE.

- Identify (and mark) your defensible area.

#### STEP 2 - Remove all DEAD or DYING plants and combustible material.

- This also includes firewood, scrap lumber or other flammables.

#### STEP 3 - Break up CONTINUOUS vegetation.

- Create spaces between existing trees and shrubs.
- Eliminate branches that overhang your roof or chimney
- 10’ – 15’ spacing, horizontally and vertically, is the minimum.
- Steep slopes require increased clearance between trees and plants.
- Know when and how to hire professional help. (See Resources on page 3.)

## Plant Spacing Guidelines

Guidelines are designed to break the continuity of fuels and be used as a "rule of thumb" for achieving compliance with Regulation 14 CCR 1299.

Trees	Minimum horizontal space from edge of one tree canopy to the edge of the next	
	Slope	Spacing
	0% to 20 %	10 feet
	20% to 40%	20 feet
	Greater than 40%	30 feet
	Minimum horizontal space between edges of shrub	
Shrubs	Slope	Spacing
	0% to 20 %	2 times the height of the shrub
	20% to 40%	4 times the height of the shrub
	Greater than 40%	6 times the height of the shrub
Vertical Space	Minimum vertical space between top of shrub and bottom of lower tree branches: 3 times the height of the shrub	

**NOTE:** Fuel Separation distances are measured between the outer edge of the tree or shrubs canopy to the next tree or shrubs outer edge, NOT the trunk or main stem of a tree or shrub.

Adapted from: Gilmer, M. 1994. California Wildfire Landscaping

### REDUCE

#### STEP 4 - Eliminate **LADDER FUELS**.

- In addition to the 10' vertical clearance under trees, if there are lower plants in the area, the cleared height requirement will increase.
- Chipping may be arranged by calling the EDC Fire Safe Council at 530 626-1700 or signing up on their website (see Resources section).

### REPLACE

#### STEP 5 - Make your space **LEAN, GREEN & CLEAN**.

- Use hardscape and plantings to create fuel breaks.
- Utilize the Hydro-zoning concept, the same principle you use for incorporating drought resistant plants.
  - High water zone is the oasis nearest the house and living area.
  - Moderate water zone includes those plants that require less water.
  - Drought-tolerant plant zone is often further out (+/-100').
- Select fire-resistant plants with:
  - Little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation
  - Open, loose branching habit
  - Non-resinous woody material (for example, avoid juniper, fir and cedar)
  - Low volume of total vegetation
  - High moisture content in leaves
  - Drought tolerance
  - Slow growth, requiring less frequent pruning
- Know your elevation and microclimates as you select plants.
- Use Sunset Western Gardening & websites (see Resources) to select plants for your zone.
- Realize that plants are not fire-proof; they can be fire-resistive.
- Irrigation is a key – understanding its importance is crucial in firewise landscaping. Some plants that are drought tolerant need additional water and pruning of dead wood to be fire-resistant. (see below\*)
- See the handout and resource list for more complete lists of plants. Here are a few suggestions:

#### **Flowers and Groundcovers (\*requires additional water/maintenance)**

California fuschia	penstemon	thrift
candytuft	perennial verbena	woodland strawberry
coreopsis	sedum	yarrow

#### **Shrubs and Vines (\*requires additional water/maintenance)**

ceanothus	escallonia	serviceberry
<i>Clematis armandii</i>	Oregon grape	star jasmine
dwarf burning bush	rock rose	toyon*

### REMOVE, REDUCE, REPLACE (AND REPEAT)

#### STEP 6 - **MAINTENANCE** is crucial.

- Simple, well-maintained landscapes are safer than elaborate landscapes that are neglected.
- Prune deadwood from beneath ground covers and shrubs.

- Clean up ground litter (pine needles & leaves).
- Keep your landscape safe and improve your landscape's appearance at the same time.
- Consider new fire resistant plants that still add color to your landscape.

And - two more steps...

