

Rancho Santa Fe
Fire Protection District

Desirable
Tree
List



Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District
Proudly Serving the Community Since 1946

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The Desirable Tree List is arranged alphabetically by botanical name, followed by common name. Also included is the height of each tree at maturity, and the distance each tree should be planted apart from one another. When referring to the tree list, please use the tree legend and comment codes listed below.

TREE LIST LEGEND

Geographical Area	Water Needs	Evergreen/Deciduous
C = Coastal	H = High	E = Evergreen
IV = Interior Valleys	M = Moderate	D = Deciduous
D = Deserts	L = Low	
	VL = Very Low	

COMMENT CODES

1	Not for use in coastal areas	13	Tends to be short lived
2	Should not be used on steep slopes	14	Highly fire-resistive
3	May be damaged by frost	15	Dead fronds or leaves need to be removed to maintain fire-resistive status
4	Should be thinned bi-annually to remove dead or unwanted growth	16	Tolerant of heavy pruning
5	Good for erosion control	17	Must be cut back after flowering
6	Grows best in well-drained soils	18	May require partial shade in desert or valley areas
7	Produces flowers or fruit that attracts birds and/or butterflies	19	Perennial
8	Adaptability can vary	20	Tolerates saline soils
9	Can be used as a lawn substitute	21	Grows naturally in riparian areas
10	Showy flowers	22	Good tree for lawns
11	Produces edible fruit	23	Produces habitat or food for wildlife
12	California native or native cultivar	24	Trees acceptable for under/near primary (up to 12 kv) power lines.



The enclosed Desirable Tree List is provided as a suggested guideline (not exclusive) for fuel modification landscapes within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District.



Pine trees, eucalyptus, cypress, junipers and firs are not recommended for planting, especially within 30-feet of a structure, due to their exceptionally high flammability. Flammable trees and shrubs may render your home indefensible during a wildfire.

All trees should be chosen with on-going maintenance in mind, and trimmed at least 10 to 30-feet from combustible construction, roofs and wood siding. Trees must also be limbed up to a minimum of six-feet above surrounding vegetation to prevent a ground fire from 'laddering' into tree crowns.

The Desirable Tree List is based on comments from numerous professionals and public agencies, including:

- [Sunset Western Garden Book](#)
- Bob Perry's [Landscape Plants for Western Regions](#)
- [Street Trees Recommended for Southern California](#)
- And the California Department of Water Resources study entitled, [WUCOLS \(Water Use Classification of Landscape Species\)](#)

More information about fire-resistive landscaping is available through these resources:

"Firescape" Gardening:

Quail Botanical Gardens
 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
 (760) 436-3036 / Fax: (760) 632-0917
www.qbgardens.com

"SelectTree" tree selection guidelines for California:

