

USE OF LOCAL NATIVE SPECIES

INTRODUCTION

The use of locally native plants for all landscaping and revegetation projects adjacent to streams and riparian areas is required for new and major redevelopment. It should also be the preferred choice for homeowners involved in any landscaping and revegetation projects within the riparian corridor since native plants are ecologically best suited to a particular creek environment and will provide the most habitat and slope protection with the least amount of maintenance over time.

HOW TO FIND AND SELECT NATIVES IN THE WATERSHED

When vegetating the creek, choose species growing nearby and make sure the plants used were propagated from seeds, cuttings or divisions collected from the same local creek or watershed. Try local home-grown native plants via direct installation of seeds, divisions and cuttings on the creek bank. Oaks, buckeye and bay trees are easy to grow from seed planted directly into moist creek bank soil. Cottonwood and willow are easy to grow from cuttings stuck directly into moist sandbars. California rose, California blackberry, snowberry, mugwort, beardless wildrye and others can be propagated readily from vegetative offsets and division.

GUIDELINES FOR PLANTING NATIVE SPECIES

- Geared toward establishing or enhancing the native habitat.
- **Ensure that the initial planting density is high**, averaging 6 to 12 feet on center, to create canopy coverage and closure quickly. Include a range of species in the plant palette to fill in the understory, mid-story and overstory.
- **Avoid hardscape** such as patios, walkways and decks within these areas to minimize human impacts and maximize habitat value.
- **Maintain and monitor plantings** for a 3 to 5 year period to ensure healthy establishment. Performance and success criteria include percentage of allowable mortality and goals for an annual percentage of vegetative cover.
- Slowly eliminate the need for human intervention, including irrigation, weed control, replanting, pruning, etc. The final goal is to discontinue maintenance activities when habitat is self sustainable.

California Native Plant Society's Web site:
www.cnps.org

DESIGN GUIDE 2

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS 1.B & 1.C

LIST OF NATIVE PLANT SPECIES

The following list is a conglomerate of riparian plant species that exist within the boundaries of Santa Clara County. The distribution of one plant may or may not overlap with the next one on the list. Some of them would never be seen together in the wild due to preferences for different

microclimates, soil substrates and hydrologic regimes. If you are unfamiliar with local native plant ecology, consult local experts for help selecting the best plant palette for your particular creek or follow Nature's example and copy what you see in a wild area located close to your project site.

TREES:

Big Leaf Maple

Acer macrophyllum

California Box Elder

Acer negundo var. *californicum*

California Buckeye

Aesculus californica

White Alder

Alnus rhombifolia

Western Sycamore

Platanus racemosa

Fremont Cottonwood

Populus fremontii ssp. *fremontii*

Black Cottonwood

Populus trichocarpa

Coast Live Oak

Quercus agrifolia

Valley Oak

Quercus lobata

Narrow-leaved Willow

Salix exigua

Red Willow

Salix laevigata

Yellow Willow

Salix lucida ssp. *lasiandra*

Arroyo Willow

Salix lasiolepis

Blue Elderberry

Sambucus mexicana

California Bay Laurel

Umbellularia californica

SHRUBS AND VINES:

California Sagebrush

Artemisia californica

Mule Fat

Baccharis salicifolia

Virgin's Bower

Clematis ligusticifolia

Toyon

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Coffeeberry

Rhamnus californica

California Wild Grape

Vitis californica

Brown Dogwood

Cornus glabrata

California Rose

Rosa californica

California Blackberry

Rubus ursinus

Snowberry

Symphoricarpos albus var. *laevigatus*

GROUND COVERS AND HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS:

Mugwort

Artemisia douglasiana

Western Aster

Aster chilensis

Douglas' Baccharis

Baccharis douglasii

Western Goldenrod

Euthamia occidentalis

Beardless Wildrye

Leymus triticoides

Sticky Monkey Flower

Mimulus aurantiacus

California Figwort

Scrophularia californica

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USE OF ORNAMENTAL OR NON-NATIVE LANDSCAPING

INTRODUCTION

If the use of local native plants propagated from local stock does not fit your landscaping goals, choose:

- **Non invasive drought-tolerant, non native ornamental plants** having no potential to cross pollinate native riparian species. For example, if native valley and coast live oaks, willows, sycamores or cottonwoods exist in the riparian corridor, don't plant ornamental oaks, willows, sycamores or poplars.
- **Non invasive, drought tolerant, non-local California natives** (aka ornamental natives), with no potential to cross-pollinate local native species; for example- Fremontodendron or Romneya.

