Town of Los Altos Hills
Landscaping Guide

Environmental Design and Protection Committee

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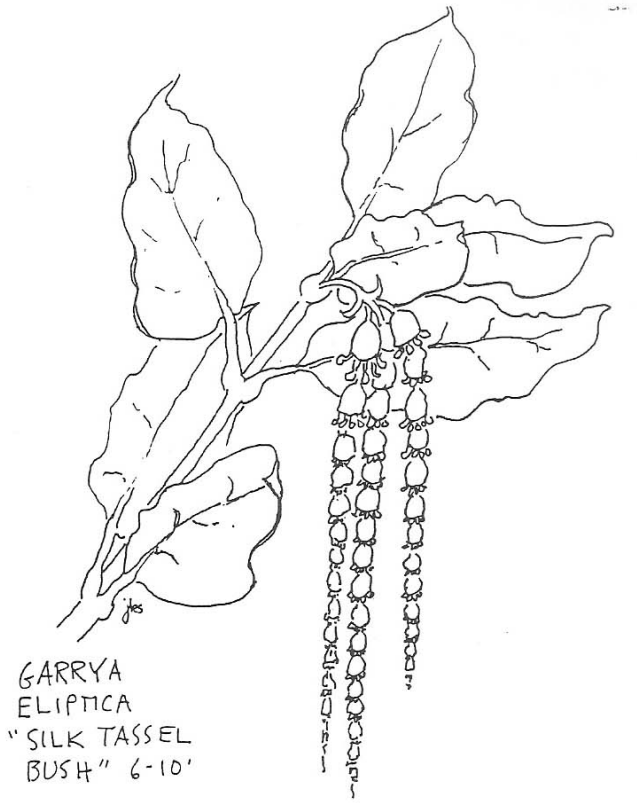


OVERVIEW OF LANDSCAPING RECOMMENDATIONS

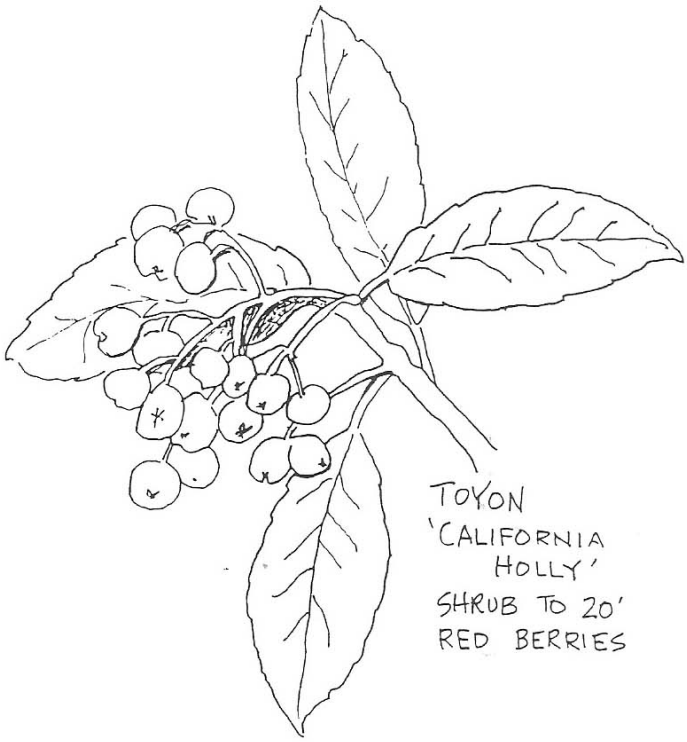
- Minimize the visual impact of housing structures with plantings which blend with the natural environment.
- Use native, drought-tolerant plants.
- Avoid planting trees which will grow to block neighbors' views, interfere with utility lines or become less effective in screening.
- Minimize or eliminate lawn area; do not use artificial turf
- Choose plants appropriate to the topography and adapted to our Sunset Climate Zone 16.
- Protect native oak trees in construction and landscaping; hand-dig trenches within the dripline (canopy) of native oaks.
- Do not irrigate or place cobblestones under oaks.
- Choose plants that are compatible with oaks when planting within oak canopy(ies).
- Preserve riparian habitat and vegetation, e.g., willows.
- Control erosion by minimizing hardscape and using plants which can stabilize steep slopes.
- Reduce fire danger by creating a defensible space and managing vegetation.
- Do not use invasive plants; avoid poisonous ones.
- Consider using deer-resistant plants, or create local deer fencing.
- Fences should be minimized to allow the free movement of wildlife.
- Maintain plantings by pruning and trimming where necessary to keep them healthy.
- Control weeds, especially in disturbed areas, when they first appear and before flowering and seeding, e.g., stinkwort and Italian Thistle.

IMPORTANCE OF LANDSCAPING GOALS

Many factors go into designing a landscape for a residence in a community like ours. The Town of Los Altos Hills remains one of the open country areas left in the congested, expanding cities of the Bay Area. A great number of our homes border on the natural, undeveloped areas that provide a visual backdrop for much of the San Francisco Peninsula. Our goal in landscaping is to minimize the visual impact of the housing structures with plantings that blend with the natural beauty of our native surroundings.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

At the time of new construction, owners are required to submit to the Town a plan for managing erosion on slopes and for mitigating the impact or view of new structures from off-site. The purpose is to keep the Town looking rural, to preserve the soil and to retain the original contours as much as possible. Future plantings and changes should continue with the same goals. The General Plan calls for landscaping to create maximum compatibility of development with the natural environment. As a general guideline, the Town recommends informal plantings. To achieve this, plant in random or staggered groups of a variety of species rather than formal rows of hedges. This method will avoid future difficulties in replacement if and when plants are killed by gophers or other problems. Frequently plantings are used to conceal the view of a structure, provide privacy, manage erosion or mitigate wind or noise. Trees are often the first thought but remember trees grow tall and wide. The bottom branches die out and what was meant to be hidden will become visible again. Additionally, your tree may now block your neighbor's view or sunlight or interfere with utility lines, while it no longer serves your original purpose. Shrubs may be a better answer. Most evergreen (non-deciduous) shrubs will top out below 20 feet and continue for years to give privacy clear to the soil level. When selecting trees that bear fruit, remember that the fruit must be harvested to prevent it collecting on the ground and attracting rodents. Trees and large shrubs should not be planted next to property lines or pathways where they will grow to infringe on them. Pathways should be kept free from plantings within 3'-5'.