#### STEP 7 - Make your **PLANS!**

- FOR GETTING STARTED
- FOR HOW TO TACKLE BIG/DANGEROUS JOBS
- FOR AN EMERGENCY

#### RESOURCES – THE 4<sup>th</sup> R (\*indicates that hyperlink doesn't work)

#### STEP 8 – Make use of **RESOURCES.**

##### Agencies

California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection	<a href="http://www.fire.ca.gov">www.fire.ca.gov</a>	(530) 644-2345
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council	<a href="http://www.edcfiresafe.org">www.edcfiresafe.org</a>	(530) 647-1700
El Dorado County Fire Protection District	<a href="http://www.eldoradocountyfire.com/">http://www.eldoradocountyfire.com/</a>	(530) 644-9630
Firewise Communities U.S.A.	<a href="http://www.firewise.org">www.firewise.org</a>	
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	<a href="http://www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe">www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe</a>	(775) 588-4547
UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County*	<a href="http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Articles/">http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Articles/</a>	(530) 621-5512

##### Books

<u>California Wildfire Landscaping</u>	Maureen Gilmer
<u>Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California</u>	Richard W. Halsey
<u>Sunset Western Garden Book</u> (for plant zones)	Lane Publishing
<u>The Weather-Resilient Garden</u>	Charles W. G. Smith
<u>Will Your Home Survive?</u>	R. D. Harrell & William C. Teie

##### Plant Lists

CAL FIRE Tree Notes	<a href="http://calfire.ca.gov/foreststeward/treenotes">http://calfire.ca.gov/foreststeward/treenotes</a>
Cal Poly SelecTree	<a href="http://selectree.calpoly.edu/">http://selectree.calpoly.edu/</a>
California Native Plant Society*	<a href="http://www.cnps.org/cnps/publications/fremontia/Fremontia_Vol38-No2-3.pdf">www.cnps.org/cnps/publications/fremontia/Fremontia_Vol38-No2-3.pdf</a>
CNPS Placer/Nevada*	<a href="http://www.areyoufiresafe.com/files/1513/5844/5042/Selected_Fire-Resistant_Native_Plants_for_Nevada_Placer_County_Landscapes.pdf">http://www.areyoufiresafe.com/files/1513/5844/5042/Selected_Fire-Resistant_Native_Plants_for_Nevada_Placer_County_Landscapes.pdf</a>
Diablo Fire Safe Council Fire Wise	<a href="http://www.diablofiresafe.org/tolerance.html">http://www.diablofiresafe.org/tolerance.html</a>
Fire Resistant Plants for the Cool Area	<a href="http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/files/88247.pdf">cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/files/88247.pdf</a>
Oregon State Extension Plant List	<a href="http://www.firefree.org/fire-resistant-plants/">http://www.firefree.org/fire-resistant-plants/</a>
WUCOLS/UC Davis Plant List	<a href="http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Download_WUCOLS_IV_List/">http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Download_WUCOLS_IV_List/</a>

##### Resources and Websites

Ready, Set, Go (CAL Fire)	<a href="http://www.readyforwildfire.org/">http://www.readyforwildfire.org/</a> plus free phone app
Cooperative Extension Nevada	<a href="http://www.livingwithfire.info/">http://www.livingwithfire.info/</a>
International Society of Arboriculture	<a href="http://www.isa-arbor.com">http://www.isa-arbor.com</a>
LA Times article on insurance	<a href="http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-wildfire-homeowners-insurance-20180830-story.html">http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-wildfire-homeowners-insurance-20180830-story.html</a>
UCCE Home Landscaping for Fire	<a href="https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8228.pdf">https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8228.pdf</a>
You Tube National Fire Protection	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_syp1ZScM&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vL_syp1ZScM&amp;feature=youtu.be</a>

##### Resources on the Changing Reality of Wildfire in California after the Camp Fire

KQED Why Wildfire Behavior Depends on What's Burning - [https://www.kqed.org/science/1928625/\\_trashed-35](https://www.kqed.org/science/1928625/_trashed-35)  
 Does Wildfire Mitigation Work? 16 Examples and Counting! - <https://fireadaptednetwork.org/does-wildfire-mitigation-work-16-examples-and-counting/>  
 The Six Ps of Evacuation - <https://www.theindependencecenter.org/the-six-ps-of-evacuation/>  
 The bizarre and frightening conditions that sparked the Camp Fire - <https://buff.ly/2QK2HVz>  
 Fire Insurance is Getting Harder to Find - <https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/fire-insurance-getting-harder-to-find/>  
 Firenado in Redding - <https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/carr-firenado-in-redding-was-just-the-second-recorded-event-of-its-kind-scientists-say/ar-BBQyF9H>

## REMEMBER THE 7 P'S IN CASE OF EVACUATION



People + Pets



Plastic - credit cards + cash



Papers - important documents



Prescriptions



Pictures



Personal Computer



Phone

NWS SACRAMENTO



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## Fire-wise Landscaping Check List

### UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

1. Use the insurance chart on page 1 of the class handout to score your house: Remember – the lower your score the better. The higher your score, the more you need to take action. \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you think is the biggest risk factor for your house and property?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What have you already done to decrease fire risk around your home and property?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Check 2 or more things that you can do to better protect your house:

- Clean your roof.
- Clean your gutters.
- Move firewood off deck.
- Enclose (soffit) your overhangs.
- Remove branches overhanging your roof and chimney.
- Remove or prune branches of flammable plants near windows.
- Remove vegetation and flammable items from around and under decks.
- Other

#### 5. Check 2 or more things that you can do now to decrease fire risk on your property. Start at your house and work outward.