When selecting plants and choosing their location in an ornamental landscape, the project design goals are generally geared to human aesthetics. In choosing ornamental landscaping, hardscape features, such as patios, decks, and walkways, are design components. **These features should be avoided within the riparian habitat area at all locations.**

PLANT SELECTION GUIDE

The choices of plants that meet the criteria described above for ornamental landscaping is vast. Selection of a plant species for a particular site will depend on goals of the landscape plan, site constraints, the owner's desires and budget. There are a variety of resources available from which selections can be made. Cities generally have plant lists available that were assembled for water conservation purposes. The East Bay Municipal Utility District has prepared a book, entitled "Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates" and the Sunset Western Garden Book, commonly available at most nurseries, has plant selections identified that are suitable for dry places. **Select plants from these sources as long as you avoid invasive plants and take the caution provided above for selecting native species that have not been propagated from your local watershed.**

REFERENCES

The California Native Plant Society's 'Guidelines for Protecting Native Plants from Genetic Degradation' is a helpful reference on the subject.

NON – LOCAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

The following California native plants have a very low potential of hybridizing with our Santa Clara County natives since they do not naturally occur in northern California

TREES

Chilopsis linearis, (Desert Willow), Lyonothamnus floribundus, (Catalina Ironwood), Prosopis glandulosa var. torreyana, (Mesquite)

SHRUBS

Fremontodendron californicum or Fremontodendron mexicanum, (Flannel Bush), Galvesia speciosa, (Island Bush Snapdragon) Rhus integrifolia, (Lemonade Berry), Rhus ovata, (Sugar Bush), Romneya coulteri, (Matilija Poppy), Simmondsia chinensis, (Jojoba)

California Invasive Plant Council Web site:
www.cal-ipc.org

DESIGN GUIDE 3

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS 1.C.2

COMMONLY FOUND INVASIVE SPECIES TO BE AVOIDED

Acacia

Acacia spp.

Almond

Prunus dulcis

Ash, evergreen

Fraxinus uhdei

Bamboo, running types

Arundinaria, *chimonobambusa*,
phyllostachys, etc.

Black locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

Broom, french

Genista monspessulana,
previously *cytisus monspessulanus*

Broom, scotch

Cytisus scoparius

Broom, spanish

Spartium junceum

Cape weed

Arctotheca calendula

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster spp.

Elm

Ulmus spp.

Eucalyptus

Eucalyptus spp.

Fig

Ficus carica

Flowering plum, fruitful varieties

Prunus spp.

Fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum); purple
variety "cupreum" is sterile and
acceptable

Foxglove

Digitalis purpurea

Giant reed

Arundo donax

Glossy privet

Ligustrum lucidum

Gorse

Ulex europaea

Himalayan blackberry

Rubus discolor

Holly oak

Quercus ilex

Iceplants

Carpobrotus edulis, c. *Chilensis*,
mesembryanthemum spp.

Ivy, algerian

Hedera canariensis

Ivy, cape

Delairea odorata,
previously *senecio mikanioides*

Ivy, english

Hedera helix

Kikuyu grass

Pennisetum clandestinum

Lemon balm

Melissa officinalis

Lombardy poplar

Populus nigra 'italica'

London plane tree

Platanus acerifolia

**Mint, any kind including
pennyroyal, peppermint,
spearmint**

Mentha spp.

Monterey pine

Pinus radiata

Myoporum

Myoporum laetum

Olive

Olea europaea

**Pampas grass,
jubata grass**

Cortaderia selloana, *C. Jubata*

Pepper trees

Schinus spp.

Periwinkle

Vinca major

Pyracantha

Pyracantha spp.

Tamarisk, salt cedar

Tamarix spp.

Tree of heaven

Ailanthus altissima

Walnut, english or black

Juglans regia, *juglans californica*
var. *Hindsii*

Find it at: <http://www.cnps.org/archives/archives.htm>

Scroll down to:

- 1) Policies and Guidelines
- 2) Conservation Policies
- 3) Guidelines for Landscaping to Protect Native Vegetation from Genetic Degradation.

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