Other design considerations are the water needs of the plants you select. Grouping plants according to their water needs will improve their success. Water saving is be a big item of consideration as the State's population increases in the future, and climate change can exacerbate droughts. Water supplies are finite and we will all be required to minimize our use of landscape water. See the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance for details of calculating your irrigation budget. Lawns are the biggest users of water and fertilizer, so try to have only the amount of lawn you really need for your family use and use drought tolerant plants elsewhere. Consider many of the low water lawn alternatives. Some of the easiest drought tolerant plants are the ones that evolved here naturally. These are our own native plants, many of which are available at local nurseries. (See Table 1: Native Plants)

Vineyards and orchards can require large amounts water and chemicals, and they displace native habitat.

Also, when designing your landscape, consider the site. Is it an exposed hill or a shady valley? What is the soil type? Use plants that are adapted to these conditions, and thus require less use of chemicals and maintenance in the garden. Any plant that requires frequent pruning may be the wrong plant in the wrong place.

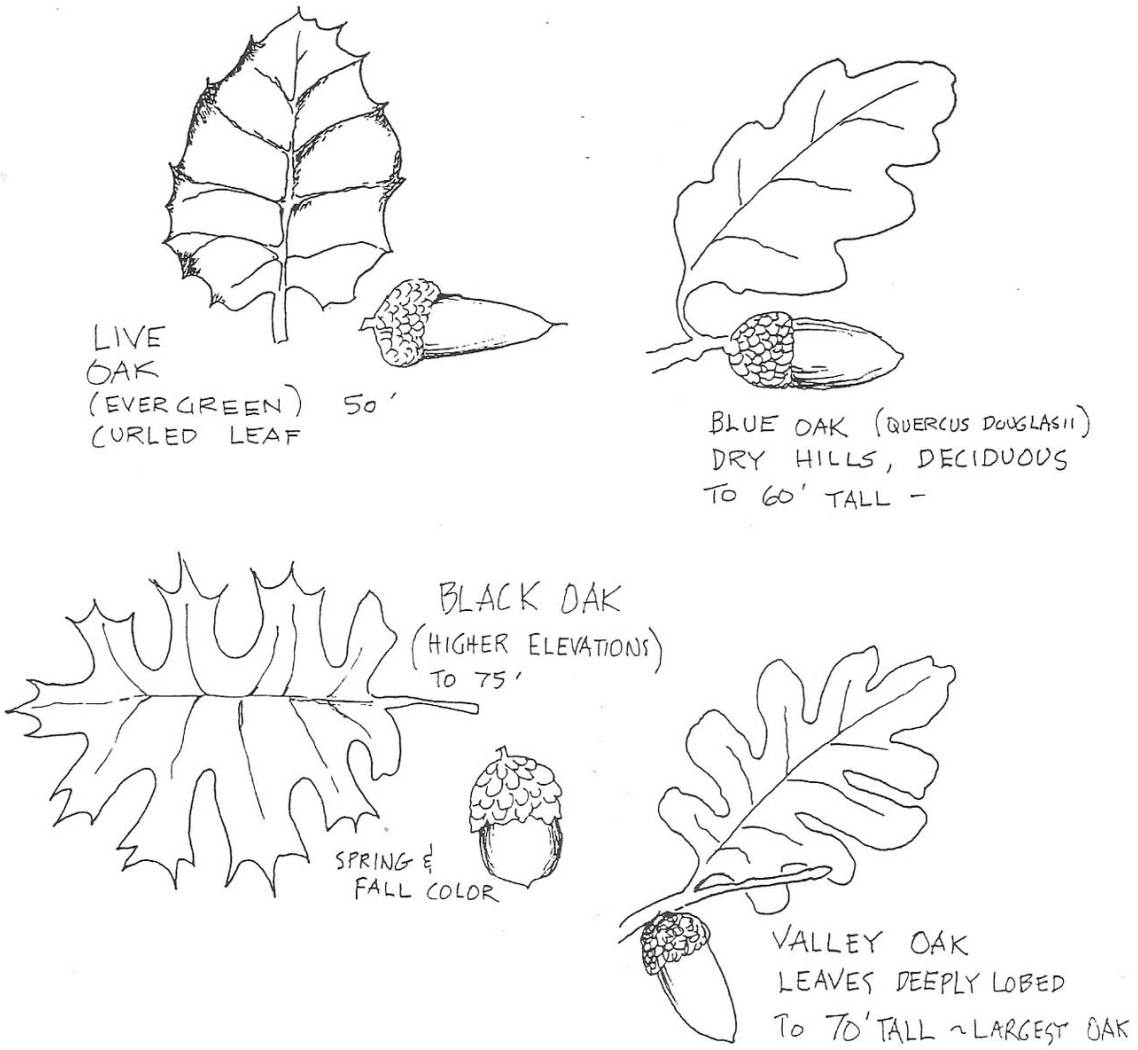
We live in a Mediterranean climate in Los Altos Hills, characterized by warm, dry summers and wet, cool winters. The best time to plant is in the fall at the time the rains are beginning. The soil is still warm, thereby allowing the roots to establish. The air is cooler so there won't be much top growth and the rains will do most of the watering for you. However, if the rains are inconsistent, supplemental water will be needed. Fall planting will give your plants a head start on early spring growth. If you miss the fall planting season, winter and spring are second best and summer least favorable. The Sunset Western Garden Book is a good source of information for appropriate plantings for our climate. According to Sunset, our zone is 16. All plantings should be chosen for their adaptability to this zone.

LIVING WITH CALIFORNIA OAKS

In Los Altos Hills, we are fortunate to have many native oaks. Oaks give us shade and shelter, increase our property values, create carefree beautiful landscapes and provide food for native wildlife. Oaks require very low water and are low maintenance trees. Unfortunately, inappropriate landscaping, such as lawns or high water plantings, and construction practices can seriously damage these trees. Often the damage is not evident until years later. As homeowners living with these beautiful trees we are in the best position to protect and enhance our native oak resources. Careful planning and design can provide benefits for both people and oaks and the many species that depend on them. Valley oaks and coastal live oaks are recommended. Oak Moths are native insects which live in our oaks; they are an integral part of the ecosystem, providing food for birds and bats; oaks should not be sprayed with insecticides to kill them or their caterpillars.