- Identify the 30' (Zone 1) and 30 - 100' (Zone 2) perimeters around your house.
- Remove weeds, dry grass, leaves and pine needles in both zones, working from your house outward.
- Cut dead or dying branches from shrubs and trees in both zones.

- Once you have cut dead branches, arrange for chipping through the EDC Fire Safe Council. Plan early before funds are gone.
- Limb up trees to a height of at least 6'.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical spacing between shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches in both zones. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 4 inches.
- Look at firewise plant lists to determine the overall vulnerability of your current landscape.
- Create a landscape plan that incorporates plants that are both fire-resistant and drought tolerant into your landscape.
- If you know you will be replacing some areas with more drought tolerant/firewise plants in the future, create a plan for removal of existing plants and irrigation of any new plants.
- Other

#### 6. Check 2 or more things that you can do this spring to decrease fire risk on your property.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches in both zones.
- Relocate wood piles into Zone 2 when rains end.
- Meet with your neighbors to see how you can cooperate to improve fire safety in your neighborhood.
- Other

#### 7. Reminders

- Remember to work with power tools like weed eaters and mowers early in the morning when it is cooler and humidity is higher.
- Anything that you do (safely) is better than nothing!
- We want to empower you to find the balance of aesthetics, water wise plants, and firewise practices that are right for you.

# Emergency Preparedness Checklist

This checklist was created for the Audubon Hills Homeowners Association by Kim McCarthy, and updated by Robin Stanley, using numerous sources.

**Before a fire or emergency happens, do as much of the following as you can.**  
**Begin now - once you are told to evacuate, you may have only minutes to leave.**

1. Pack a "Disaster Emergency Box" (see contents below).
2. Pack a "Fire Box" with important paperwork (see contents below).
3. Plan a place to meet your family in case you are separated from one another in a disaster.
4. Ask a friend outside of the area to be the "check point" so that everyone in the family can call that person to say they are safe.
5. Develop a simple family communications plan, such as a wallet card with common numbers to call.
6. If you do not own a car, make transportation arrangements with friends.
7. Find out where children will be sent if they are in school when an evacuation is announced.
8. Make a backup copy of your hard drive - at least the important files - and keep it at another location.
9. Create backups on a regular schedule.
10. Scan all photographs and save on computer or external hard drive that can be packed.

## **Disaster Emergency Box (for all family members and pets)**

Some of this might also be your camping gear; make it easily accessible.

1. Money
2. Water
3. Food
4. Cotton and woolen clothing
5. Sturdy shoes
6. Handkerchief or mask for protection from smoke
7. Leather work gloves for hand protection
8. Food dishes for pets
9. Battery-powered radio
10. Flashlights/candles/light sticks
11. Extra batteries
12. Tent
13. Sleeping bags
14. Pillows
15. First aid kit
16. Tools, equipment, supplies (manual can opener, utensils, fire extinguisher, matches, money, etc.)



## **Fire Box (perhaps a Rubbermaid bin, or something easy to grab and go)**

1. Copies of Insurance and financial papers
2. A copy of your address book
3. Copies of your identifications, such as drivers licenses, passports, military ID, etc.
4. Copies of birth certificates
5. Lists of all medications and treatments, Including dosage, treatment and allergy information
6. Other personal/medical needs such as eyeglasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen
7. List of all doctors names and numbers
8. External hard drive with important saved computer files

**When Wildfire Threatens: If you have time, the American Red Cross suggests:**

**Inside**

1. Confine pets to one room so you can easily get them.
2. Have pet crate ready to easily transport them.
3. Shut all doors.
4. Shut garage door and disconnect garage door opener.
5. Shut all windows.
6. Close heavy drapes and mini-blinds; remove lightweight drapes.
7. Turn off all gas at house.
8. Turn off pilot lights.
9. Open fireplace damper; close fireplace screens.
10. Turn off air conditioning and/or heating.
11. Move flammable furniture from windows and doors to center of room.
12. Turn lights on in each room to increase visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
13. Pack enough clothes for at least three days.
14. Pack enough medication for at least three days.
15. Consider other personal/medical needs such as eyeglasses, hearing aids/hearing aid batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen.
16. Make plans to stay at a friend's house outside of fire area.
17. Let people know where you're going. Leave a note.



