Selected Fire-Resistant Native Plants for Nevada and Placer County Landscapes

Desirable qualities of fire-resistant plants:
- High moisture content of leaves and stems (Can be augmented by irrigating, especially by watering deeply during the dry season. This is most important adjacent to structures.)
- High salt, mineral, or ash content of leaves and stems (retard fire spread)
- Low volume of fuel—dead leaves, branches, flowers, and seed heads (Can be augmented by trimming, especially adjacent to structures.)
- Low amounts of oils, terpenes, and other volatiles

The following lists include species that are commonly available. An asterisk (*) indicates a California native that is not native to our counties. Many of these are coastal species that grow well here in watered gardens. Use only low-growing, irrigated landscaping adjacent to structures.

Perennial Ground Covers

Dry habitat
Creeping Snowberry, Symphoricarpus mollis
Mahala Mat, Ceanothus prostratus
Coyote Bush, Baccharis pilularis
    cultivars ‘Twin Peaks’* or ‘Pigeon Point’*
Creeping Mahonia, Berberis aquifolium var. repens
Purple Needlegrass, Nasella pulchra

Moist habitat
Wild Ginger, Asarum lemmonii or A. caudatum*
Woodland Strawberry, Fragaria vesca and F. virginiana
Bear Berry Manzanita, Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
    cultivars ‘Point Reyes’* and ‘Emerald Carpet’*
California Maidenhair Fern, Adiantum Jordanii
Red Fescue, Festuca rubra

Perennial Vines

Dry habitat
Wild Honeysuckle, Lonicera hispida and L. interrupta
    (keep trimmed)
Western Morning Glory, Calystegia occidentalis

Moist habitat
California Wild Grape, Vitis californica
California Pipevine, Aristolochia californica

Annuals, Perennials, and Bulbs

Dry habitat
Annual wildflowers:
    Globe Gilia, Elegant Clarkia, and Sky Lupine
Foothill Penstemon, Penstemon heterophyllus
Gay Penstemon, Penstemon laetus
California Poppy, Eschscholzia californica
Western Coneflower, Rudbeckia californica*
Woolly Sunflower, Eriophyllum lanatum
Western Blue Flax, Linum lewisii
Iris, Iris macrosiphon and I. hartwegii (deer resistant)
Native dryland bulbs:
    Humboldt Lily, Lilium humboldtii ssp. humboldtii
    Soap Plant, Chlorogalum pomeridianum
    Mariposa Lilies, Calochortus luteus and C. superbus
    Brodiaea, Dichostemma, and Tritelia species

Moist habitat
Annual wildflowers:
    Chinese Houses, Baby Blue-eyes, and Fivespot
Yarrow, Achillea millefolium
    (trim off dead flower stems)
Scarlet Monkeyflower, Mimulus cardinalis
Seepsgress Monkeyflower, Mimulus guttatus
Meadow Lupines, Lupinus polyphyllus and L. latifolius
Violets, Viola species
Western Columbine, Aquilegia formosa
Alum Root, Heuchera micrantha
Douglas Iris, Pacific Coast hybrids*
Bigelow’s Sneezeweed, Helianthemum bigelovii
Wild Bleeding Heart, Dicentra formosa
Sierra Leopard Lily, Lilium pardinum
Giant Chain Fern, Woodwardia fimbriata
Shrubs

Dry habitat
Toyon, Heteromeles arbutifolia
Snowberry, Symphoricarpos albus var. laevigatus
Manzanita, Arctostaphylos
  many species and cultivars available
Sierra Gooseberry, Ribes roezlii
Tree Anemone, Carpenteria californica*
California Lilac, Ceanothus
  many species and cultivars available
Western Redbud, Cercis occidentalis
Coffeeberry, Rhamnus rubra and R. tomentella
Oregon-grape, Berberis aquifolium
Bush Monkeyflower, Mimulus aurantiacus
Bush Lupine, Lupinus albiifrons
Silk Tassel, Garrya elliptica*
Skunkbush, Rhus trilobata
Hollyleaf Redberry, Rhamnus ilicifolia
Pacific Serviceberry, Amelanchier alnifolia

Moist habitat
Thimbleberry, Rubus parviflorus
Manzanita ‘Howard McMinn’* for garden conditions
Interior Rose, Rosa woodsii var. montana
Spicebush, Calycanthus occidentalis
Snowdrop Bush, Styx officinalis
Buttonwillow, Cephalanthus occidentalis
Willows, Salix species
Creek Dogwood, Cornus sericea
Black-fruited Dogwood, Cornus sessilis
Ninebark, Physocarpus capitatus
California Huckleberry, Vaccinium ovatum*
Tower Spirea, Spirea douglasii
Mountain Spirea, Spirea densiflora
California Hazelnut, Corylus cornuta
Chokecherry, Prunus virginiana
Sierra Currant, Ribes nevadense
Western Azalea, Rhododendron occidentalis

Trees

Moist habitat
Bigleaf Maple, Acer macrophyllum
Valley Oak, Quercus lobata
Western Dogwood, Cornus nuttallii
Oregon Ash, Fraxinus latifolia
White Alder, Alnus rhombifolia
California Bay, Umbellularia californica
Cascara Sagrada, Rhamnus purshiana
Willow, Salix species

Dry habitat
All need to be kept trimmed if near your home.
Pacific Madrone, Arbutus menziesii
Blue Oak, Quercus douglasii
Black Oak, Quercus kelloggi
Canyon Live Oak, Quercus chrysolepis
Interior Live Oak, Quercus wislizenii
Leather Oak, Quercus durata

Sources for Plants and Seeds

Redbud Chapter
www.redbud-cnps.org
Holds annual Fall Native Plant Sale in October at the
Banner Guild  in Grass Valley. The sale features
Northern California growers/nurseries offering native
plants locally adapted to Nevada and Placer Counties
as well as hard-to-find natives grown by Redbud
Chapter members.

Peaceful Valley Farm and Garden Supply
Grass Valley • 530-272-4769 • www.GrowOrganic.com

Floral Native Nursery
Chico 530-892-2511  www.FloralNativeNursery.com

Cornflower Farms
Elk Grove • 916-689-1015 • www.CornflowerFarms.com

Information Sources

Las Piñitas Nursery
www.laspinitas.com

California Native Plant Society
www.cnps.org

California Native Grasslands Association
www.CNGA.org

Lemon’s Wild Ginger, Asarum lemmonii
Long-tailed Ginger, Asarum caudatum