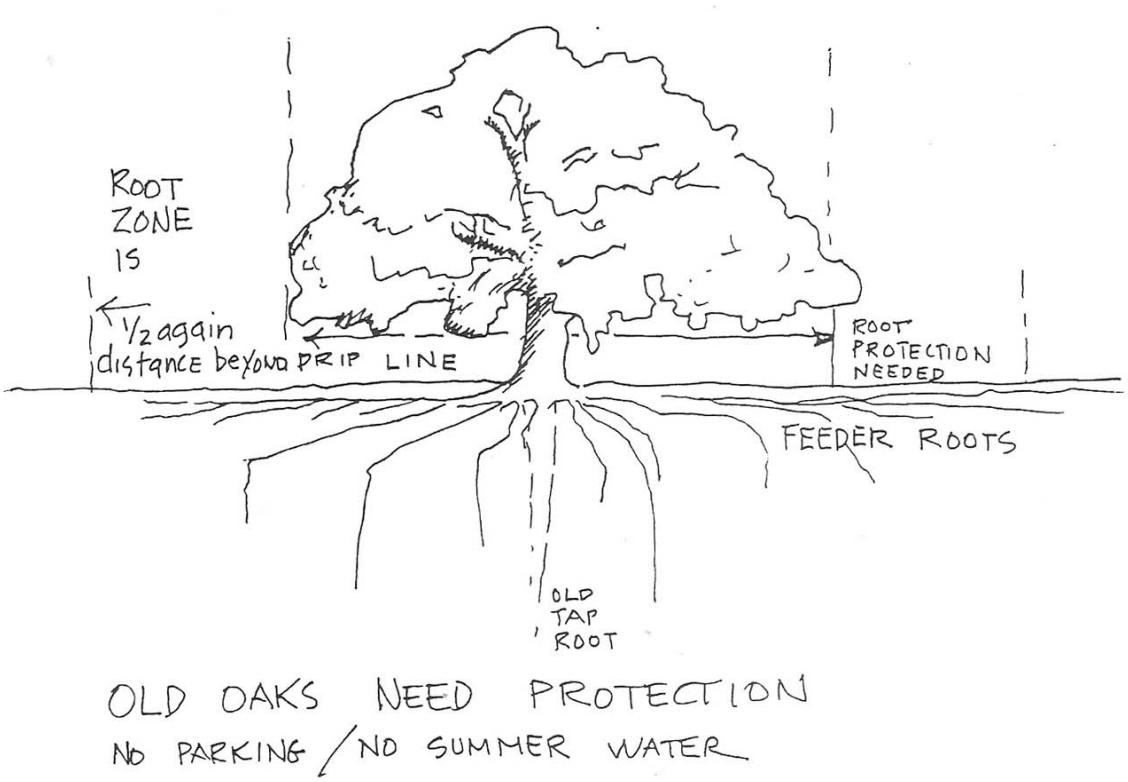
Note that a permit is required from the Town to remove any oak larger than 12 inches in diameter.

Also see the Town's Tree Ordinance.



OAK ROOTS

Oak roots stabilize our hillsides and help reduce storm water runoff. The roots of mature oaks grow predominately within the upper 3 feet of soil. Most of the roots responsible for uptake of water and minerals are concentrated within 18 inches of the surface. Although the roots typically radiate well beyond the periphery of foliage (drip line), much of the active root system is within the drip line. Roots are sensitive to environmental change such as compacting, paving, grading and increased moisture. In summer, oaks are dormant and do not need water. During the warmer days of summer, water actually promotes the growth of soil fungi which will kill the tree very slowly (over 5 or more years). Also, the tree needs oxygen in the soil and too much water will displace the soil's oxygen.



ACTIVITIES WHICH CAN DAMAGE TREE ROOTS

SOIL COMPACTING: Frequent traffic (human, livestock, driving or parking of vehicles) within the drip line squeezes soil particles together, eliminating natural air space thereby reducing infiltration and storage of water and air.

PAVEMENT: Impermeable soil coverings restrict the amount of air, water and minerals available to the roots thus impairing root growth and function. Covering root area with cobblestones can prevent the flow of air, compact the soil and heat the roots.

GRADE CHANGES: This involves either the addition or removal of soil within the drip line. Excavation (cut) can sever and expose roots. Addition (fill) can suffocate them.

TRENCHING: Trenches that cut across the drip line cut essential roots. This impairs the tree's ability to obtain water and essential elements which may cause death, die-back or gradual decline. If a trench must cross under a tree, it should be dug by hand.

DRAINAGE CHANGES: Any change that causes water to collect around a tree, especially the trunk, is harmful. Likewise, a grade change that diverts a source of water that the tree depends on may cause drought stress.

SOIL CONTAMINATION: Avoid storing and discarding harmful chemicals or materials, such as herbicides, petroleum products, building materials or waste water near oaks.

LANDSCAPING: There are just a few California native plants that can be used in landscaping oak gardens. See table 1: Native Plants, items marked with "*". It is best to

keep the area within the drip line relatively open. Use plants as accents rather than ground covers. Select plants that tolerate drought and plant no closer than 10 feet to the trunk. Avoid all planting under declining oaks. Leaves should be left on the ground to provide cover to the soil and recycle the nutrients back into the soil.

OVER-WATERING: As a general rule, native oaks should not be irrigated. Frequent irrigation displaces much of the oxygen in the soil. This can lead to reduced growth and vitality and increased susceptibility to insects and diseases. One exception, however, is during drought years. If the winter is unusually dry, supplemental deep watering in the spring or summer can complement natural rainfall. Water the soil from halfway between the trunk and the drip line to 10-15 feet beyond. Allow the water to penetrate 18-24 inches. This may take 4-6 hours and should only be done one time per month.

MULCHING AND FERTILIZING: Leave oak leaves in place. They provide necessary nutrients to oaks and many other species. Keep soil surface mulched with 2-4 inches of natural leaf litter or wood chips. Do not place directly against the trunk, and limit its depth to a few inches. Under such conditions, healthy oaks do not need added fertilizer. A layer of leaf litter recycles nutrients back to the soil, provides shelter for insects, and reduces weed growth.

PRUNING: Large old oaks near buildings might need pruning and cabling. Avoid excessive pruning, removing no more than 10-20% of the foliage in any one year. WARNING! Incorrect pruning can lead to serious problems. Consult a professional arborist certified by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Oaks in riparian zones or open space easements shouldn't need pruning. Dead wood on oaks provides nesting sites for native birds.