**Outside**

1. Back your car up, so it is facing the escape route. Leave the key in the ignition.
2. Pack "Disaster Emergency Box" in car.
3. Pack "Fire Box" in car.
4. Pack computer or external hard drive in car - no need for monitor; just the computer is important because information and pictures are on it.
5. Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seal.
6. Turn off propane tanks.
7. Place combustible patio furniture inside.
8. Connect garden hoses to outside taps.
9. Place lawn sprinklers on roof; wet roof.
10. Wet or remove shrubs and branches within 15 feet of house.
11. Remove all combustibles from around home.

**When told to evacuate: DO SO IMMEDIATELY!!!!**

1. Wear protective clothing, cotton or woolen.
2. Wear sturdy shoes.
3. Bring leather gloves.
4. Pack your pets in their pet carriers and put in vehicle.
5. Pack yourself, and other humans, in vehicle.
6. Follow directions of emergency personnel.
7. Get out NOW!



# Foothill Plant Selection List by Ray Griffith

**Key: ZONE:** mz=mountain zone above 3000', fz=foothill zone below 3000', vz=valley zone below 1500'

**FIRE:** 1= fire resistant, 10=very flammable **DROUGHT:** 1=drought tolerant, 10=needs moisture If characteristics are unknown, may be arbitrarily assigned a "5".

**DEER:** 1=deer resistant, 10=browsed hard **SHADE:** 1=shade tolerant, 10=full sun **WILDLIFE:** 1=high value, 10=low value

All plants will burn if dry/heated sufficiently in a fire situation. Spacing, height and mix of species important. Spring wildflowers may avoid fire by dormancy.

## NATIVE TREES

Name	Common Name	Zone	Fire	Drought	Deer	Shade	Wildlife	Comments
Abies concolor	White Fir	mz	10	3	3	2	3	Shade tolerant, flammable "ladder fuel", common w/fire suppression, seeds & hollow logs for wildlife
Acer macrophyllum	Big-leaf Maple	m&fz	1	7	8	3	2	Needs moist soil, browse, seeds, sap important to wildlife, top killed by fire, sprouts from roots
Aesculus californica	Ca. Buckeye	fz	4	3	4	7	4	Toxic but deer browsed, avoids drought by leaf loss, dry north slopes, fire killed top, sprout from roots
Alnus rhombifolia	White Alder	all	1	10	7	9	4	Imp.to birds, not deer, needs moisture, attractive tree, nitrogen fixing, deep green, leaves imp. to streams
Arbutus menziesii	Madrone	m&fz	2	3	6	3	2	Fruit for birds, poor browse, preferred for cavity nests, attractive leaves & bark, fire topkills, root sprout
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar	f&mz	1,10	3	2	2	3	Shade tolerant, young "ladder fuel", fire resistant mature, seeds insects & hollow logs for wildlife, timber tree
Cornus nuttallii	Dogwood	mz	2	8	4	2	3	Shade tolerant, ornamental, deer browse shoots, birds like fruit, often riparian, fire top kills, resprouts
Pinus lambertiana	Sugar Pine	mz	2	3	3	4	4	Huge, beautiful, valuable timber tree, birds like seeds, cavity nesting, tolerant of light shade, resists fire
Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa Pine	f&mz	2	2	2	9	3	Timber, mature fire resistant, plantations burn, seed cover snags down trees for wildlife, adaptable, sun
Pinus sabiniana	Grey Pine	fz	2	1	1	9	2	Drought tolerant, young fire killed, mature resistant, seeds valuable wildlife, rapid growth, serpentine soils
Populus fremontii	Cottonwood	v&fz	1	9	10	9	2	Large riparian, easily rooted & grown w/irrigation, rapid growth, messy, burns poorly, topkilled, resprouts
Populus tremuloides	Aspen	mz	1	9	10	9	2	Needs moist soil, browse, seeds, sap important to wildlife. Top killed by fire, sprouts from roots, attractive
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	mz	2	4	4	6	3	Timber, mature fire resistant, xmas tree, ornamental, seeds & cover for wildlife, endangered sp. in mature
Quercus sp.	California Oaks	Most common native tree below conifers, acorns valuable to wildlife, cover & browse varies, all tolerate fire, most topkilled, resprout						
Quercus chrysolepis	Canyon Live Oak	f&mz	3	2	3	3	3	Strong timber, fire sensitive, resprouts, wildlife cover & food, fair browse, young shade tolerant, firewood
Quercus douglasii	Blue Oak	fz	4	2	8	7	2	Fire sensitive, resprouts decline w/age, poor seedling recruitment, valuable wildlife, fair browse, drought
Quercus garryana	Oregon Oak	f&mz	3	3	6	3	8	Large or small tree, fire topkilled, resprout, useful timber, acorns important for wildlife
Quercus kelloggii	Black Oak	f&mz	3	3	9	4	2	Timber, firewood, fire sensitive & tolerant, resprouts, attractive and useful tree, valuable wildlife, browse
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak	v&fz	3	3	8	7	2	Mature fire tolerant, young resprout, drought tolerant, deep alluvial soils, beautiful large tree, poor seedling
Quercus wislizenii	Interior Live Oak	v&fz	4	2	4	4	3	Fire sensitive, resprouts decline w/age, drought tolerant, shrub or tree, wildlife cover, browse resistant
Salix sp.	Willows	all	1	10	10	8	1	Many species, all prefer moisture & sun, shrubs to trees, rarely burn, resprout, excellent for all wildlife
Sequoiadendron giganteum	Giant Sequoia	mz	1	5	4	8	4	Attractive tree, young topkilled, mature fire immune, moisture, established drought tolerant, wildlife cover
Taxus brevifolia	Pacific Yew	mz	6	7	9	10	2	Shady moist coniferous forest, fire sensitive, rarely burned, shade tolerant, good hedge,browse, wildlife
Umbellularia californica	Ca. Bay	f&mz	3	3	5	3	5	Attractive tree, rarely burns,fire topkills, resprouts, mature drought tolerant, shoots browsed, fair wildlife

