

Local Native Plants for Fire Smart Gardens in S.F. Bay Area



Trees

Botanical name	Common name	Light exposure	Drought tolerance	Maintenance
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Big-leaf maple	Shade	low	remove lower limbs
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	California buckeye	Shade- sun	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Ceanothus oliganthus</i>	Jim brush	Sun	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Ceanothus thrysiflorus</i>	Blue blossom	Shade	medium	remove lower limbs
<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	California hazel	Shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Morella californica</i>	Wax myrtle	Shade	low inland, high coastal	remove lower limbs
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	Sun- part shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	Canyon live oak	Sun- shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	California black oak	Part shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley oak	Sun- part shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Quercus parvula</i> var. <i>shrevei</i>	Shreve oak	Part shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	Interior live oak	Part shade	high	remove lower limbs
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Coast redwood	Part shade	medium	remove lower limbs, this tree needs mild cool weather

Shrubs

Botanical name	Common name	Light exposure	Drought tolerance	Maintenance
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud	Sun	High	prune to shape as desired
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	Mountain mahogany	Sun	high	minimal
<i>Diplicus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky monkey flower	Sun	high	cut back after flowering
<i>Eriophyllum staechadifolium</i>	Seaside woolly sunflower	Sun	high	cut back every few yrs
<i>Frangula californica</i>	California coffeeberry	Sun- shade	high	minimal
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Silk tassel	Sun	high	coppice to make bushy, prune for tree form
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Sun- shade	high	minimal
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>	Osoberry	Shade- part shade	high	minimal
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	Spiny redberry	Sun	high	prune as needed
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden currant	Sun- part shade	medium	cut back as needed
<i>Ribes californicum</i>	Hillside gooseberry	Sun- shade	high	prune as needed
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Chaparral currant	Sun	high	prune as needed
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Red-flowering currant	Shade	high	prune as needed
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry	Sun	high	prune as needed
<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i>	Wood rose	Shade	high	minimal
<i>Solanum umbelliferum</i>	Bluewitch	Sun- part shade	high	Prune as needed
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Snowberry	Shade	high	cut back every few yrs

Vaccinium ovatum	California huckleberry	Shade	medium	prune to shape as desired
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Low Growing Perennials:

Botanical name	Common name	Light exposure	Drought tolerance	Maintenance
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Sun	high	mow after seeding (usually summer-fall)
Aquilegia formosa	Western columbine	Shade	high	minimal maintenance
Anisocarpus madioides	Woodland madia	Shade- part shade	high	minimal maintenance
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bear-berry	sun	high	minimal maintenance
Arctostaphylos edmundsii	Little sur manzanita	Sun	high	shape as needed
Asarum caudatum	Wild ginger	Shade	low	minimal maintenance
Asclepias fascicularis	Narrow-leaf milkweed	Sun	low	cut back in November
Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Pt.'	Dwarf coyote brush	Sun	high	Prune to shape as needed
Carex praegracilis	Clustered field sedge	Sun- shade	medium	cut back in November
Carex tumulicola	Foothill sedge	Shade- part shade	medium	cut back in November
Clinopodium douglasii	Yerba buena	Shade	medium	minimal maintenance
Cynoglossum grande	Grand hound's tongue	Shade	high	minimal maintenance
Dicentra formosa	Pacific bleeding heart	Shade	medium	minimal maintenance
Dryopteris arguta	California wood fern	Shade	high	minimal maintenance
Elymus triticoides	Creeping wild rye	Sun- part shade	medium	mow as needed
Epilobium canum	California fuchsia	Sun	high	cut back in November
Eriogonum latifolium	Seaside buckwheat	Sun	high	dead head after seeding
Eriogonum nudum	Naked buckwheat	Shade	high	dead head after seeding
Eriophyllum confertiflorum	Golden-yarrow	Sun	high	cut back in November
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy	Sun	high	mow after seeding
Festuca californica	California fescue	Shade- part shade	high	cut back in November
Fragaria chiloensis	Beach strawberry	Shade or sun	medium	minimal maintenance
Fragaria vesca	Wood strawberry	Shade	medium	minimal maintenance
Grindelia hirsutula	Hairy gumplant	Sun	high	mow after seeding
Heuchera micrantha	Alum root	Shade	medium	dead head after seeding
Iris douglasiana	Douglas iris	Shade	high	remove dead leaves in winter
Iris fernaldii	Fernald's iris	Shade- sun	high	remove dead leaves in winter
Juncus patens	Common rush	Shade- sun	high	minimal maintenance
Melica geyeri	Geyer's oniongrass	Sun- shade	high	minimal maintenance
Melica imperfecta	Little California melica	Part shade	high	minimal maintenance
Melica torreyana	Torrey's melicgrass	Shade- part shade	high	minimal maintenance
Phacelia imbricata	Imbricate phacelia	Sun	high	dead head after seeding
Polystichum munitum	Western sword fern	Shade	medium	remove dead fronds in winter

Salvia sonomensis	Creeping sage	Sun	high	minimal maintenance, trim as needed
Solidago velutina ssp. californica	California goldenrod	Sun	high	mow after seeding (usually summer-fall)
Stipa lepida	Foothill needle grass	Sun- part shade	high	mow after seeding (usually summer-fall)
Stipa pulchra	Purple needle grass	Sun	high	mow after seeding (usually summer-fall)
Symphoricarpos mollis	Creeping snowberry	Shade	high	minimal maintenance
Symphotrichum chilense	California aster	Sun	high	mow after seeding (usually summer-fall)
Verbena lasiostachys	Western vervain	Sun	high	mow after seeding (usually summer-fall)
Whipplea modesta	Yerba de selva	Shade	high	minimal maintenance

Sources for this list include:

Fire Safe Marin. 2019. Fire-Resistant Plants Common to Marin County, CA.

https://www.firesafemarin.org/images/articles/plants/FIRESafe-MARIN_plant-list_2019.pdf

→ This list includes some differences from mine, but still has many useful ideas

Fire Safe San Mateo County. 2019. Fire Resistant Plant List.

<https://firesafesmateo.org/resources/defensible-space/fire-resistant-plant-list>

→ This is a list of California native fire-resistant plants, suggested by San Mateo Co.

Note that some species are native to southern CA, but it is a great list

Simes, Rhianna. 2012. Fire Resistant Shrubs and Trees for Privacy in Southern Oregon. Oregon State University Extension.

<https://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Fire-Resistant%20Shrubs%20and%20Trees.%20for%20Privacy.pdf>

→ This list is primarily ornamental species but had a few useful native species that are fire resistant

Wilson, Bert. 2014. Leaf Burn Times of California native plants (& Several Non-Native Plants). Las Pilitas Nursery.

https://www.laspilitas.com/classes/fire_burn_times.html

→ This has super interesting results from testing how different native plant leaves burn

For additional questions please contact our Nursery Manager Nikki Hanson

nikki@grassrootsecology.org