DETECTING HEALTH PROBLEMS: SIGNS OF ADVANCED DECLINE OR DECAY

- Thin, sparse foliage
- Poor growth
- Yellow, undersized leaves
- Dead branches and limbs in upper canopy
- Wilted, brown leaves during spring and summer
- Many short shoots growing on trunk and branches
- Mushrooms at tree base or on the roots in fall or early winter
- Conks – shell-like mushrooms on trunk
- Cavities in trunk
- White, fan-shaped mats of fungus under the bark at soil line
- Soft, punchy wood
- Wet, oozing areas on the bark

If any of these problems occur, residents should contact a certified arborist.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH SYNDROME

SOD is a new disease invading the Bay Area, caused by a microscopic pathogen. It can kill our oaks very quickly, and is transmitted through the air and water. It is harbored primarily by California Bay Laurel trees, although there are many other host species.

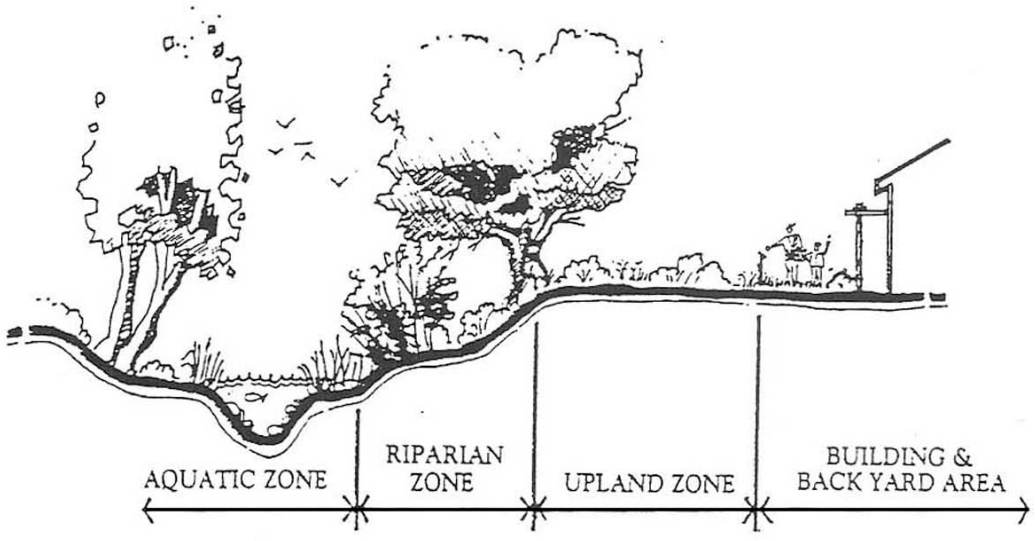
Coast live oaks are susceptible to SOD, but valley oaks and blue oaks are resistant. More information can be found at the University of California, Berkeley website, listed in the Online Resources section.

RIPARIAN HABITAT

The stream corridor, including the vegetation along the bank, is known as riparian habitat. This high moisture environment supports a great diversity of plants and wildlife. The corridor is an invaluable natural resource that serves as a conduit for floodwater, replenishes surface and ground water and contributes a host of aesthetic and recreational benefits. By protecting and preserving this delicate area you can prevent or minimize erosion, preserve water quality, contribute to the survival of fish and wildlife and help avoid flood damage. Riparian vegetation is protected under the Clean Water Act and regulated by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. Your primary goals along stream areas are to minimize erosion or contamination from adjacent properties and preserve the natural state of the area by restoring any damaged areas with native plants. The following guidelines will help protect and enhance your living stream.

- Always use native plants (No invasive or non-native plants).
- Keep pets and livestock away from the riparian area.
- Never use fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides near the riparian zone.
- Protect existing vegetation and natural grades during construction.
- Control erosion by protecting areas where flowing water meets bare soil. This may be accomplished by reducing the speed or redirecting the water to vegetated areas or by replanting with native ground cover, e.g., Juncus.
- Do not rake up leaf litter or prune native plants.
- Do not dump yard wastes or other debris into stream area.
- Remove non-native invasive plants.
- Never drain a pool near a creek or waterway.

See the Town's publication, "Creeks & Riparian Areas."



LIVING IN THE HILLS

Our community setting of natural areas has some special challenges. Fire protection, erosion and flood control can be aided by the use of appropriate plantings. Our abundant wildlife must be protected from poisonous plants and chemicals, but must also be considered in plant selections that attract rodents, deer or raccoons.

EROSION AND FLOOD CONTROL

Soil stability can be promoted by avoiding and controlling water runoff. Limit the amount of hardscape (asphalt, concrete and other impermeable pavement) to avoid rapid run-off of large amounts of water. Landscape irrigation of a slope is equivalent to 25-60 inches of rainfall per year. Over-watering, the cause of many slope failures, can equal 100 inches of rainfall per year when the winter rains are added. Use of drip or no irrigation would be recommended on any slope.

When planting, avoid cutting into the bottom of the slope because what is above will likely be washed down. Disturb the soil as little as possible and use appropriate drought resistant plants with deep roots. Some native plants which will help are dwarf coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis)*, some of the Ceanothus types, chamise, native bunch grasses, native roses and toyon. Natural and constructed water courses such as creeks and drainage ditches must be kept free of unnatural debris. Natural debris is good for streams, providing shelter for fish and improving creek health. Any areas of land that are disturbed during construction should be quickly re-vegetated; preferably with native plants with deep roots.

Green Storm Water Infrastructure is a method of working with nature to manage rainwater in an environmentally friendly way, using swales, rain gardens, and other techniques to absorb water on site, rather than direct it onto the streets and into storm water drains.

FIRE PROTECTION

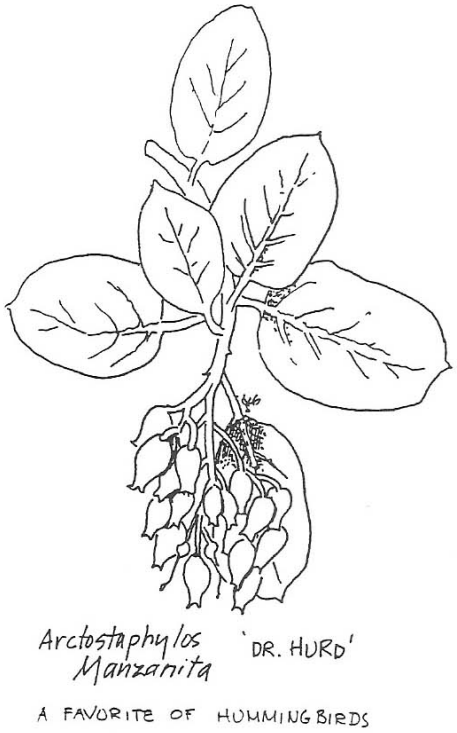
To prevent the likelihood of wildfires damaging your home, the Fire Safe Council recommends to create a 30 foot defensible space around structures. Remove dead plants and clean out dead material from your living plants in such a way so that it does not accelerate erosion and flood potential. Trees should be kept a distance from any structure at least as wide as the mature crown. Additionally large shrubbery under trees can create a fire ladder allowing the flames to ignite the tree foliage. Pines, junipers, cypress and eucalyptus trees burn especially fast and should not be planted near the house.