<http://selecttree.calpoly.edu>



Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Desirable Tree List

Botanical Name (Alphabetical)	Common Name	Height (In Feet)	Spread (In Feet)	Geograph- ical Area	Water Needs	D/E	Other Comment Codes
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Bigleaf Maple	30-95'	30-95'	C, IV	M	D	12, 23
<i>A. negundo</i>	Box Elder	<60'	<50'	IV, D	M, L	D	12, 23
<i>A. palmatum</i>	Japanese Maple	<20'	<20'	C, IV	M	D	6
<i>A. saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	40-100'	40-100'	C, IV, D	M	D	22
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Peppermint Tree	25-35'	25-35'	C, IV	M, L	E	3, 22
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Silk Tree	<40'	>40'	C, IV, D	M	D	7, 10, 22
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian Alder	40'	25'	C, IV, D	M	D	22
<i>A. rhombifolia</i>	White Alder	50-90'	40'	IV	H, M	D	12, 21, 23
<i>Arbutus Marina</i>	Arbutus	<40'	<40'	C, IV, D	M, L	E	5, 7, 10, 11, 23
<i>A. unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	12-35'	20-35'	C, IV, D	M, L	E	5, 7, 10, 11, 23, 24
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexandra Palm	50'	10-15'	C, IV	M	E	3, 10, 15
<i>A. cunningham</i>	King Palm	50'	10-15'	C, IV	M	E	3, 10, 15
<i>Avocado species</i>	Avocado	varies	varies	C, IV	M	E	--
<i>Bauhinia blakeana</i>	Hong Kong Orchid Tree	20-25'	20-25'	C, IV	L	D	4, 10
<i>B. variegata</i>	Purple Orchid Tree	20-35'	35'	C, IV	M	D/E	4, 10
<i>Betula pendula</i>	European White Birch	30-40'	30'	C, IV, D	M	D	6, 22
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame Tree	60'	45-50'	C, IV, D	L	D	10, 22
<i>B. populneus</i>	Kurrajong Bottle Tree	30-50'	30'	C, IV, D	L	E	10, 22
<i>Brahea armata</i>	Blue Hesper Palm	40'	10'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	6, 10, 15
<i>B. brandegeei</i>	San Jose Hesper Palm	<125'	10'	C, IV	L, VL	E	15
<i>B. edulis</i>	Guadalupe Palm	30'	10'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	6, 15
<i>Calodendrum capense</i>	Cape Chestnut	30'	25-40'	C, IV	M	D	7, 10
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan	70'	70'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	6, 11
<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>	Gold Medallion Tree	20-25'	10'	C, IV	L, M	E	10, 16, 17, 22
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	30-40'	15-30'	C, IV	M, L	E	--
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western Redbud	20'	20'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	7, 10, 12, 23, 24
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Mediterranean Fan Palm	20'	20'	C, IV, D	M	E	15
<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	Chinese Fringe Tree	20'	20'	C, IV	M	D	10, 24
<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	Chitalpa	20-30'	20'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	7, 10, 24
<i>Chorisia speciosa</i>	Floss Silk Tree	30-60'	30-40'	C, IV, D	M	D	10, 22
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor Tree	>50'	>60'	C, IV, D	M, L	E	22
<i>Citrus species</i>	Citrus	20-30'	20-30'	C, IV	M	E	--
<i>Cordylina australis</i>	Giant Dracaena	30'	15'	C, IV, D	M	E	15
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Carrot Wood	40'	40'	C, IV, D	M	E	20
<i>Dracaena drago</i>	Dragon Tree	20'	20'	C, IV	M, L	E	3, 10, 14, 15
<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	Bronze Loquat	20'	20'	C, IV, D	M, L	E	10, 24
<i>E. japonica</i>	Loquat	15-30'	20-30'	C, IV	M, L	E	--
<i>Erythrina species</i>	Coral Tree	varies	varies	C, IV, D	M, L	D	3, 7, 8
<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	Coral Gum	<25'	<20'	IV, D	M, L	E	1, 5, 7, 10, 20, 24
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	Pineapple Guava	18-25'	<25'	C, IV, D	M, L	E	3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 24
<i>Ficus species</i>	Fig	varies	varies	C, IV, D	M, L	D/E	3, 8, 24
<i>Fraxinus augustifolia</i>	Raywood Ash	25-35'	30'	C, IV, D	M	D	22
<i>F. dipetala</i>	Foothill Ash	18-20'	20-30'	C, IV, D	L, VL	D	12, 21, 22, 23
<i>F. latifolia</i>	Oregon Ash	40-80'	40-60'	C, IV, D	M	D	12, 22, 23
<i>F. velutina</i>	Arizona Ash	20-50'	30-50'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	22, 23
<i>F. velutinacoriacea</i>	Montebello Ash	20-40'	20-40'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	12, 22, 23
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow	25-30'	20-30'	C, IV, D	M, L	E	6, 24
<i>Gingko Biloba</i>	Maidenhair Tree	35-80'	30-60'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	6, 22
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust	35-70'	<30'	IV, D	M, L	D	6, 22
<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silk Oak	50-60'	50'	C, IV	L, M	E	--
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Sweetshade	20-40'	15-20'	IV	M, L	E	10
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	25-40'	<30'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	10, 22
<i>Juglans californica</i>	So. Calif. Black Walnut	20-35'	30-45'	C, IV	L	D	5, 6, 12, 23
<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	Chinese Flame Tree	20-40'	<45'	C, IV, D	M	D	6, 22

