

Fire-Resistant Plants Common to Marin County, CA



Fire-resistant landscaping requires careful plant selection, placement, spacing, and maintenance to help resist the spread of fire to your home. Fire-resistant plants are usually easier to maintain and more naturally resistant to igniting from flames and embers. These plants are NOT “fireproof” and all require irrigation and frequent maintenance to resist ignition.

FIRE-RESISTANT PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

- Tend to have leaves, not needles.
- Leaves tend to be supple, moist and easily crushed.
- Trees tend to be clean, not bushy, and have little deadwood.
- Shrubs are low-growing (2' or lower) with minimal buildup of dead material.

- Taller shrubs are clean, not bushy or twiggy.
- Sap is water-like and typically does not have a strong odor.
- Most fire-resistant trees are broad-leaf deciduous (lose their leaves), but some thick-leaf evergreens may also be fire-resistant.
- Most have low surface-area to volume ratios.
- Learn more at www.firesafemarin.org/plants

FORM: C - Cover (groundcovers) G - Grass H - Hedge or Screen P - Perennial S - Shrub T - Tree V - Vine

Species	Common Name(s)	Form	Species	Common Name(s)	Form
Acer spp.	Maple	T,H	Fragaria vesca	Wood Strawberry	C
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	P	Fraxinus spp.	Ash	T
Achillea tomentosa	Woolly Yarrow	P, C	Grindelia stricta, camporum	Coastal Wild Gum	P
Aeonium spp.	Aeonium	P	Hemerocallis hybrids	Daylily	P
Agapanthus spp.	Lily-of-the-Nile	P	Hesperaloe parviflora	Red Yucca	P
Agave spp.	Agave	P	Heuchera maxima	Island Alum Root	P
Ajuga reptans	Carpet Bugle	C	Heuchera micrantha	Coral Bells	P
Aloe spp.	Aloe	P	Iris douglasiana	Douglas Iris	P
Aquilegia formosa	Western Columbine	P	Iris macrosiphon	Ground Iris	P
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	T	Iris spp.	Iris	P
Armeria maritima	Common Thrift	C	Kniphofia uvaria	Red Hot Poker (Torch Lily)	P
Asarum caudatum	Wild Ginger	P	Lampranthus spp.	Bush Ice Plant	C
Berberis aquifolium var. repens	Creeping Mahonia	S	Lantana montevidensis	Lantana	S
Bergenia spp.	Bergenia	P	Lavandula spp.	Lavender	S
Brugmansia spp.	Angel's Trumpet	S	Lavatera assurgentiflora	Malva Rose (Tree Mallow)	S
Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone	S	Iberis sempervirens	Evergreen Candytuft	C
Centaurea cineraria	Dusty Miller	P	Liriope gigantea	Giant Turf Lily	C
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer	C	Lonicera hispidula	Pink Honeysuckle	V
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob	T	Lupinus spp.	Lupine	P
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud	T	Macadamia hybrids	Macadamia Nut	T
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Ironwood	T	Metrosideros excelsus	New Zlnd Christmas Tree	T
Citrus species	Citrus	T	Mimulus spp.	Monkey Flower	P, S
Clinopodium [Satureja] douglasii	Yerba Buena	P	Monardella villosa	Coyote Mint	P
Coleonema aka "Diosma"	Breath of Heaven	S	Nolina spp.	Nolina (related to Yucca)	S
Convulvus cneorum	Bush Morning Glory	S	Oenothera berlandieri	Mexican Evening Primrose	P
Coprosma kirkii	Creeping Coprosma	C	Pelargonium peltatum	Ivy Geranium	C
Coreopsis spp.	Coreopsis	S	Penstemon spp.	Beard Tongue	P
Cotyledon spp.	Cotyledon	P	Phyla nodiflora	Common Lippia	C
Crassula spp.	Crassula	P	Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	T
Delosperma "Alba"	White Trailing Iceplant	C	Polystichum munitum	Sword Fern	P
Dicentra formosa	Western Bleeding Heart	P	Portulacaria afra "Variegata"	Elephant's Foot	P
Dietes bicolor	African Iris	P	Potentilla neumanniana	Alpine Cinquefoil	C
Dietes vegeta	Fortnight Lily	P	Prunus lyonii	Catalina Cherry	S
Drosanthemum sp.	Rosea Ice Plant	C	Punica granatum	Pomegranate	S
Dudleya	Dudleya or Cliff Lettuce	P	Ranunculus californica	Buttercup	P
Echeveria spp.	Hen and Chicks	P	Rhapiolepis spp.	India Hawthorn	S
Eounymus Fortunei coloratus	Winter Creeper	C	Rhododendron (Azalea) spp.	Rhododendrons & Azaleas	S
Erigeron glaucus	Beach Aster	C	Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade Berry	S
Eriogonum spp.	Wild Buckwheat	P	Rhus lancea	African Sumac	T
Eriophyllum confertiflorum	Golden Yarrow	P	Romneya coulteri	Matilija Poppy	P
Eriophyllum stachaeifolium	Lizardtail	P	Rosa banksiae	Lady Banks' Rose	V
Erysimum capitatum	Foothill Wallflower	P	Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender Cotton	S, C
Erysimum linifolium	Wallflower	P	Santolina virens	Green Lavender Cotton	C
Escallonia spp.	Escallonia	S	Sedum sp.	Stonecrop	C
Eschscholzia spp.	California Poppy	P	Senecio serpens, mandralisce, vitalis	Blue chalksticks	C
Fagus spp.	Beech	T	Sidalcea malviflora	Checkerbloom	P
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	T	Simmondsia chinensis	Jojoba	S
Festuca rubra	Creeping Red Fescue	G, C	Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed Grass	P
Fragaria chiloensis	Beach Strawberry	C	Sisyrinchium californicum	Yellow-eyed Grass	P