See the Fire Safe Council's "Homeowners Checklist" listed on the Online Resources section.

WATER CONSERVATION

Our climate is considered a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and a long dry period from May to October. Supplemental watering should begin when the rains cease (this varies from February to June but averages about May 1).

The plants that are the best adapted to do well on your site are the ones that are native to the area closest to you. They are drought tolerant and they provide much needed wildlife value for our birds, butterflies and other creatures. (See Table 1: Native plant list). Leaves left in place on the ground will reduce evaporation and help conserve water, as well as promote healthy soil.



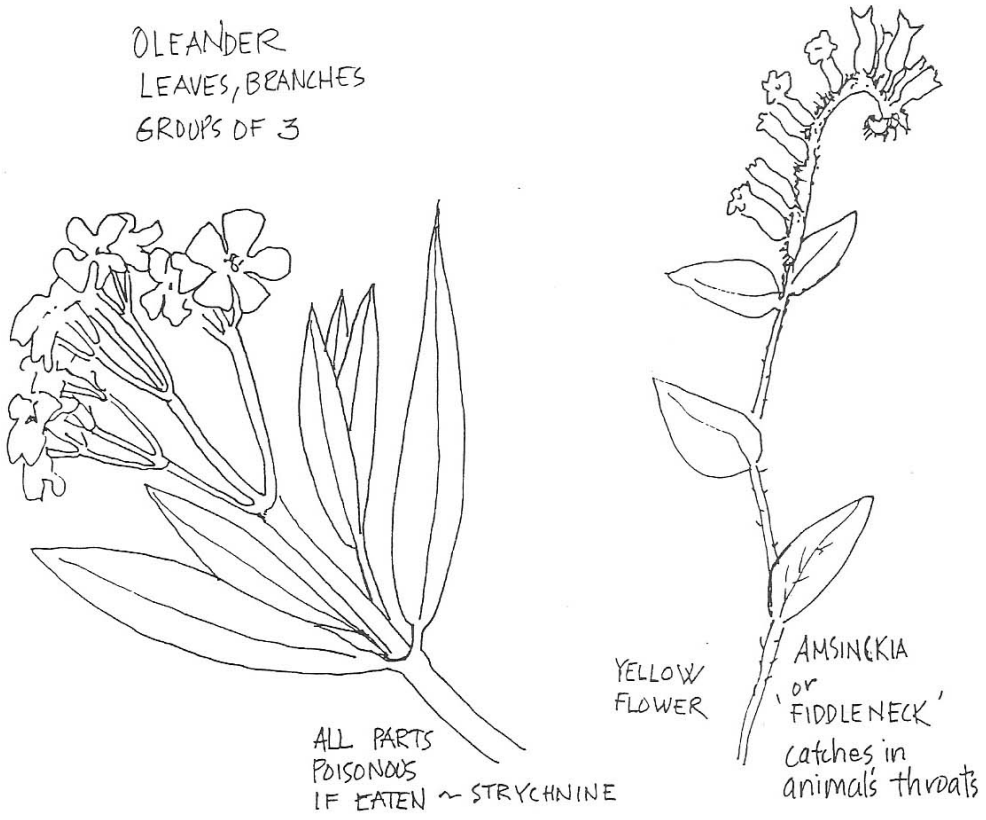
Minimize lawn area. Grass not only demands frequent watering but is easily destroyed by tunneling animals such as gophers and moles. Instead consider drought tolerant ground covers such as various species of Ceanothus, a rock garden or a meadow of wildflowers. If lawn is functionally required, use a drought tolerant species. The optimum landscape design for water conservation would include no more than 1/3 high water use plantings, 1/3 moderate and 1/3 low water use plantings.
Artificial turf is discouraged because of its harmful environmental effects: it consumes petroleum products, it heats the soil, and it adds to the landfill when it wears out.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Certain plants will invade into the surrounding countryside, and therefore should not be planted. Some invasive plants have gotten loose into roadsides and native habitats. These plants which have been introduced into California from other parts of the world have no natural enemies and spread rampantly into our open space. There they crowd out native plants and become a monoculture. This has a serious impact on our wildlife which depends on the natural variety for food and shelter. *(See Table 2: Invasive plants).*

POISONOUS PLANTS

Some plants are poisonous to people and livestock. No plant which is poisonous should be allowed in any enclosure for an animal. Some of our common garden plants are poisonous if eaten by children. Most notable is Oleander which is widely planted as a drought tolerant ornamental shrub. Others include the Rhododendron family. *(See Table 3: Poisonous plants).*

