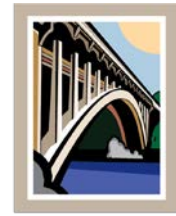# FOLSOM
FIRE DEPARTMENT
535 Glenn Drive
Folsom, CA 95630
Office (916)461-6300 Fax (916)984-7081
www.folsom.ca.us

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PLANT LIST

Providing "defensible space" can reduce the risk of structural damage caused by fire. This space, at least 30 feet wide, where possible, and up to 100 feet for high-hazard areas, is the area surrounding a structure where plants are maintained to decrease the fire hazard and provide an opportunity for firefighters to safely defend a home. Vegetation that does not ignite easily should be planted in the defensible space. Landscape plants protect soils from erosion and provide aesthetic and ecological benefits. Trees and shrubs are acceptable as long as they are widely spaced and do not provide a continuous path of fuel for a fire to climb from the ground to a tree crown or roof (a fuel ladder). Proper landscape maintenance can dramatically improve the fire safety of a yard.

"Fire-resistant" does not mean "fire-proof". There are no "fire-proof" plants. Any plant will burn under the right conditions. Further, there are few comprehensive, universal lists of fire-resistant plants that have been established through scientific research that can be applicable to all areas. Plant flammability varies based on physical structure and components (branch size, leaf size and shape and retention of dead material) and chemical elements (e.g. volatile oils and resins, moisture content, mineral content, lignin, and waxes). The following list is a summary of information gathered from multiple sources. However, there are some general guidelines to follow in creating a fire-resistant landscape.

Use:
- Hardy, slow growing plants that don't produce a lot of thatch or litter. These plants accumulate fuel at a slower pace, reducing your maintenance requirements.
- Drought tolerant native plants that can maintain a high internal water content without needing a lot of water. Succulents like yucca or aloes are examples.
- Native trees that have adaptations to fire, such as thick bark. These trees have a higher tolerance for fire and help restrict the growth of more volatile invasive and shrub species.

Avoid:
- Plants like juniper, Italian cypress, feather and fountain grasses, or ice plants can have dead thatch inside or under a green surface layer.
- Plants like eucalyptus, palms, or some manzanitas shed dry bark or drop leaves or fronds.
- Invasive plants that can escape yards and form continuous fuel beds in un-managed areas, while damaging native habitat for wildlife.

Landscape plants are only one component of a defensible space. Landscape designs should concentrate on defensible space through the strategic use of hardscape, fire-resistant outdoor structures, thoughtful placement of water sources, and horizontal and vertical spacing of plants. Separate taller shrubbery from trees to avoid fire ladders where flames might ascend into tree crowns. Select and locate trees away from structures based on the ultimate size of the tree. Prune dead or dying branches out of trees and shrubs regularly. Be careful to avoid unintended consequences in creating your defensible space. Use groundcovers or fire-resistant mulch materials to prevent erosion of exposed soil. Mowing or excessive soil cultivation may cause or accelerate invasive species such as star thistle.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PLANT LIST

TREES	
Botanical Name	**Common Name**
Aesculus californica	California Buckeye
Acer burgerianum	Trident Maple
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple
Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Arbutus x marina	"Marina" Strawberry Tree
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree
Betula nigra	River Birch
Betula platyphylla	Japanese White Birch
Callistemon citrinus	Bottlebrush Tree
Ceratonia siliqua	Carob Tree
Cercidium floridum	Blue Palo Verde
Cercis canadensis	Eastern Redbud
Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow
Chitalpa	Chitalpa
Citrus spp.	Citrus (e.g. orange, lemon, grapefruit, etc.)
Cornus species (all)	Dogwood
Eriobotrya spp.	Loquat
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple guava
Gingko biloba	Gingko hybrids
Juglans species	Walnut
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape Myrtle
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree
Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo Tree
Parkisonia aculeata	Mexican Palo Verde
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache
Platanus acerifolia	London Plane Tree
Platanus racemosa	California Sycamore
Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry
Prunus lyonii	Catalina Cherry
Prunus serrulatta	Japanese Flowering Cherry
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak
Quercus douglasii	Blue Oak
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak
Quercus suber	Cork Oak
Quercus wislizeni	Interior Live Oak
Rhus lancea	African Sumac
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian Pepper Tree
Tiliia cordata	Little Leaf Linden
Tilia tomentosa	Silver Linden
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm
Zelkova serrata	Japanese Zelkova