## NATIVE SHRUBS

Adenostema fasciculatum	Chamise	fz	10	1	2	10	9	Fine branched resinous "fire-bomb", needs fire, clear far away, encourage other less flammable sp.
Arctostaphylos sp.	Manzanita	Many species, most fire adapted, reproduce from seed, resprout., drought tolerant, thin for safety, few tree-like, attractive bark, flowers, fruit						
Arctostaphylos manzanita	Common Manzanita	fz	8	1	1	9	3	Fire killed, seed stimulated, tree-like, common southern Sierra, poor browse, wildlife cover, fruit, flowers
Arctostaphylos patula	Green-leaf Manzanita	mz	8	2	2	8	3	Fire topkills, resprouts, poor browse, common high elevation shrub,cover flowers & fruit for wildlife
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry	fz	2	3	2	8	7	Fire resistant, topkills, resprouts, native to Sierras not local, many varieties,ground cover, + insects & cover
Arctostaphylos viscida	White-leaf Manzanita	fz	9	1	2	10	3	Fire killed, seed stimulated, most common low elevation, tree-like, poor browse, wildlife cover, fruit flowers
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Bush	fz	2	2	1	10	4	Fire resistant, top-kills, resprout, pioneer plant, tough, dwarf form groundcover, poor browse, + insects
Berberis sp.	Oregon Grape	f&mz	6	4	2	9	4	Fire topkills, resprout, attractive flowers, wildlife likes fruit, poor browse, likes some moisture
Calycanthus occidentalis	Ca. Spicebush	fz	2	10	2	2	6	Foothill riparian shrub, beautiful flowers, needs water, deer resistant, shade tolerant but slow
Ceanothus sp.	Ceanothus	Many species in Ca., valuable browse and for wildlife, fixes nitrogen, good cover, may be attractive or not, flower colors vary, many horticultural varieties						
Ceanothus cuneatus	Buckbrush	fz	7	1	10	10	2	Tough spiny chaparral shrub, fire topkills, seed regrowth, valuable wildlife browse, cover, not attractive
Ceanothus integerrimus	Deerbrush	mz	5	5	10	9	1	Fire killed, seed stimulated, valuable browse, pioneer plant, clear under conifers for fire ladder break
Ceanothus lemmonii	Lemmon's Ceanothus	f&mz	6	4	8	8	4	Attractive low shrub w/blue flowers, not large enough to be a fire problem, wildlife uses leaves, flowers
Cercis occidentalis	Ca. Redbud	fz	6	3	3	8	4	Beautiful in bloom, widespread, fire topkills, resprouts, fruit & flowers edible, some summer water
Chamaebatia foliolosa	Mt. Misery	mz	10	2	2	2	8	Resinous ground cover in conifers, burns easily, resprouts, carries ground fires, nitrogen fixer, ok browse.