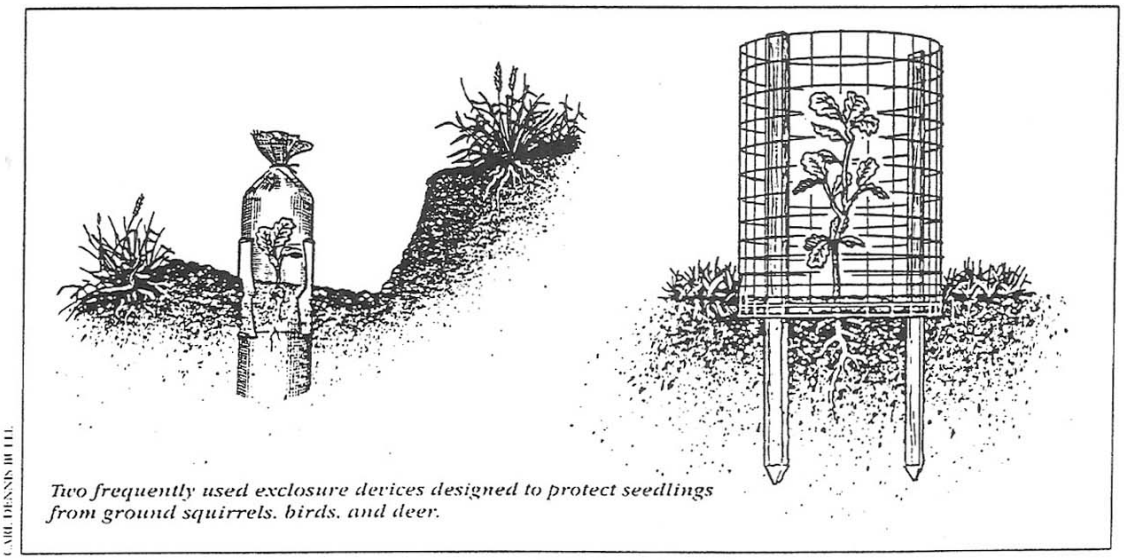


LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

We live in an urban/rural interface and as much as our plantings might attract the birds and butterflies, they also attract rabbits, rodents, deer and raccoons. To protect against gophers, place a 1 inch or smaller wire mesh basket in the planting hole. It is almost impossible to protect lawns against moles and gophers, so take this into consideration in your overall landscape plan. Dense ground covers such as ivy, periwinkle, juniper, and thickets of blackberries can harbor rats. Protecting your plants from deer can be difficult; the best strategy is to select plants that deer do not eat. Deer's diet is variable and depends upon the amount and variety of available forage. There are some plants that deer consistently do not eat, such as native salvias, buckwheats, roses, and grasses. These are mostly the textured leaf plants and those with strong fragrance, but they adore plants in the rose family which includes many stone fruits. If you need to protect specific

plantings, e.g., vegetable gardens, the best protection is fencing. Fences to keep deer away need to be at least six feet high. Fences require a building permit; Town ordinances prohibit fencing with spikes or points along the top. Remember, however, that wildlife needs to migrate for food and water so please leave open corridors through your property; fence just the areas that need protection.

See the town publications, "Wildlife Management" and "Fences, Walls, Gates, and Columns."



Two frequently used exclosure devices designed to protect seedlings from ground squirrels, birds, and deer.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

NEW PLANTINGS

Watering may be needed for at least the first two summers or until the plants are well-established. Water only sparingly after that, remembering that the growth of soil fungi during the summer is harmful to oaks.

PRUNING AND TRIMMING

It is important to keep large trees near structures, roads, and pathways correctly pruned for safety. Consult a certified arborist. Maintain our shrubbery along pathways, roadways and driveway intersections to allow proper visibility and accessibility. Also, remember that your and your neighbors' scenic views can disappear when trees and shrubs are not kept properly trimmed.

Prevent ivy from climbing up tree trunks; it can eventually overwhelm the tree.

IRRIGATION

When using automatic or manual irrigation do not over-water creating run-off or flooding to adjacent properties. Use drip system irrigation or a soaker hose whenever possible to avoid erosion and conserve our valuable water resources. Also, remember to change

automatic timers as seasonal weather changes or use a weather-based irrigation system. Because of fluctuating high water pressure in some areas, a pressure regulator valve should be installed on your landscape watering system to prevent ruptured pipes. Irrigation systems should not be installed next to pathways. Check irrigation regularly to detect leaks.

WEED CONTROL

The fire district requires you to control weed growth. Here are some recommendations to handle this often overwhelming problem. The following list is in order of preference and environmental sensitivity.

1. Hand pulling weeds in the spring when they start growing
2. Mowing, string or blade trimming and grazing
3. Layers of chip mulch
4. Non-toxic alternatives, e.g., vinegar, oil of neem, boiling water, etc.
5. As a last resort, glyphosate sprays such as "Roundup" in open areas or "Rodeo" near water courses. Read the label carefully first and follow directions explicitly.
6. Plowing and disking is not recommended for several reasons. It will cause soil erosion from wind and water. It has also been responsible for fires (from sparks off engine or hitting rocks). Disking also destroys the soil structure, reducing the ability of the soil to absorb winter rains. Timing of turning the soil is important: if seed has already formed and dropped, rototilling will only replant seed for next year's weeds.

COMPOSTING

Composting your yard waste at home can produce valuable nutrients for your garden while decreasing the impact on landfills. Classes are available monthly in Los Altos for Los Altos Hills residents.

HERITAGE TREES

Los Altos Hills has a Heritage Tree Program, and the so designated coastal live oak at Town Hall is a fine example of such a tree. We are looking for other outstanding California native trees that could be preserved and honored in our town. Property owners with such a tree are encouraged to contact the Town Hall office and let us know. The Environmental Design and Protection Committee with the help of an arborist will examine and consult on the tree. If there tree is suitable and healthy, an award will be given and the tree will be identified as a Heritage Tree of Los Altos Hills.

GARDENS DISPLAYING NATIVE PLANTS

Woodside Library Native Garden

Guadalupe Gardens in San Jose

Foothill College "Native Hill" next to faculty parking SW part of campus

Purissima Hills Office Landscape

University of California at Berkeley Botanic Garden

Tilden Botanic Garden in Berkeley

University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum

De Anza College Environmental Studies Area

San Mateo Garden Center

Hidden Villa

Small native plant demonstration garden at Los Altos Hills Town Hall

The California Native Plant Society conducts a garden tour annually, including in our area: www.cnps-scv.org

For more demonstration gardens, visit: http://www.grassrootsecology.org/demo-gardens/.

HELPFUL REFERENCE BOOKS

Lee W. Lenz & John Dourley (1981) *California Native Trees & Shrubs for Garden & Environmental Use in Southern California and Adjacent Areas*. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA

Marjorie G. Schmidt (1980) *Growing California Native Plants*

*(*January 1993) *Hillsborough Water Use Classification of Landscape Species, Version 1*. On file in Los Altos Hills Town Hall.

Klaus W.H. Radtke (1982) *Homeowner's Guide to Fire and Watershed Management at the Chaparral/Urban Interface*. National Foundation for Environmental Safety, Inc., 2210 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #184, Santa Monica, CA, 90403

Bob Perry (1996) *Landscape Plants for Western Regions.* Land Design Publishing, Claremont, CA 91711

Living Among the Oaks, A Management Guide for Landowners. University of California Cooperative Extension Natural Resources Program, Berkeley, CA, (415 642-2360).

Klaus W.H. Radtke (1983) *Living More Safely in the Chaparral/Urban Interface.* U.S.D.A. General Technical Report PSW-67

Barrie D. Coate, Editor (1980) *Selected California Native Plants in Color*. Saratoga Horticulture Foundation

Streamside Planting Guide for San Mateo and Santa Clara County Streams. Coyote Creek Riparian Station, P.O. Box 1027, Alviso, CA 95002, (408 262-9204).

Sunset Western Garden Book. Lane Publishing Company (many additions available).

Success List of Water Conserving Plants. Saratoga Hotline Foundation, 1983.

