# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
# ACCEPTABLE PLANTS FOR SURVIVABLE SPACE ZONES IN FIRE PRONE AREAS
**(Wildland/Urban Interface/Intermix Areas)**

**ALL PLANTS ON THE FOLLOWING LIST** are considered to be drought-tolerant in the particular climate zone noted. Those that grow best in riparian areas, as indicated by the (R), are the least drought-tolerant plants on the list.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** When planting, it is necessary to water deeply to encourage the plant roots to seek natural moisture in the soil. This watering should continue for at least three years to allow the plants to naturalize. More water should be provided in summer and less (if any) in the winter. These plants should be weaned off the supplemental irrigation and become less dependent on it over the establishment period.

No plant is totally fire resistant. The plants listed were chosen to due to their high water content, minimum amount of flammable resins and/or low fuel volume.

**Definitions:**

**Survivable Space:** The area around a structure, where material capable of causing fire has been cleared, reduced or changed, to act as a barrier between an advancing fire and the structure.

**Drought-Tolerant Plant Materials:** Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and other vegetation capable of sustained growth and reproduction with only natural moisture. Occasional supplemental irrigation is necessary only in extreme drought situations.

**Establishment Period:** The time it takes for a plant to become drought-resistant. This is usually a period of three years and is the time when supplemental irrigation is necessary.

**Native or Naturalizing Plant Species:** Plant species native to the region or introduced, which, once established, are capable of sustaining growth and reproduction under local climatic conditions without supplemental irrigation.

**San Diego County Climate Zone Key:**

**C** - Coast
**D** – Desert
**I**. -. Inland
**M** - Mountain
(**R**) – Riparian - is often used to refer to the vegetation at the sides of a river or creek.

# Appendix A

## "*FIREWISE*"
## Landscape Planting Considerations, Acceptable Plant Lists

# SUGGESTED PLANT LIST FOR A DEFENSIBLE SPACE

| BOTANICAL NAME | COMMON NAME | Climate Zone |
|---|---|---|
| **TREES** | | |
| Acer | | |
| platanoides | Norway Maple | M |
| rubrum | Red Maple | M |
| saccharinum | Silver Maple | M |
| saccarum | Sugar Maple | M |
| macrophyllum | Big Leaf Maple | C/ (R) |
| Alnus rhombifolia | White Alder | C/I/M (R) |
| Arbutus | | |
| unedo | Strawberry Tree | All zones |
| Archontophoenix | | |
| cunninghamiana | King Palm | C |
| Arctostaphylos spp.** | Manzanita | C/I/D |
| Brahea | | |
| armata | Blue Hesper Palm | C/D |
| edulis | Guadalupe Palm | C/D |
| Ceratonia siliqua | Carob | C/I/D |
| Cerdidium floridum | Blue Palo Verde | D |
| Cercis occidentalis** | Western Redbud | C/I/M |
| Cornus | | |
| nuttallii | Mountain Dogwood | I/M |
| stolonifera | Redtwig Dogwood | I/M |
| Eriobotrya | | C/I/D |
| japonica | Loquat | C |
| Erythrina caffra | Kaffirboom Coral Tree | I/M |
| Gingko biloba "Fairmount" | Fairmount Maidenhair Tree | I/D/M |
| Gleditisia triacanthos | Honey Locust | |
| Juglans | | I |
| californica | California Walnut | C/I |
| hindsii | California Black Walnut | I/D/M |
| Lagerstroemia indica | Crape Myrtle | I |
| Ligustrum lucidum | Glossy Privet | C/I/M |
| Liquidambar styraciflua | Sweet Gum | I |
| Liriodendron tulipifera | Tulip Tree | |
| Lyonothamnus floribundus | | C |
| ssp. Asplenifolius | Fernleaf Catalina Ironwood | C/I/D |
| Melaleuca spp. | Melaleuca | C/I |
| Parkinsonia aculeate | Mexican Palo Verde | |
| Pistacia | Chinese Pistache | |
| chinensis | Pistachio Nut | C/I/D |

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|---|---|---|
| vera | Pistachio Nut | I |
| Pittosporum | | |
| phillyraeoides | Willow Pittosporum | C/I/D |
| viridiflorum | Cape Pittosporum | C/I |
| Platanus | | |
| acerifolia | London Plane Tree | All zones |
| racemosa** | California Sycamore | C/I/M |
| Populus | | |
| alba | White Poplar | D/M |
| fremontii** | Western Cottonwood | I |
| trichocarpa | Black Cottonwood | I/M |
| Prunus | | |
| xblireiana | Flowering Plum | M |
| caroliniana | Carolina Laurel Cherry | C |
| ilicifolia** | Hollyleaf Cherry | C |
| lyonii** | Catalina Cherry | C |
| serrulata ‘Kwanzan’ | Flowering Cherry | M |
| yedoensis ‘Akebono’ | Akebono Flowering Cherry | M |
| Quercus | | |
| agrifolia** | Coast Live Oak | C/I |
| engelmannii | Engelmann Oak | I |
| ** suber | Cork Oak | C/I/D |
| Rhus | | |
| lancea** | African Sumac | C/I/D |
| Salix spp.** | Willow | All zones (R) |
| Tristania conferta | Brisbane Box | C/I |
| Ulmus | | |
| parvifolia | Chinese Elm | I/D |
| pumila | Siberian Elm | C/M |
| Umbellularia californica** | California Bay Laurel | C/I |

