Use of Ornamental or Non-native Landscaping

Santa Clara Valley Water District

If the use of local native plants propagated from local stock does not fit your landscaping goals, choose non-native ornamentals or non-local natives.

Non-native ornamentals

Choose non-invasive and drought-tolerant, non-native ornamental plants having no potential to cross pollinate native riparian species. For example, if native valley and coast live oaks, willows, sycamores or cottonwoods exist in the riparian corridor at or near your site, don't plant ornamental oaks, willows, sycamores or poplars.

Non-local natives

Choose non-invasive, drought tolerant, non-local California natives— also referred to as ornamental natives— with no potential to cross-pollinate local native species; for example- *Fremontodendron* or *Romneya.*

Non-local California native plants

These California native plants have a very low potential of hybridizing with Santa Clara County natives since they do not naturally occur in northern California.

Trees

Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis)*

Catalina ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus*)

Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa var. torreyana*)

Shrubs

Flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum* or *Fremontodendron mexicanum*)

Island bush Snapdragon (*Galvesia speciosa*)

Lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)

Sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*)

Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*)

Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*)

Plant selection guide

When selecting plants and choosing their location in an ornamental landscape, the project design goals are generally geared to human occupancy and aesthetics. Hardscape features, such as patios, decks and walkways, are usually desired design components, yet these features should be avoided within the riparian habitat area.

There are vast choices of plants to meet the criteria for non-native ornamentals and ornamental native landscaping. The species selected will depend on the goals of the landscape plan, site constraints, the owner's desires and budget.

There are a variety of resources from which to select plants.. The East Bay Municipal Utility District has prepared a helpful book, entitled "Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates." The Sunset Western Garden Book lists plant selections that are suitable for both dry and moist places. Cities generally have plant lists assembled for water conservation purposes.

When making selections, avoid invasive plants and make sure that native species have been propagated from local natives in your watershed.

www.baynatives.com/plants/Fremontadendron/

Flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*)

Commonly found invasive species to avoid

Excerpted from Guidelines and Standards for Land Use Near Streams

Acacia
Acacia spp.

Almond
Prunus dulcis

Ash, evergreen
Fraxinus uhdei

Bamboo, running types
Arundinaria, Chimonobambusa, Phyllostachys, etc.

Black locust
Robinia pseudoacacia

Broom, french
Genista monspessulana, previously Cytisus monspessulanus

Broom, scotch
Cytisus scoparius

Broom, spanish
Spartium junceum

Cape weed
Arctotheca calendula

Cotoneaster
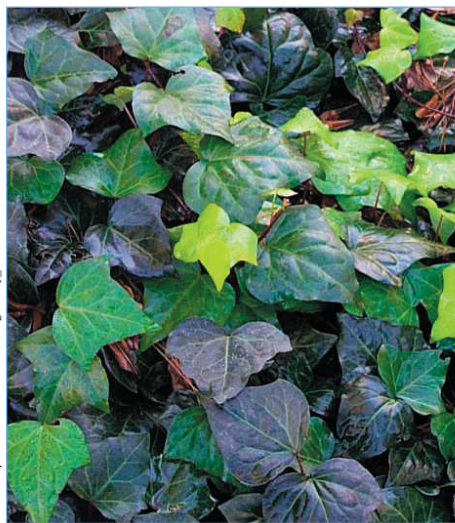*Cotoneaster spp.*

Elm
Ulmus spp.

Eucalyptus
Eucalyptus spp.

Fig
Ficus carica

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Flowering plum, fruitful varieties
Prunus spp.

Fountain grass
Pennisetum setaceum); purple variety "cupreum" is sterile and acceptable

Foxglove
Digitalis purpurea

Giant reed
Arundo donax

Glossy privet
Ligustrum lucidum

Gorse
Ulex europaea

Himalayan blackberry
Rubus discolor

Holly oak
Quercus ilex

Iceplants
Carpobrotus edulis, C. Chilensis, Mesembryanthemum spp.

Ivy, algerian
Hedera canariensis

Ivy, cape
Delairea odorata, previously Senecio mikanioides

Ivy, english
Hedera helix

Kikuyu grass
Pennisetum clandestinum

Lemon balm
Melissa officinalis

Lombardy poplar
Populus nigra 'italica'

London plane tree
Platanus acerifolia

Mint of any kind, including pennyroyal, peppermint, spearmint
Mentha spp.

Monterey pine
Pinus radiata

Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

Myoporum
Myoporum laetum

Olive
Olea europaea

Pampas grass, jubata grass
Cortaderia selloana, C. Jubata

Pepper trees
Schinus spp.

Periwinkle
Vinca major

Pyracantha
Pyracantha spp.

Tamarisk, salt cedar
Tamarix spp.

Tree of heaven
Ailanthus altissima

Walnut, english or black
Juglans regia, J. californica var. Hindsii

Iceplant