Successful Perennials for the Peninsula, A Selection by Members of Western Horticulture Society 1989.

Water-Conserving Plants and Landscapes for the Bay Area. East Bay Municipal Utility District, 1990.

Helen Popper *California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide*

Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien *California Native Plants for the Garden*

M. Nevin Smith *Native Treasures*

David Fross and Dieter Wilken *Ceanothus*

Burt O'Brien, Betsey Landis, Ellen Mackey: *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*

ONLINE RESOURCES

California Native Plant Society: www.cnps.org - Comprehensive resource on native plants.

CalPhotos: calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/ - Pictures and information on native plants.

Fire Safe Council's "Homeowners Checklist": www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/documentcenter/view/450 - Current guidelines to make properties fire-safe.

Sudden Oak Death: nature.berkeley.edu/matteolab/?page_id=117 - University of California, Berkeley website with information on SOD

Demonstration gardens: http://www.grassrootsecology.org/demo-gardens/

Sunset Magazine: https://www.sunset.com/home-garden/landscaping - Garden design inspirations.

The Trees of Los Altos Hills: http://www.couperus.org/LAHTrees/ - Photos of oak trees in the town.

Master Gardeners: http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu - UC program to educate gardeners and to offer advice and expertise.

Native plant nurseries: http://www.calscape.org/plant_nursery.php - List of native plant nurseries in California from the California Native Plant Society.

Las Pilitas Nursery: http://www.laspilitas.com

Yerba Buena Nursery: http://www.yerbabuenanursery.com com

Note that the Town of Los Altos Hills does not endorse any particular nursery.

TABLE 1: NATIVE PLANTS

Most of these native plants grow wild in or near Los Altos Hills and will grow easily in your garden.

TREES

Botanical Name	Common Name	Foliage	Notes
Acer macrophyllum	Big-leaf Maple	deciduous	Fall color; up to 45-60 ft tall; best in canyons, riparian areas
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye	summer deciduous	
Arbutus menziesii	Madrone	evergreen	Red bark; berries
Myrica californica	Wax Myrtle	evergreen	Excellent small garden tree
Notholithocarpus densiflorus	Tanbark Oak, Tanoak	evergreen	Highly susceptible to SOD
Plantanus racemosa	Western Sycamore	deciduous	Large shade tree
Populus fremontii	Fremont's Cottonwood	deciduous	
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir	evergreen	Large conifer
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	evergreen	Most common oak; susceptible to SOD
Quercus chrysolepis	Canyon Oak	evergreen	
Quercus douglassii	Blue Oak	deciduous	Not susceptible to SOD
Quercus kelloggii	California Black Oak	deciduous	
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak	deciduous	Large canopy; not susceptible to SOD
Sambucus nigra	Blue Elderberry	deciduous	Small tree; purple berries
Sequoia sempervirens	Coast Redwood	evergreen	Fast-growing; 100+ft; needs water
Torreya californica	California Nutmeg	evergreen	Conifer
Umbellularia californica	California Bay	evergreen	Primary SOD carrier

SHRUBS

Botanical Name	Common Name	Foliage	Notes
Adenostoma fasciculatum	Chamise	evergreen	To 12 ft; dense green foliage; white flowers
Amelanchier pallida	Serviceberry	deciduous	
Arctostaphylos andersonii*	Heartleaf Manzanita	evergreen	
Arctostaphylos glauca*	Big-berried Manzanita	evergreen	Easiest to grow
Arcrtostaphylos Manzanita	Dr. Hurd	evergreen	Small white flowers; local bees
Baccharis pilularis*	Dwarf Coyote Bush	evergreen	Deer-resistant
Berberis pinnatta*	Coast Barberry	evergreen	
Ceanothus (many species)	California Lilac	evergreen	Many varieties available. Low-growing to tall; dark green foliage; blue or white flowers

Ceanothus cuneatus*	Buck Brush	evergreen	Spreading round shrub; white flowers
Ceanothus thyrsiflours*	Blueblossom Ceanothus	evergreen	Popular for landscaping
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	deciduous	Pink flowers in spring
Cercocarpus betuloides*	Mountain Mahogany	evergreen	
Cornus cericea	Creek Dogwood	deciduous	
Cornus glabrata	Brown Dogwood	deciduous	Red leaves in fall
Corylus cornuta californica	California Hazel	deciduous	
Dendromecon rigida*	Bush Poppy	evergreen	Prolific yellow flowers; dry conditions
Erigonum giganteum	St. Catherine's Lace	evergreen	Hardy shrub up to 6 ft tall; grey foliage, abundant flowers
Frangula californica*	Coffeeberry	evergreen	Slow-growing small tree; sun/part shade. Deer resistant
Fremontodendron californicum*	Flannel Bush	evergreen	Yellow flowers; sun; fast growing
Garrya elliptica	Coast Silktassel	evergreen	Attractive; neat of growing habit
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	evergreen	To 8 ft. Red berries
Holodiscus discolor	Cream Bush	deciduous	Shaded slopes along creek banks; deer resistant
Lepechinia calycina	Pitcher Sage	evergreen	White blooms on grey-green foliage; aromatic; deer resistant
Lonicera involucrate	Hairy Honeysuckle	evergreen	Small flowers
Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon grape	evergreen	Shiny deep green leaves; bright yellow flowers; deer-resistant.
Malacothamnus arcuatus	Chaparral Mallow	evergreen	
Mimulus aurantiacus*	Sticky Monkey Flower	shrubby perennial	Hardy prolonged orange-yellow flowers; deer resistant
Oemlaria cerasiformis	Oso Berry	deciduous	
Physocarpus capitus	Pacific Ninebark	deciduous	
Prunus ilicifolia*	Hollyleaf Cherry	evergreen	
Ribes aureum*	Golden Currant	deciduous	Prefers summer water
Ribes sanguieum	Red Flowering Currant	deciduous	
Ribes speciosum	Fuchia Flowering Gooseberry	deciduous	
Romneya coulteri	Matilija Poppy	deciduous	To 8 ft; large white flowers
Rosa californica*	California Rose	deciduous	Small dense shrub; pink flowers; sun/part shade
Salvia species	Salvias or Sages	evergreen	Many varieties available. Green/grey foliage; abundant blooms. Excellent hardy, deer-resistant shrubs for LAH
Salvia leucophylla	Purple Sage	evergreen	Attracts hummingbirds, bees