# Foothill Plant Selection List by Ray Griffith

Name	Common Name	Zone	Fire	Drought	Deer	Shade	Wildlife	Comments
Corylus cornuta	Ca. Hazel	mz	3	6	5	2	3	Attractive shrub-sm.tree, fire topkills, resprouts, fair browse, moist soil, shade, wildlife use nuts, buds, flowers
Dendromecon rigida	Bush Poppy	fz	4	2	6	10	5	Beautiful flowers, needs excellent drainage, fire topkills, resprouts, tough shrub
Diplacus aurantiacus	Bush Monkeyflower	fz	5	3	2	3	3	Good bloom, fire frost topkill, resprout, tolerates dry, likes some shade, water, hummingbirds & insects like
Eriodictyon californica	Yerba Santa	fz	8	1	3	10	5	Attractive fls, lvs have aromatic compounds useful for sore throats, lvs flammable, fire topkills
Fremontodendron calif.	Flannel Bush	fz	7	3	7	9	4	Pretty yellow fls, fire topkills, rapid resprouts, deer browse young lvs, fire adapted
Garrya sp.	Silktassel Bush	f&mz	3	4	7	3	3	Attractive tasseled fls, several spp, fire topkills, resprout, deer browse, fruit birds & mammals, shade ok
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	fz	3	2	3	8	3	Dark green lvs, red berries for birds & mammals, fire topkill, resprout, somewhat fire resistant
Lupinus sp.	Bush Lupine	fz	2	4	2	9	7	Fls purple, white or yellow, nitrogen fixer, poor browse, insects like fls., grows in poor soil
Prunus virginiana	Chokecherry	mz	2	5	3	6	2	Attractive fls, lvs & fruit important to wildlife, needs some moisture, fire topkills, resprouts
Rhamnus californica	Coffeeberry	f&mz	3	3	8	3	3	Tough grey shrub, fruit important to wildlife, deer browse in winter, tolerates shade
Rhamnus crocea	Redberry	fz	5	1	2	6	3	Small, tough chaparral shrub, looks like tiny oak w/red berries, resprouts from burn, berries imp.for birds
Rhus trilobata	Lemonadeberry	fz	5	3	4	5	3	Attractive mid-elevation shrub, tart berries used for drink, can be pruned, tolerates dry or semi-moist
Ribes sp.	Gooseberry	mz	5	4	3	3	2	Several spp, spiny, attractive sm.shrubs, pretty flowers, browsed some, fruit for birds, below conifers
Rosa californica, sp.	Ca Rose	fz	2	8	9	3	3	Large moist meadow shrub, large pink fls, red fruits, browsed hard, thorns, smaller spp.below conifers
Rubus parviflora	Thimbleberry	mz	2	7	3	2	3	Low dense shrubby, attractive, shade tolerant, excludes other shrubs, fruit for birds, fire resprouts
Salvia sp.	Sages	fz	5	5	2	7	5	Many spp., poor browse, seeds for wildlife, resprouts following light fires, fls.for insects
Sambucus mexicana	Elderberry	fz	4	6	3	8	2	Edible berry, fair browse, fire cracks seeds, resprouts readily, fruit, fls are valuable for wildlife
Styrax officinalis	Styrax	fz	4	3	5	8	5	Med. size shrub, attractive fragrant white flowers, rocky canyon slopes, tolerates drought w/drainage
Symphocarpus rivularis	Snowberry	f&mz	4	3	3	3	7	Several spp, creeping or low shrub, white berries, below conifers or riparian, fire resprout, fair wildlife
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison Oak	fz	9	4	6	2	3	Shrub or vine, fire topkills, resprouts, smoke toxic, dangerous ladder fuel, deer browse, fruit for birds

