

Native & Drought Resistant Plants & Trees

Here are some tips for low-cost / low maintenance landscaping:

- Use drought-resistant plants in your landscaping (see examples below)
- Use slow growing, hardy plants that are low-maintenance
- Plant shade trees / shrubs to reduce summer heat for your home & landscaping
- For hillside properties, use fire resistant plants for additional protection
- Increase the planting area / reduce the grass area (grass requires more water than shrubs)
- Install a sprinkler system with an automatic timer

Low shrubs / groundcover:

French lavender (Lavandula dentata) (fire resistant)
 Rose bushes (many varieties, dormant in winter)
 Lily of the Nile, Day lily, Fortnight lily
 Star jasmine (Jasminum multiflorum)
 Agapanthus (Agapanthus africanus) / (dwarf) Peter Pan agapanthus
 Gardenia Radicans
 Azalea (sun type)
 Bird of Paradise
 Lilac (many varieties)
 Society garlic (Tulbaghia violacea)
 Ferns (many varieties)
 Shasta daisy (Leucanthemum x superbum) (ground-cover)
 Hahns Ivy (ground-cover)
 Wild strawberry (ground-cover, fire resistant)
 Ice plant (rosea, red spike) (ground-cover)
 Mondo grass (ground-cover)



Medium sized trees:

Cypress (many varieties)
 Tea-tree/Manuka (Leptospermum scoparium)
 Crepe myrtle (Lagerstroemia) (dormant in winter)

Tall shrubs:

Concha (Ceanothus) (fire resistant)
 Purple hopseed bush (Dodonea purpurea)
 Camellia (Camellia japonica)
 Hibiscus (many varieties)
 Nerium oleander (poisonous if eaten)
 Red, bronze, green, yellow or pink striped flax
 Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis)
 Sage (Salvia officinalis) (fire resistant)

Large shade trees:

Coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia) (protected, fire resistant)
 California Sycamore (Platanus racemosa) (protected)
 Semi-evergreen Chinese elm (Ulmus parvifolia)
 Ornamental olive (Olea e.) (non-fruiting)