Botanical Name (Alphabetical)	Common Name	Height (In Feet)	Spread (In Feet)	Geographical Area	Water Needs	D/E	Other Comment Codes
<i>K. paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	20-35'	<40'	IV, D	M, L	D	20, 22, 24
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape Myrtle	<30'	<20'	IV, D	M, L	D	10, 22, 24
<i>Lagunaria patersonii</i>	Primrose Tree	20-40'	30'	C, IV	M	E	--
<i>Liquidambar formosana</i>	Chinese Sweet Gum	40-60'	25'	C, IV, D	M	D	7
<i>L. styraciflua</i>	American Sweet Gum	60'	<25'	C, IV, D	M	D	8
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	60-80'	40'	C, IV, D	M	D	22
<i>Lithocarpus densiflorus</i>	Tanbark Oak	<60'	<40'	C, IV	L	E	6, 12, 23
<i>Magnolia species</i>	Magnolia	varies	varies	C, IV, D	M	E/D	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 22, 24
<i>Metrosideros excelsus</i>	New Zealand Christmas	<30'	<30'	C, IV	L, VI	E	5, 6, 7, 10
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	20-60'	30-50'	IV, D	M, L	D	11, 16
<i>Olea europea</i>	Olive	<35'	20-30'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	11, 16, 20
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island Date Palm	<60'	50'	C, IV	L, M	E	15
<i>P. dactylifera</i>	Date Palm	<80'	30'	IV	L, M	E	15
<i>P. reclinata</i>	Sinegal Date Palm	20-30'	20'	C, IV	L, M	E	15
<i>P. roebelenii</i>	Pigmy Date Palm	6'	10'	C, IV	L, M	E	15
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache	<60'	<50'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	22
<i>Pittosporum phylliraeoides</i>	Willow Pittosporum	15-25'	10-15'	C, IV, D	L	E	10
<i>P. rhombifolium</i>	Queensland Pittosporum	15-35'	<25'	C, IV, D	M	E	22
<i>P. undulatum</i>	Victorian Box	<25'	<25'	C, IV	M	E	22
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree	40-80'	30-40'	C, IV, D	L	D	22
<i>P. racemosa</i>	California Sycamore	50-100'	50-100'	C, IV, D	L	D	12, 21, 22, 23
<i>Podocarpus gracillor</i>	Fern Pine	<60'	<60'	C, IV, D	M	E	16, 22
<i>P. macrophyllus</i>	Yew Pine	<50'	<45'	C, IV, D	M	E	16, 22
<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont Cottonwood	40-60'	40-60'	C, IV, D	M	D	12, 21, 22, 23
<i>P. nigra 'Italica'</i>	Lombardy Poplar	40-100'	10-20'	C, IV	M	D	22
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina Cherry Laurel	35-40'	30-40'	C, IV	L, M	E	--
<i>P. ilicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf Cherry	15-30'	15-30'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	7, 11, 12, 16, 23
<i>P. lyonii</i>	Catalina Cherry	20-45'	>30'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	7, 11, 12, 16, 23
<i>P. species & 'cultivars'</i>	Cherry	varies	varies	C, IV, D	varies	E/D	7, 8, 10, 11, 16, 24
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	12-18'	<20'	C, IV, D	L	D	7, 11, 20, 24
<i>Pyrus kawakamii</i>	Evergreen Pear	<30'	20-30'	C, IV	L, M	E	--
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	30-70'	>70'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	6, 12, 23
<i>Q. chrysolepis</i>	Canyon Live Oak	30-60'	20-60'	C, IV	M, L	E	6, 12, 36
<i>Q. douglasii</i>	Blue Oak	50'	>50'	C, IV, D	M	D	6, 12, 23
<i>Q. engelmannii</i>	Engelmann Oak	60'	>60'	IV, D	L	E	6, 12, 23
<i>Q. ilex</i>	Holly Oak	40-70'	40-70'	C, IV, D	M	E	6, 23
<i>Q. palustris</i>	Pin Oak	50-80'	50-70'	C, IV, D	H, M	D	6, 22, 23
<i>Q. rubra</i>	Red Oak	<90'	90'	C, IV	H, M	D	6, 23
<i>Q. suber</i>	Cork Oak	70-100'	<100'	C, IV, D	M	E	6, 23
<i>Q. virginia</i>	Southern Live Oak	60'	100'	C, IV, D	M, H	E/D	22
<i>Rhus lancea</i>	African Sumac	20-30'	20-30'	C, IV, D	L	E	20, 22, 24
<i>Robina ambigua</i>	Locust	30-50'	<30'	IV, D	M, L	D	1, 7, 10, 22
<i>R. pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust	75'	30-40'	IV, D	L	D	1, 5, 7, 10, 22
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	Queensland Umbrella Tree	>20'	>20'	C	H, M	E	3, 8, 18
<i>S. pueckleri</i>	Tupidanthus	>20'	>20'	C	H, M	E	3, 8, 18
<i>Stenocarpus sinvatus</i>	Firewheel Tree	30'	10-20'	C, IV	L	E	--
<i>Syagrus romanzoffianum</i>	Queen Palm	50'	20'	C, IV	L, M	E	--
<i>Tabebuia chrysostricha</i>	Golden Trumpet Tree	25-30'	<30'	C, IV	M	E	6, 10, 22, 24
<i>T. impetiginosa</i>	Pink Trumpet Tree	35'	<30'	C, IV	M	E	6, 10, 22
<i>Tipuana tipu</i>	Tipu Tree	<50'	<50'	C, IV	M	D	10, 22
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Windmill Palm	<30'	<6'	C, IV, D	M	E	15
<i>Tristania conferta</i>	Brisbane Box	30-60'	<40'	C, IV	L, VL	E	22
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California Bay	30-75'	30-75'	C, IV, D	L, VL	E	5, 12, 23
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	40-60'	50-70'	C, IV	L, M	D/E	22
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	California Fan Palm	<60'	10-15'	C, IV	L, M	E	15
<i>W. robusta</i>	Mexican Fan Palm	100'	10-15'	C, IV	L, M	E	--
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Sawleaf Zelkova	60'	60'	IV, D	M	D	22
<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i>	Chinese Jujube	20-30'	20-30'	C, IV, D	M, L	D	11, 20, 22