

City of Oakland  
Watershed Improvement Program  
**Fire Wise Native Plants**

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The following includes a list of California native plants that have been identified as having low flammability or being to some degree "fire resistant." The list of fire resistant plants includes only those plants that are native to California. There are many other plants that have been identified as fire resistant that are not native to California. Native species are being listed here due to their adaptability to the local environment or for the habitat value they provide to the native fauna.

Keep in mind that all plants will eventually burn. Plants that are not properly irrigated or pruned or that are planted in an inappropriate climate zone will have increased fire risk. All of the plants listed here were recommended in publications by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

**TREES**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Plant Type</b>
Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar	Populus spp.	deciduous
California Buckeye	Aesculus californica	deciduous
Coast Live Oak	Quercus agrifolia	evergreen
Madrone	Arbutus menziesii	evergreen
Quaking aspen	Populus tremuloides	deciduous
Western redbud	Cercis occidentalis	evergreen
White alder	Alnus rhombifolia	deciduous

**SHRUBS**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Plant Type</b>
California wax myrtle	Myrica californica	evergreen
California fuschia, Hummingbird flower	Zauschneria californica	perennial
California Lilac, Blueblossom	Ceanothus thrysiflorus	evergreen

**SHRUBS (cont.)**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Plant Type</b>
Coastal wild gum	<i>Grindelia stricta venulosa</i>	perennial
Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	evergreen
Creeping mahonia	<i>Mahonia repens</i>	evergreen
Douglas iris, Pacific coast iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	bulb
Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume	<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	evergreen
Fremontia, Flannel Bush	<i>Fremotodendron</i> spp.	evergreen
Golden yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	perennial
Holly-leaved cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	evergreen
Lemonade berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	evergreen
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos</i>	evergreen
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus longiflorus</i> ( <i>Diplacus longifolius</i> )	perennial
Pink flowering currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	evergreen
Redberry, Red-berried buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	evergreen
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis breweri</i>	deciduous
Sandhill sage	<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i>	evergreen
Santolina lavender, Gray lavender	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	evergreen
Showy Island snapdragon, Hummingbird flower	<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	evergreen
Sonoma sage	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	perennial
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	evergreen
Western azalea	<i>Rhododrendron occidentale</i>	evergreen
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum caudatum</i>	perennial
Wooly blue curls, Romero	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	perennial

## GROUND COVERS

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Type
Thrift, Common thrift	Armeria maritima	evergreen
White Yarrow	Achillea millefolium white	perennial
California poppy	Eschscholzia californica	perennial
Creeping red fescue	Festuca rubra	perennial
Wild strawberry, Sand strawberry	Fragaria chiloensis	evergreen
Gum plant, Coastal wild gum	Grindelia stricta	perennial
Island alum root, Coral bells	Heuchera maxima	perennial
Wax myrtle	Myrica californica	evergreen
Sage	Salvia spp.	perennial
Blue-eyed grass/ Yellow-eyed grass	Sisyrinchium bellum/ Sisyrinchium californicum	perennial grass

## Highly Flammable Plants

The following is a list of plants (native and non-native) with a high rating for flammability.

**Note:** Those plants denoted with a "P" are considered *pyrophytes*: **they almost attract fire.**

Information for this list was taken from publications by the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

## TREES

	Common Name	Botanical Name
	Acacia	Acacia spp.
	Arbor-Vitae	Thuja spp.
	Bald Cypress	Toxodium spp.
P	Blue Gum Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus globulus
	Cedar	Cedrus spp.
	Cryptomeria	Cryptomeria japonica (except dwarf)

**TREES (cont.)**

	Cypress	Cupressocyparis
	Cypress	Cupressus spp.
	Cypress, Cedar	Chamaecyparis spp. (except dwarf)
	Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii
	Fir	Abies spp.
	Hemlock	Tsuga spp.
	Larch	Larix spp.
P	Manna Gum Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus viminalis
	Palm	Palms (if fronds left untrimmed)
	Pepper Tree	Schinus spp.
P	Pine	Pinus spp.
	Spruce	Picea spp.
P	Sugar Gum Eucalyptus	Eucalyptus cladocalyx
	Tamarix	Tamarix spp.
	Yew	Taxus spp. (except dwarf)

**SHRUBS**

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
	Buckwheat	Erigonum spp.
	California sagebrush	Artemisia californica
P	Chamisa, Greasewood	Adenostoma fasciculatum
P	Coyote Brush	Baccharis pilularis consanguinea
	Hopseed Bush	Dodonaea viscosa
	Juniper	Juniperus spp.
P	Red Shanks	Adenostoma sparsifolium
	Scotch/French/Spanish Broom	Cytisus, Genista, Spartium

## GROUND COVERS

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
	Algerian Ivy	Hedera canariensis
P	Coyote Brush	Baccharis spp. (when overgrown)
P	Juniper	Juniperus spp.

## PERENNIALS

	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Botanical Name</b>
	Bamboo	Bamboo spp.
	Black Sage	Salvia melilifera
	Deer Grasses	Muehlenbergia spp.
	Fountain Grasses	Pennisetum setaceum
	Grasses	Miscanthus spp.
	Pampas grass	Cortaderia selloana