## NATIVE VINES, HERBS AND GRASSES

Achnatherum sp.	Needlegrass	f&mz	8	2	2	8	4	Several drought tolerant native bunch grasses, attractive seed stalks
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	f&mz	1	3	1	9	7	Low growing, attractive fls, poor browse, ignition resistant, pioneer sp.
Allium sp.	Wild Onion	all	2	3	4	8	5	Many species, most uncommon, attractive fls, usually pink, onion smell, early spring wildflower
Apocynum sp	Indian Hemp	fz	2	6	1	2	6	2 spp., Hemp green in moist areas, Dogbane low, pink fls.below conifers, both toxic to deer, fiber plant
Aquilegia formosa	Columbine	f&mz	2	8	1	4	3	Beautiful red fls.,likes moisture, not browsed, hummingbird plant
Aristolochia californica	Dutchman Pipevine	fz	2	8	2	2	3	Beautiful vine, unique fls, likes moist soil below oaks, riparian, host of Pipevine Swallowtail rare butterfly
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	fz	2	7	2	3	8	Low growing, dense stand in moist soil, aromatic, not browsed, binds soils
Asarum sp.	Wild Ginger	mz	2	7	2	1	8	Attractive deep green ground cover in moist areas below conifers, fire sensitive, aromatic root
Asclepias sp.	Milkweed	f&mz	2	5	1	7	3	Several spp., some fls. quite ornamental, bitter toxic sap, host for Monarch butterfly
Aster sp.	Aster	f&mz	3	5	4	3	3	Several spp. pale to deep purple w/yellow center, open forests, light shade
Brodiaea sp.	Brodiaea spp.	all	2	3	6	4	4	Many spp., Brodiaea, Dichlostemma, Tritelia. Blue, purple, also white, yellow spring fls., grass-like leaves
Calochortus sp.	Mariposa Lilies	v&fz	2	3	9	8	4	Many spp., perennial bulbs, beautiful fls, cream, yellow w/magenta, everything eats it
Carex sp.	Sedges	all	1	9	4	3	6	Sedges grass-like except triangular stems, many spp. most like wet soil, incredible erosion control, tough
Chlorogalum pomeridianum	Soaproot	f&mz	1	4	7	4	3	Bulb used for soap, tolerates fire, deer eat fl spike, bees use summer fls, attractive white fls.
Chrysothamnus sp.	Rabbitbrush	mz	6	3	2	8	2	Not attractive, shrubby plant w/yellow fls, very imp. to butterflies and other insects
Cirsium protanum	Ca. Thistle	v&fz	3	3	1	8	2	Several sp. of native thistles, some red fls, very attractive to butterflies, hummingbirds.
Clarkia sp.	Clarkia species	f&mz	2	3	3	4	5	Many spp., beautiful late spring pink/purple fls, plants spindly, some like dry,sun others moist,shade
Clematis lasiantha	Foothill Clematis	fz	4	3	2	3	3	Drought tolerant, climb up on shrubs/trees, attractive fls, interesting fruit,
Collinsia heterophylla	Chinese Houses	fz	3	6	3	4	4	Beautiful native wildflower on shady banks, N slopes, purple/white fls, bee forage
Danthonia californica	Ca. Oatgrass	f&mz	3	8	7	8	2	Native, low-growing meadow grass, very palatable to livestock, birds like seed heads
Dicentra formosa	Bleeding Heart	f&mz	2	8	1	1	7	Beautiful pink fls, found in shady, moist woods, likes deep shade in warm areas(N side of house)
Dodecatheon sp.	Shooting Star	f&mz	3	3	5	2	5	Beautiful magenta early spring fls., low elev. under oaks, high elev. in meadows
Epilobium (Zauschneria)	Ca. Fuschia	f&mz	2	5	2	4	2	Tough perennial plant, bright red "Hummingbird" fls. tolerates mowing, light green lvs, wiry plant
Epilobium angustifolium	Fireweed	mz	3	8	4	4	5	Bright purple fls. invades high elev. meadows, esp. after fires. Likes moist, open areas

