



## UNDESIRABLE PLANT SPECIES LIST

Both native and ornamental plants can be highly flammable. Flammable plant material in your landscape can increase the fire risk directly around your home. Certain plants are considered to be undesirable in the landscape due to characteristics that make them highly flammable. These characteristics can be either physical or chemical. For instance, physical properties would include large amounts of dead material retained within the plant, such as twigs, needles, and leaves; rough or peeling bark; and production of copious amounts of litter. Chemical properties include the presence of volatile substances, such as oils, resins, waxes, and pitch. Plant material with these characteristics should not be planted close to your structures. The following plants have been declared "undesirable" within 150-foot fuel modification zone surrounding all structures. All vegetation is listed alphabetically by botanical name, followed by the common name. The following plants have been declared "undesirable" within 150-foot fuel modification zone surrounding all structures. All vegetation is listed alphabetically by botanical name, followed by the common name.

### **Natives:**

Adenostoma Jasciculatum - Chamise  
Adenostoma Sparsifolium - Red Shank  
Artemesia californica - California Sagebrush  
Eriogonum Jasciculatum - Common Buckwheat  
Heterotheca grandiflora - Telegraphweed  
Rhus laurina - Laurel Sumac  
Salvia species - Sage (native species)

### **Ornamentals:**

Abies species - Fir Trees  
Acacia redolens - Prostrate Acacia\*  
Agonis juniperina - Juniper Myrtle  
Araucaria species - Monkey Puzzle, Bunya-Bunya, Norfolk Island Pine\*  
Arundo donax - Giant Cane  
Bambusa species - Bamboo\*  
Calocedrus decurrens- Incense Cedar  
Cedrus species - Cedars\*  
Chamaecyparis species - False Cedars  
Chamaerops humilis - Mediterranean Fan Palm\*



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Cryptomeria japonica - Japanese Cryptomeria  
Cortadera species - Pampas Grass  
Cupressocyparis leylandii ~ Leylandii Cypress\*  
Cupressus species - Cypress\*  
Cytisus species - Scotch Broom, French Broom  
Eucalyptus Species - Eucalyptus\*  
Juniperus species - Junipers\*  
Miscanthus species- Silver Grass  
Muehlenbergia species - Deer Grass\*  
Pennisetum setaceum - Fountain grass, including all cultivars and varieties\*  
Phoenix species - Date Palms\*  
Pinus species - Pines\*  
Rosmarinus officinalis - Rosemary\*  
Tecoma capensis - Cape Honeysuckle\*  
Trachycarpus fortunei - Windmill Palm\*  
Washingtonia species - Fan Palms\*

\*Except as permitted in the planting lists and San Marcos Fire Department landscape Standards

Note:

1. To view a picture of listed plants, go to [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) and search for the Botanical Name of the plant.
2. If the owner wishes to retain these plants, they must be adequately maintained (pruning, thinning, irrigation, litter removal, and or weeding) to reduce the potential for spreading a fire through the landscape.

References:

County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Fuel Modification Plan Guidelines. July 2011.  
County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use. Water Efficient Landscape Design Manual. February 2010.



In an effort to protect homes from a future devastating wildland fire, the San Marcos Fire Department has put together this booklet. You will find valuable information pertaining to both desirable and undesirable trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines and palm trees. The goal of this brochure is to educate the public on issues pertaining to landscaping and to keep their homes safe. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

<b>Canopy Trees:</b> Broad spreading trees that make good accent trees.			
Grow 25-50 ft. tall and should be spaced 30-40 ft. apart.			
<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Dripline To Structure (ft.)</b>	<b>Evergreen or Deciduous</b>
Albizia julibrissin	Silk Floss	10	D
Chorisia speciosa	Floss Silk Tree	10	D
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor	10	E
Erythrina species	Coral	10	D
Ficus species		10	D
Jacaranda mimosifolia		10	D
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Raintree	10	D
Melaleuca linariifolia	Paperbark	10	E
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine	30	E
Platanus acerifolia	Sycamore	10	D
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island Date Palm	30	E
Podocarpus gracilior	Fern Pine	10	E
Pyrus kawakami	Evergreen Pear	10	E
Quercus species	Oak	10	E
Rhus lancea	African Sumac	10	E
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	10	D
Schinus species	Pepper Tree	30	E
Spathodea campanulata	African Tulip Tree	10	D
Tipuana tipu	Tipu Tree	10	D
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm	10	D
Zelkova serrata	Sawleaf Zelkova	10	D