Learn more about fire-resistant and fire-prone plants, defensible space, home hardening, and wildfire preparedness at www.firesafemarin.org

Species	Common Name(s)	Form
Sisyrinchium spp.	Blue-Eyed Grasses	P
Solanum jasminoides	Potato Vine	V
Solanum xanti	Purple Nightshade	S
Stachys byzantina	Lamb's Ears	P
Strelitzia reginae	Bird of Paradise	P, S
Symphiotrichum [Aster] chilensis	Wild Aster	P
Symphoricarpos mollis	Creeping Snowberry	V
Tecomaria capensis	Cape Honeysuckle	V
Thymus praecox arcticus	Creeping Thyme	C
Toxicoscordion [Zigadenus] fremontii	Star Lily	P
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star Jasmine	S
Triteleia [Brodiaea] laxa	Grass Nut	P
Tulbaghia violacea	Society Garlic	P
Vaccinium corymbosum	Blueberry	S
Verbena peruviana	Perennial Verbena	C
Yucca spp.	Yucca	S
Zauschneria californica	California Fuchsia	P
Acer ginnala	Amur Maple	H
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	H
Berberis spp.	Barberry	H
Buxus spp.	Boxwood	H
Camellia spp.	Camelia	H
Carissa grandiflora	Natal Plum	H
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob	H
Citrus spp.	Citrus	H
Cocculus laurifolius	laurel-leaved snail tree	H
Cornus stolonifera	Red-osier Dogwood	H
Cornus mas	Cornelian Cherry, Sorbet	H
Crateagus phaenopyrum	Washington Thorn	H
Dodonaea viscosa	Hopbush	H
Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian Olive	H
Elaeagnus pungens	Silverberry	H
Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat	H
Escallonia rubra	Escallonia	H
Eugenia spp.	Eugenia	H
Euonymus spp.	Euonymus	H
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis	Tropical Hibiscus	H
Hibiscus syriacus	Rose of Sharon	H
Ligustrum spp.	Privet	H
Loncera spp.	Hoineysuckle Bush	H
Malus spp.	Apple	H
Myrica coliforniaca	Pacific Wax Myrtle	H
Photinia x fraseri	Photinia	H
Pittosporum crassifolium	Karo	H
Pittosporum eugenoides	Lemonwood	H
Pittosporum tobira	Mock Orange Pittosporum	H
Pittosporum undulatum	Victorian Box	H
Plumbago auriculata	Cape Plumbago	H
Plalocarpus gracilior	Fern Pine	H
Prunus caroliniana	Cherry Laurel	H
Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry	H
Prunus laurocerasus	English Laurel	H
Pyrus kawakamii	Evergreen Pear	H
Rhamnus spp.	Buckthorn	H
Rhododendron spp.	Rhododendron/Azalea	H
Vaccinium spp.	Blueberry	H
Viburnum tinus	Viburnum	H
Xylosma congestum	Xylosma	H

Fire-Prone Plants



Some plants are particularly susceptible to fire: they may ignite readily and burn intensely, and should be removed or aggressively maintained if present near a home, road, or driveway. You may be required to remove some or all of these species depending on local fire codes if present within 100' of structures.

FIRE-PRONE PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

- Often blade-leaf or needle-leaf evergreens, or grasses.
- Often have stiff, woody, small or fine, lacey leaves.
- Leaves and wood often contain volatile waxes, fats, terpenes or oils (crushed leaves will have strong odors).
- Sap is usually gummy, resinous, and may have a strong odor.
- Usually contain plentiful fine, twiggy, dry, or dead materials.
- May have pubescent (hair covered) leaves.
- May have loose or papery bark.
- Usually flame (not smolder) when ignited with a match.

This is a list of some common fire-prone plants in Marin. It's important to remember that other plants may share these characteristics, and ALL PLANTS can burn if poorly maintained. Many California natives are fire-prone, and some depend on fire to reproduce. Native trees should be maintained free of dead material, with no limbs within 6'-10' of the ground, and clear of shrubs beneath the canopy. Other fire-prone natives should be maintained in isolated stands more than 30' from structures.

Species	Common Name(s)
Abies spp.	Firs
Acacia spp.	Acacia species
Adenostoma fasciculatum	Chamise, Greasewood
Arctostaphylos spp.	Manzanita (some twiggy)
Artemisia californica	Coastal Sagebrush
Baccharis spp.	Coyote Brush
Bamboo	Bamboo (all tribes)
Cedrus spp.	Cedars
Chamaecyparis spp.	False Cypress
Chrysopsis chrysophylla	Chinquapin, Giant
Cortaderia jubata	Jubata Grass
Cortaderia selloana	Pampas Grass
Cupressus spp.	Cypress
Cytisus scoparius	Scotch Broom
Erigonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat
Eucalyptus spp.	Eucalyptus
Genista monspessulana	French Broom
Juniperus spp.	Junipers
Larix spp.	Larch
Notholithocarpus densiflorus	Tan Oak, Tanbark Oak
Palms	Palm (with dry fronds)
Pennisetum spp.	Fountain Grass
Picea spp.	Spruces
Pickeringia montana	Chaparral Pea
Pinus spp.	Pines
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas-Fir
Quercus spp.	Scrub Oak (brushy oaks)
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
Salvia mellifera	Black Sage
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom
Taxus spp.	Yew
Thuja spp.	Arborvitae
Tsuga spp.	Hemlock
Ulex europea	Gorse
Umbellularia californica	California Bay
Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen Huckleberry