

## CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRE RESISTIVE VEGETATION

All plants will burn under extreme fire weather conditions such as drought. However, plants burn at different intensities and rates of consumption. Fire resistive plants burn at a relatively low intensity, slow rates of spread and with short flame lengths. The following are characteristics of fire resistive vegetation.

- Growth with little or no accumulation of dead vegetation (either on the ground or standing upright)
- Non-resinous plants (willow, poplar or tulip trees)
- Low volume of total vegetation (for example, a grass area as opposed to a forest or shrub covered land)
- Plants with high level fuel moisture (plants that contain a large amount of water in comparison to their dry weight)
- Drought tolerant plants (deeply rooted plants with thick heavy leaves)
- Stands without ladder fuels (plants without small fine branches and limbs between the ground and the canopy of overtopping shrubs and trees)
- Plants requiring little maintenance (slow growing plants which, when maintained, require little care)
- Plants with woody stems and branches that require prolonged heating to ignite.

The following plants represents some of the common species used in landscaping in the urban/wildland interface for fire protection.

## **GROUND COVERS AND SUB-SHRUBS**

Achillea tomentosa (woolly yarrow)  
Agave vilmoriniana (octopus agave)  
Aloe brevifolia (short leaf aloe)  
Arctotis (africian daisy)  
Arctostaphylos uva-uris (bearberry)  
Atriplex canescens (four-wing saltbush)  
Baccharis pilularis (coyote brush)  
Ceanothus prostrates (squaw carpet)  
Delosperma 'Alba' (white trailing ice plant)  
Euonymus fortunei (common wintercreeper)  
Hedera (ivy)  
Hypericum calycinum (aaron's beard)  
Lantana montevidensis (trailing lantana)  
Malephora crocea (trailing ice plant)  
Osteospermum fruticosum (trailing africian daisy)  
Phyla nodiflora (lippia)  
Rosmarinus officinalis prostrates (dwarf rosemary)  
Santolina virens (green lavender cotton)  
Senecio serpens (kleinia repens)  
Thymus serpyllum (mother-of-thyme)  
Vinca major (periwinkle)

Aeonium (succulent)  
Aloe aristata (dwarf aloe)  
Arctotheca calendula (cape weed)  
Arctostaphylos hookeri (Monterey carpet)  
Artemisia caucasica (silver spreader)  
Atriplex semibaccata (australian saltbush)  
Carissa grandiflora (green carpet)  
Cerastium tomentosum (stone-in-summer)  
Drosanthemum (rosea ice plant)  
Gazania (trailing gazania)  
Helianthemum nummularium (sunrose)  
Lampranthus (ice plant)  
Lonicera japonica (japanese honeysuckle)  
Myoporum parvifolium prostrate (myoporum)  
Pelargonium peltatum (icy geranium)  
Potentilla verna (spring cinquefoil)  
Salvia sonomensis (creeping sage)  
Sedum (stonecrop)  
Teucrium chamaedrys (germander)  
Verbena peruviana (Peruvian verbena)  
Vinca minor (dwarf periwinkle)

## **SHRUBS**

Callistemon (bottle brush)  
Cistus (rockrose)  
Myoporum insulare  
Pelargonium hortorum (garden geranium)  
Rhamnus alaternus (italian buckthorn)  
Rhus laurina (laurel sumac)  
Solanum jasminoides (potato vine)

Ceanothus (wild lilac)  
Heteromeles arbutifolia (toyon)  
Nerium oleander (oleander) dwarf type  
Portulacaria afra (elephant's food)  
Rhamnus californica (coffee berry)  
Senecio cineraria (dusty miller)

## **TREES**

Ceratonia siliqua (carob)  
Platanus (sycamore)  
Prunus lyonii (catalina cherry)  
Rhus laurina (african sumac)  
Schinus molle (california pepper)  
Umbellularia californica (california laurel)

Cercis occidentalis (western redbud)  
Populus (poplar)  
Prunus caroliniana (carolina laurel cherry)  
Robinia (locust)  
Schinus terebinthifolia (brazilian pepper)  
Tamarix (tamarisk)