**Vertical Growing Trees:** Upright character and are good choices for narrow areas.

Grow up to 30 ft. tall and should be spaced 20-30 ft. apart.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Dripline To Structure (ft.)	Evergreen or Deciduous
Betula pendula	European White Birch	10	D
Brachychiton populneus	Bottle Tree	10	D
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottle Brush Tree	30	E
Dracena Drago	Dragon Tree	10	E
Hymenosporum flavum	Sweetshade Tree	10	E
Maytenus boaria	Mayten	10	E
Melaleuca quinquenervia	Paperbark Tree	10	E
Metrosideros tomentosa	New Zealand Christmas Tree	10	E
Tristaniopsis conferta	Brisbane Box Tree	10	E

**Ornamental Trees:** Various canopy heights and widths that serve many uses such as accent trees.

Grow 15-40 ft. tall and should be spaced 20-25 ft. apart.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Dripline To Structure (ft.)	Evergreen or Deciduous
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple	10	D
Agonis flexuosa	Peppermint Tree	10	E
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	10	E
Avocado species		30	E
Bauhinia species	Orchid tree	10	D
Cassia leptophylla	Gold Medallion Tree	10	D
Cercis canadensis	Redbud	10	D
Citrus species		10	E
Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Carrotwood tree	10	E
Geijera parvifolia	Australian Willow	10	E
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape myrtle	10	D
Lagunaria patersonii	Primrose Tree	10	E
Magnolia species		10	E/D
Olea europaea	Olive Tree	10	E
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	10	D
Prunus species		10	E/D



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Pyrus species	Ornamental Pear	10	E/D
Tabebuia species	Trumpet Tree	10	E/D

<b>Low-Multi Branching Trees:</b> Large shrubs and small tree forms good for under-story screening.			
Grow 10-25 ft. tall and should be spaced 15-20 ft. apart.			
Botanical Name	Common Name	Dripline To Structure (ft.)	Evergreen or Deciduous
Acacia species		30	E
Eriobotrya deflexa	Bronze Loquat	10	E
Feijoa sellowiana	Guava	10	E
Melalueca nesophila	Pink Melalueca	10	E
Myoporum laetum		10	E
Pittosporum undulatum	Victorian Box	10	E
Punica granatum	Pomegranate	10	D
Thevetia thevetioides	Giant Thevetia	10	E

<b>Tall Skyline Trees:</b> Dramatic Silhouettes against the skyline.			
Grow 40-70 ft. tall and should be spaced 30-40 ft. apart.			
Botanical Name	Common Name	Dripline To Structure (ft.)	Evergreen or Deciduous
Acer macrophyllum	Bigleaf Maple	10	D
Alnus rhombifolia	White Alder tree	10	D
Cedrus species	Cedar tree	30	E
Eucalyptus species		30	E
Fraxinus species	Ash tree	10	D
Grevillea robusta	Silk Oak	10	D
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree	10	D
Liquidambar species	Sweet gum	10	D
Pinus canariensis	Canary Island Pine	30	E
Pinus torreyana	Torrey Pine	30	E
Platanus racemosa	Sycamore	10	D
Populus fremonti	Western Cottonwood	10	D
Populus nigra	Lombardy Poplar	10	D



**Palm Trees:** Vary from single to multiple trunks.

Grow 20-100 ft. tall and should be spaced 20-40 ft. apart.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Dripline To Structure (ft.)	Evergreen or Deciduous
Archontophoenix alexandrae	Alexandra Palm	10	E
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	King Palm	10	E
Brahea armata	Blue Hesper Palm	30	E
Brahea edulis	Guadalupe Palm	30	E
Chamaerops humilis	Mediterranean Fan Palm	30	E
Cycas revoluta	Sago Palm	10	E
Howea forsteriana	Kentia Palm	30	E
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island Date Palm	30	E
Phoenix dactylifera	Date Palm	30	E
Phoenix reclinata	Senegal Date Palm	30	E
Phoenix roebelenii	Pygmy Date Palm	30	E
Syagrus romanzoffianum	Queen Palm	10	E
Trachycarpus fortunei	Windmill Palm	30	E
Washingtonia filifera	California Fan Palm	30	E
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican Fan Palm	30	E
All other Palm species	Various Palms	30	E

**NOTE:**

\*\* This booklet is intended to guide the public on what types of trees and shrubs are acceptable to the San Marcos Fire Department. Other trees and shrubs not listed are still acceptable to use upon approval by the San Marcos Fire Department.

\*\* Trees listed as requiring 30' spacing from dripline to structure are considered non-fire resistive trees by the San Marcos Fire Department. Consult a design professional or the San Marcos Fire Department for site specific questions regarding tree placement

\*\* Trees that grow near power lines pose a potential electrical hazard. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is required by law to maintain minimum clearances between all vegetation and power lines. No tree should be allowed to grow within 10 feet of electrical conductors. SDG&E provides a suggested species list of trees that are appropriate to grow under or adjacent to power lines. This list, along with other information regarding SDG&E Vegetation Management, can be found at <http://sdge.com/safety/treesafety>.