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| **SHRUBS** | | |
| Agave | Century Plant | D |
| americana | Century Plant | D |
| deserti | Shawis Century Plant | D |
| shawi** | | |
| Amorpha fruticosa** | False Indigobush | I |
| Arbutus | | |
| menziesii** | Madrone | C/I |
| Arctostaphylos spp.** | Manzanita | C/I/D |
| Atriplex** | | |
| canescens | Hoary Saltbush | I |
| lentiformis | Quail Saltbush | D |
| Baccharis** | | |
| glutinosa | Mule Fat | C/I |
| pilularis | Coyote Bush | C/I/D |
| Carissa grandiflora | Natal Plum | C/I |
| Ceanothus spp.** | California Lilac | C/I/M |
| Cistus spp. | Rockrose | C/I/D |
| Cneoridium dumosum** | Bushrue | C |
| Comarostaphylis** | | |
| diversifolia | Summer Holly | C |
| Convolvulus cneorum | Bush Morning Glory | C/I/M |
| Dalea | | |
| orcuttii | Orcutt's Delea | D |
| spinosa** | Smoke Tree | I/D |
| Elaeagnus | | |
| pungens | Silverberry | C/I/M |
| Encelia** | | |
| californica | Coast Sunflower | C/I |
| farinose | White Brittlebush | D/I |
| Eriobotrya | | |
| deflexa | Bronze Loquat | C/I |
| Eriophyllum | | |
| confertiflorum** | Golden Yarrow | C/I |
| staechadifolium | Lizard Tail | C |
| Escallonia spp. | Escallonia | C/I |
| Feijoa sellowiana | Pineapple Guava | C/I/D |
| Fouqueria splendens | Ocotillo | D |
| Fremontodendron** | | |
| californicum | Flannelbush | I/M |
| mexicanum | Southern Flannelbush | I |
| Galvezia | | |
| juncea | Baja Bush-Snapdragon | C |
| speciosa | Island Bush-Snapdragon | C |
| Garrya | | |
| elliptica | Coast Silktassel | C/I |
| flavescens** | Ashy Silktassel | I/M |

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| Heteromeles arbutifolia** | Ashy Silktassel | I/M |
| Lantana spp. | Toyon | C/I/M |
| Lotus scoparius | Lantana | C/I/D |
| Mahonia spp. | Deerweed | C/I |
| | Barberry | C/I/M |
| Malacothamnus | | |
| clementinus | | |
| | San Clemente Island Bush Mallow | C |
| fasciculatus** | | |
| | Mesa Bushmallow | C/I |
| Melaleuca spp. | | |
| Mimulus spp.** | Melaleuca | C/I/D |
| Nolina | Monkeyflower | C/I (R) |
| parryi | | |
| parryi ssp. wolfii | Parry's Nolina | I |
| Photinia spp. | Wolf's Bear Grass | D |
| Pittosporum | Photinia | All Zones |
| crassifolium | | |
| rhombifolium | | CI/I |
| tobira 'Wheeleri' | Queensland Pittosporum | C/I |
| undulatum | Wheeler's Dwarf | C/I/D |
| viridiflorum | Victorian Box | C/I |
| Plumbago auriculata | Cape Pittosporum | C/I |
| Prunus | Cape Plumbago | C/I/D |
| caroliniana | | |
| ilicifolia** | Carolina Laurel Cherry | C |
| lyonii** | Hollyleaf Cherry | C |
| Puncia granatum | Catalina Cherry | C |
| Pyracantha spp. | Pomegranate | C/I/D |
| Quercus | Firethorn | All Zones |
| dumosa** | | |
| Rhamus | Scrub Oak | C/I |
| alaternus | | |
| californica** | Italian Blackthorn | C/I |
| Rhaphiolepis spp. | Coffeeberry | C/I/M |
| Rhus | Rhaphiolepis | C/I/D |
| integrifolia** | | |
| laurina | Lemonade Berry | C/I |
| lentii | Laurel Sumac | C/I |
| ovata** | Pink-Flowering Sumac | C/D |
| trilobata** | Sugarbush | I/M |
| Ribes | squawbush | I |
| viburnifolium | | |
| speciosum** | Evergreen Currant | C/I |
| Romneya coulteri | Fuschia-Flowering Gooseberry | C/I/D |
| Rosa | Matilija Poppy | I |
| californica** | | |
| minutifolia | | |