SHRUBS	
Botanical Name	**Common Name**
Agapanthus africanus	Lilly of the Nile
Agave species	Century Plant
Arbutus unedo compacta	Strawberry bush
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Bush
Berberis thunbergia	Japanese Barberry
Ceanothus spp.	California Lilac
Cistus purpureus	Rockrose
Convolvulus cneorum	Bush Morning Glory
Dietes spp.	Fortnight Lily
Elaeagnus pungens	Silverberry
Escallonia spp.	Escallonia
Euonymous spp.	Spindle Bush
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava
Fremontia spp.	Flannel Bush
Garrya ellptica	Coast Silktassel
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
Lantana spp.	Lantana
Mahonia aquifolia	Oregon Grape
Mahonia repens	Creeping Oregon Grape
Melaleuca spp.	Melaleuca
Mimulus spp.	Monkeyflower
Nerium oleander	Oleander
Photinia spp.	Photinia
Pittosporum tenuifolium	Black Stem Pittosporum
Pittosporum tobira	Mock Orange
Punicia granatum	Pomegranate
Pyracantha spp.	Firethorn
Rhamnus alaternus	Italian Blackthorn
Rhamnus californica	Coffeeberry
Rhaphiolepsis spp.	Indian hawthorn
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade Berry
Ribes speciosum	Fuschia-Flowering Gooseberry
Ribes viburnifolium	Evergreen Currant
Rosa spp.	Rose
Salvia spp.	Sage
Solanum xanti	Nightshade
Sambucus nigra	Elderberry
Strelitzia reginae	Bird of Paradise
Syringa vulgaris	Common Lilac
Verbena lilacina	Lilac Verbena
Xylosma congestum	Shiny Xylosma
Yucca spp.	Yucca
Zauschneria californica	California Fuschia

VINES	
Botanical Name	**Common Name**
Campsis radicans	Trumpet Vine
Distictis buccinatoria	Blood-Red Trumpet Vine
Lonicera japonica	Hall's Honeysuckle
Solanum jasinoides	Potato Vine
Tecomaria capensis	Cape honeysuckle

GROUNDCOVERS	
Botanical Name	**Common Name**
Achillea spp.	Yarrow
Ajuga reptans	Carpet Bugle
Aptenia cordifolia	Aptenia
Arctotheca calendula	Silver Spreader
Armeria martitima	Common Thrift
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer
Cistus salvifoliua	Prostrate Rockrose
Coprosma kirkii	Creeping Coprosma
Cotoneaster spp.	Redberry
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy
Euonymus fortunei	Winter Creeper
Ferocactus viridescens	Coast Barrel Cactus
Fragaria chiloensis	Mock Strawberry
Gaillardia grandiflora	Blanket Flower
Gazania spp.	Gazania
Helianthemum spp.	Sunrose
Heuchera maxima	Coral Bells
Iberis sempervirens	Candytuft
Lantana spp.	Lantana
Lippia canescens	Carpet Grass
Liriope gigantea	Turf Lily
Myoporum spp.	Myoporum
Oenothera berlandieri	Mexican Evening Primrose
Pelargonium peltatum	Ivy Geranium
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
Santolina chamaecyparissus	Lavender Cotton
Sedum acre	Goldmoss sedum
Sedum album	Green Stonecrop
Verbena rigida	Verbena
Vinca major or minor	Periwinkle

PERENNIALS	
Botanical Name	**Common Name**
Coreopsis spp.	Coreopsis
Heuchera hybrids	Coral Bells
Iris douglasiana	Douglas Iris
Kniphofia uvaria	Red-Hot Poker
Lavandula spp.	Lavender
Limonium perezii	Sea Lavender
Oenothera spp.	Mexican Primrose
Penstemon spp.	Penstemon
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-Eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium californicum	Golden-Eyed Grass
Zauschneria californica	California fuschia

Bee Attractant
Butterfly Attractant
Bee & Butterfly Attractant

Revised- August 2019