## Foothill Plant Selection List by Ray Griffith

<i>Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Fire</i>	<i>Drought</i>	<i>Deer</i>	<i>Shade</i>	<i>Wildlife</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Epilobium sp.	Farewell to spring	all	3	3	5	8	3	Late spring wildflowers, pink/purple, large fls, small plants, many species
Equisetum sp.	Scouring Rush	f&mz	1	9	1	3	9	Primitive, coarse stemmed "Horsetail" grows in water, inedible, high silica stems used to scour pots
Eschscholzia californica	Ca. Poppy	all	2	2	2	9	5	Yellow or orange spring perennial flower tolerates awful soil, needs good drainage, pollen for bees etc.
Festuca californica	Ca. Fescue	fz	4	3	7	3	5	One of several native fescues, tolerates serpentine soils, shade under shrubs and trees
Frageria sp.	Wild Strawberry	f&mz	3	8	5	1	5	Native strawberry lives under conifers in moist areas, tolerates dense shade
Grindelia sp.	Gum Plant	v&fz	3	2	2	10	3	Late summer bright yellow blooms provide nectar, seem to slow grass fires. Gummy leaves
Heucheria sp.	Alum Root	f&mz	3	7	3	2	3	Many spp, often grow in shade, rocks, moist areas, usually white or pink airy stalks of flowers
Hoita (Psoralea) sp.	Scurf Pea	f&mz	3	8	1	4	4	Herbaceous perennials (3 spp), like giant clover, creeping or tall, dies to ground, purple flowers
Horklia sp.	Horklia	v&fz	2	3	5	7	5	Small, leafy ground cover, sm. white fls. in the spring, under manzanita or oaks
Iris sp.	Wild Iris	f&mz	3	3	1	3	5	Many spp, often purple, some yellow or cream, most drought tolerant, some like wet areas, easy to grow
Juncus sp.	Rushes	all	1	9	3	4	6	Many spp, "grass-like" round lvs, wetland/meadow plants, erosion control, some bunches others creeping
Linium sp.	Flax	v&fz	3	3	5	4	3	Small, bright blue spring wildflowers that survive among grasses
Lonicera hispidula	Honeysuckle	fz	3	2	2	2	4	Shade tolerant vine, few attractive pink fls, chaparral sp. w/yellow fls, nectar for insects, fruit for birds
Lupinus sp.	Annual Lupine	v&fz	3	3	1	8	4	Purple wildflower, many spp., prefers gravelly dry soils w/little nutrient value
Melica californica	Ca. Oniongrass	f&mz	3	3	4	2	4	Several spp., native perennial bunch grass, often grazed out on rangeland, tolerate shade
Mimulus sp.	Monkeyflowers	all	2	8	5	5	4	Many spp., often yellow or purple, some tiny, annual or perennial, some in springs/seeps, others in dry
Monardella sp.	Coyote Mint	f&mz	3	3	1	6	3	Low growing mint, white/pink/purple fls, some shade, butterfly plant, rock gardens
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deergrass	v&fz	4	6	2	4	5	Striking native bunch grass, likes wet but tolerates drought, easily grown, very useful
Nasella sp.	Needlegrass	f&mz	8	2	2	8	4	Several drought tolerant native bunch grasses, formerly common, attractive seed stalks
Nemophilla sp.	Baby-blue-eyes	v&fz	3	4	3	7	5	Sky blue wildflower, related Five Spot likes moisture, has white fls w/purple spots
Oenothera sp.	Evening Primrose	f&mz	4	3	3	3	3	Many spp, usually early summer pink/purple wildflowers, spindly plants, large fls, dry shady - sunny banks
Penstemon sp.	Penstemon	f&mz	3	3	2	4	3	Many spp, low perennials, usually purple or red fls, dry banks, attractive to bees and/or hummingbirds
Poa secunda	Pine Bluegrass	v&fz	4	3	5	2	5	Sm native bunchgrass, hills or banks, w/trees or not, may be grazed out, dark green, dormant early summer
Potentilla glandulosa	Cinquefoil	f&mz	3	5	6	6	6	Perennial, yellow fl, lvs like strawberry, tolerates dry, often in open forested areas
Ranunculus sp.	Buttercup	fz	3	3	4	3	4	Bright yellow fls in meadow areas that dry in summer, part shade, open woodlands
Sedum sp.	Stonecrop	f&mz	2	1	3	10	5	Fleshy perennial in rocky cliffs, often reddish lvs, yellow flowers
Sidalcea sp.	Checker Mallow	f&mz	3	4	7	3	3	Many spp, stalk of pink/purple "Hollyhock" fls from small clump of rounded lvs. Open forests, light shade
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed Grass	fz	3	6	7	5	4	Grass-like lvs, pretty blue fls w/yellow centers, found in water and on dry slopes, other sp is yellow
Solanum xantii	Blue Witch	fz	3	3	1	4	4	Herbaceous perennial, electric blue/purple fl w/yellow center, in oak woodlands/brush
Solidago californica	Goldenrod	fz	3	4	2	3	2	Low perennial, bright yellow fl in late summer when all is brown, imp. insect fl., inhibits weeds
Vitis californica	Ca Grape	fz	2	8	3	3	2	Grape vine found in riparian areas, yellow fall lvs, fruit very imp. to mammals, birds
Wyethia sp.	Mules Ears	f&mz	3	3	3	7	3	Low perennial, several spp, long fuzzy lvs, yellow sunflower-like fls, seeds, fls. imp. to wildlife