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| Salvia spp.** | California Wild Rose | C/I |
| Sambucus spp.** | Baja California Wild Rose | C/I |
| Symphoricarpos mollis** | Sage | All Zones |
| Syringa vulgaris | Elderberry | C/I/M |
| Tecomaria capensis | Creeping Snowberry | C/I |
| Teucrium fruticans | Lilac | M |
| Toxicodendron** | Cape Honeysuckle | C/I/D |
| diversilobum | Bush Germander | C/I |
| Verbena | | |
| lilacina | Poison Oak | I/M |
| Xylosma congestum | | |
| Yucca** | Lilac Verbena | C |
| schidigera | Shiny Xylosma | C/I |
| whipplei | | |
| | Mojave Yucca | D |
| | Foothill Yucca | I |

| GROUNDCOVERS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Achillea** | Yarrow | All Zones |
| Aptenia cordifolia | Apteria | C |
| Arctostaphylos spp.** | Manzanita | C/I/D |
| Baccharis** | | |
| pilularis | Coyote Bush | C/I/D |
| Ceanothus spp.** | California Lilac | C/I/M |
| Cerastium tomentosum | Snow-in-Summer | All Zones |
| Coprosma kirkii | Creeping Coprosma | C/I/D |
| Cotoneaster spp. | Redberry | All Zones |
| Drosanthemum hispidum | Rosea Ice Plant | C/I |
| Dudleya | | |
| brittonii | Brittonis Chalk Dudleya | C |
| pulverulenta** | Chalk Dudleya | C/I |
| virens | Island Live Fore-ever | C |
| Eschscholzia californica** | California Poppy | All Zones |
| Euonymus fortunei | | |
| ‘Carrierei’ | Glossy Winter Creeper | M |
| ‘Coloratus’ | Purple-Leaf Winter Creeper | M |
| Ferocactus viridescens** | Coast Barrel Cactus | C |
| Gaillardia grandiflora | Blanket Flower | All Zones |
| Gazania spp. | Gazania | C/I |
| Helianthemum spp.** | Sunrose | All Zones |
| Lantana spp. | Lantana | C/I/D |
| Lasthenia | | |
| californica** | Common Goldfields | I |
| glabrata | Coastal Goldfields | C |
| Lupinus spp.** | Lupine | C/I/M |
| Myoporum spp. | Myoporum | C/I |
| Pyracantha spp. | Firethorn | All zones |
| Rosmarinus officinalis | Rosemary | C/I/D |
| Santolina | | |
| chamaecyparissus | Lavender Cotton | All Zones |
| virens | Santolina | All Zones |
| Trifolium frageriferum | O’Connor’s Legume | C/I |
| Verbena | | |
| rigida | Verbena | All Zones |
| Viguiera laciniata** | San Diego Sunflower | C/I |
| Vinca | | |
| minor | Dwarf  Periwinkle | M |

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| **VINES** | | |
| Antigonon leptopus | San Miguel Coral Vine | C/I |
| Distictis buccinatoria | Blood-Red Trumpet Vine | C/I/D |
| Keckiella cordifolia** | Heart-Leaved Penstemon | C/I |
| Lonicera | | |
| japonica 'Halliana' | Hall's Honeysuckle | All Zones |
| subspicata** | Chaparral Honeysuckle | C/I |
| Solanum | | |
| jasminoides | Potato Vine | C/I/D |

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| **PERENNIALS** | | |
| Coreopsis | | |
| gigantean | Giant Coreopsis | C |
| grandiflora | Coreopsis | All Zones |
| maritime | Sea Dahlia | C |
| verticillata | Coreopsis | C/I |
| Heuchera maxima | Island Coral Bells | C/I |
| Iris douglasiana** | Douglas Iris | C/M |
| Iva hayesiana** | Poverty Weed | C/I |
| Kniphofia uvaria | Red-Hot Poker | C/M |
| Lavandula spp. | Lavender | All Zones |
| Limonium californicum | | |
| var. mexicanum | Coastal Statice | C |
| perezii | Sea Lavender | C/I |
| Oenothera spp. | Primrose | C/I/M |
| Penstemon spp.** | Penstemon | C/I/D |
| Satureja douglasii | Yerba Buena | C/I |
| Sisyrinchium | | |
| bellum | Blue-Eyed Grass | C/I |
| californicum | Golden-Eyed Grass | C |
| Solanum | | |
| xantii | Purple Nightshade | C/I |
| Zauschneria** | | |
| californica | California Fuschia | C/I |
| cana | Hoary California Fuschia | C/I |
| 'Catalina' | Catalina Fuschia | C/I |

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| **ANNUALS** | | |
| Lupinus spp.** | Lupine | C/I/M |