Salvia mellifera	Black Sage	evergreen	Common locally; up to 8 ft; dark green foliage; blue blooms; deer resistant
Salvia sonomensis*	Sonoma Sage	perennial	Low-growing, spreading; blue flowers; hummingbirds, bees; deer resistant
Symphoricarpos albus	Common Snowberry	deciduous	Deer resistant
Symphoricarpos mollis	Creeping Snowberry	deciduous	Deer resistant
Trichostema lanatum	Wooly Blue Curls	evergreen	Blue flowers; sunny slopes

LOW GROWING SHRUBS/GROUNDCOVER

Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Foliage**	**Notes**
America maritima	Sea Pink	evergreen	
Clarkia ameona (Godetia)	Farwell-to-Spring	annual	
Eriogonum fasciculatum*	California Buckwheat	evergreen	
Eriogonum grande*	Red Buckwheat	evergreen	
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy	annual	California state flower; reseeds each year
Heuchera sanguinea	Coral Bells	evergreen	
Iris douglasiana	Pacific Coast Iris	evergreen	Blue spring flowers
Epilobium canum	California Fuchsia	deciduous	Red flowers; hummingbirds; many varieties available

NATIVE GRASSES

Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Foliage**	**Notes**
Elymus glaucus	Blue Wildrye grass	Perennial bunchgrass	Sparse grey-green foliage
Festuca californica	California Fescue	Perennial buchgrass; part shade/shade	Dense green foliage up to 3 ft.; deer resistant
Juncus patens	Common Rush	Perennial bunchgrass	Moist areas
Melica torreyana	Torrey's Melicgrass	Perennial bunchgrass; part shade	Small grass; shady slopes; deer resistant
Nassella cernua	Nodding needle grass	Perennial bunchgrass; sun/part shade	Upright grass to 3 ft.; deer resistant
Nassella lepida	Foothill needle grass	Perennial bunchgrass; sun/part shade/shade	Small grass; shady slopes; deer resistant
Nassella pulchra	Purple needle grass	Perennial bunchgrass; sun/part shade	California state grass; hardy deep-rooted; slopes. Spreads gradually; deer resistant

* Native plants for under oak trees

TABLE 2: RECOMMENDED PLANTS

These plants are recommended for use in specific applications. (Maximum height)

Hedges	Toyon (6'-10'), Coffee Berry (6'-10'), Manzanita(3'-8'), Coyote Bush (3'-10'), Wax Myrtle (15'), Ceanothus (3'-6'), Coast Silktassel (6'-15'), Currant (6'-10'), Chamise (3'-12')
Building Screening	Elderberry (15'-30'), Toyon (6'-10'), Prunus (5'-30'), Flannel Bush (6'-20'), Wax Myrtle (15'), Currant (6'-10')
Ornamentals	Salvia, Ceanothus, Douglas Iris, Rosemary, Rock Rose, Western Redbud, Bush Poppy, California Poppy, Flannel Bush, Pitcher Sage, Monkey Flower
Ground Covers	Salvia, Ceanothus, Rosemary, Rock Rose, Manzanita, Dwarf Coyote Bush, Purple Needle Grass, California Fescue, Juncus
Trees	Valley Oak (60'-100'), Coast Live Oak (25'-80'), Black Oak (30'-80'), Big Leaf Maple (30'-60'), Douglas Fir (50'-250'), California Buckeye (15'-40')

TABLE 3: INVASIVE PLANTS

These are plants which seed themselves into wild areas and which will eventually crowd out native plants and reduce natural foods for our birds, insects and other animals. Please avoid planting these and try to remove existing plants where possible.

Botanical Name	**Common Name**	**Notes**
Ailanthus	Tree of Heaven	
Arundo donax	Giant Reed	Waterways
Bambuseae	Bamboo	Some varieties non-invasive
Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian Thistle	Prolific, ubiquitous in disturbed areas
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow Star Thistle	Prolific, ubiquitous in disturbed areas
Cortaderia jubata	Pampas Grass	Large bush; wind-blown seeds
Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster	Seeds freely
Cytisus	French, Scotish or Spanish Broom	Disturbed areas
Dittrichia graveolens	Stinkwort	Prolific, ubiquitous along roadsides and in disturbed areas; skin irritant; flammable
Eucalyptus globulus	Blue Gum Eucalyptus	Flammable
Hedera canariensis	Algerian Ivy	Ground cover; climbs trees
Pennisetum	Fountain Grass	
Pyracantha spp.	Pyracantha	Red/yellow berries
Rubus procerus	Himalayan Blackberry	Shade
Tamarix	Tamarisk	
Vinca major	Periwinkle	Ground Cover

*Also included are any non-native plants which have berries or which spread by rhizomes.
It is especially important to keep the above plants from entering waterways.

TABLE 4: POISONOUS PLANTS

These must be kept out of animal enclosures and along pathways.

Arrowgrass	Cockleburr*	Grimsel	Lantana*
Black Henbane	Coffeebean*	Ground Ivy*	Larkspur*
Black Locust	Corn Cockle	Groundsel	Laurel*
Bladder Pod	Cotalaris*	Horse Nettle	Laurel Cherry
Bluebonnet*	Coyote Tobacco*	Horsetail*	Lily of the Valley*
Blue-green Algae	Creeping Ivy*	Indian Hemp	Locoweed
Boxwood	Curly Dock*	Ivy Bush*	Mallow*
Bracken Fern	Death Cammas	Jasmine*	Milkweed
Broomcorn	Desert Tobacco	Jerusalum Cherry*	Nightshade*
Burr Clover*	Ergot	Jimson Weed	Oaks*
Buckeye*	Fanwood	Johnson Grass*	Oleanders*
Castor Bean*	Fiddleneck	Johnswort	Old Man in Spring
Cheeseweed	Fitweed	Klamanth Weed	Pennygrass
Cherry Laurel*	Flax*	Knapweed	Pigweed*
Choke Cherry*	Goatweed	Knotweed	Plum Tree*
Climbing Bittersweet	Golden Corydalis*	Lambkill	Poison Hemlock*
Privet Hedge*	Rough Pea	Sour Dock*	Tree Tabacco*
Purple Sesband	Russian Knapweed	Staggergrass	Vetch
Rabbit Bush or Brush	St. Johnswort*	Star of Bethlehem*	Water Hemlock*
Ragweed*	Seasbane	Star Thistle	Wold Cherries
Rattlebox	Senecio	Stink Grass	Yew*
Rayless Goldenrod*	Sneezeweed	Tansy	
Raywort*	Sorghum	Teaweed	

(* Plants used for landscaping around homes along driveways and fence lines)
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