

HOW TO USE THIS BROCHURE

GARDEN ZONE

GREENBELT ZONE

TRANSITION ZONE

This brochure suggests native and non-invasive plants appropriate for three zones around a house: the Garden Zone, the Greenbelt Zone, and the Transition Zone. We have selected species for each zone to illustrate desirable fire safety characteristics, which are also met by many other noninvasive landscaping choices. Consult your local nursery for additional recommendations as well as more details on plant requirements and care.

Extending 30 feet out from the house, the Garden Zone should be “lean, clean, and green,” capable of withstanding the impacts of flying burning embers and intense heat. Plants here should have fleshy, moist, and broad leaves. Trees in this zone should not be conifers. To maintain the fire-retardant properties of these plants, remove all dead vegetation and irrigate in summer and early fall to keep plants moist. Keep in mind, though, that there is no such thing as a fireproof landscape—all vegetation will burn under sufficiently hot and dry conditions.

Extending 30 to 70 feet from the house, and farther on slopes, the Greenbelt Zone should be able to slow or stop a surface fire. Plants in this zone should have relatively less dense vegetation and be able to survive droughts, freezes, and neglect. Trees and shrubs should be separated from each other to prevent the spread of fire, but placed where necessary to provide privacy, shade, windbreaks, and wildlife habitat. Ground cover should be no higher than 18 inches. Plants compatible with natural weather and soil conditions are critical to this zone’s success.

Extending 70 to 100 feet from the house, and much farther on slopes, the Transition Zone should be able to dramatically slow a wildfire. The recommended plants here are “fire surviving” rather than “fire retardant.” Fire surviving plants will re-sprout or germinate after being burned, and may in fact benefit from fire. When selecting plants for this zone, look for broadleaf, noninvasive plants that can thrive in the naturally occurring conditions. Most native plants are excellent choices, but flammable natives such as Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) should be thinned.

LEGEND

Characteristics:

- Deciduous
- Deer-resistant
- Forms a screen
- Native
- Erosion control

Water needs:

- Greater than average
- Average
- Less than average
- Drought-tolerant
- Grows in acidic soil

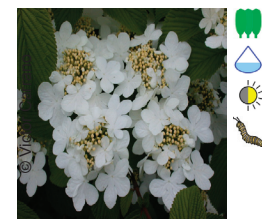
Sun needs:

- Full Sun
- Partial Shade
- Shade

Supports wildlife:

- Butterfly larvae
- Adult butterflies
- Nectar drinkers
- Seed, berry, nut eaters

Based on images from Joyce Gross, ButterflyUtopia.com, Don Getty



Japanese snowball
Viburnum plicatum



Crepe myrtle
Lagerstromia indica



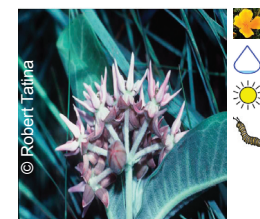
Western red bud
Cercis occidentalis



Lady Bank's rose
Rosa banksiae



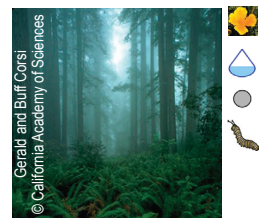
California buckeye
Aesculus californica



Showy milkweed
Asclepias speciosa



Coral bells
Heuchera sanguinea



Sword fern
Polystichum munitum



California black oak
Quercus kelloggii



Stonecrop
Sedum spp.



California coffeeberry
Rhamnus californica



Toyon
Heteromeles arbutifolia

- Geranium "Rozanne"
- Polyantha rose (*Rosa polyanthas*)
- Heartleaf bergenia (*Bergenia cordifolia*)
- Trumpet vine (*Campsis* spp.)

- Blue Agave (*Agave parryii*)
- Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
- Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*)

- Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
- Western azalea (*Rhododendron occidentale*)
- Manzanita groundcovers (*Arctostaphylos* spp.)
- Coolibah (*Eucalyptus microtheca*)

Because plants can adapt over time, there is no guarantee that the non-native species recommended here won't become invasive. Take care with plants that disperse their seeds by animals or the wind, as they may have the ability to become invasive in a nearby natural area.

Trees and Power Lines Planting Tip — Plant the "Right Tree in the Right Place."

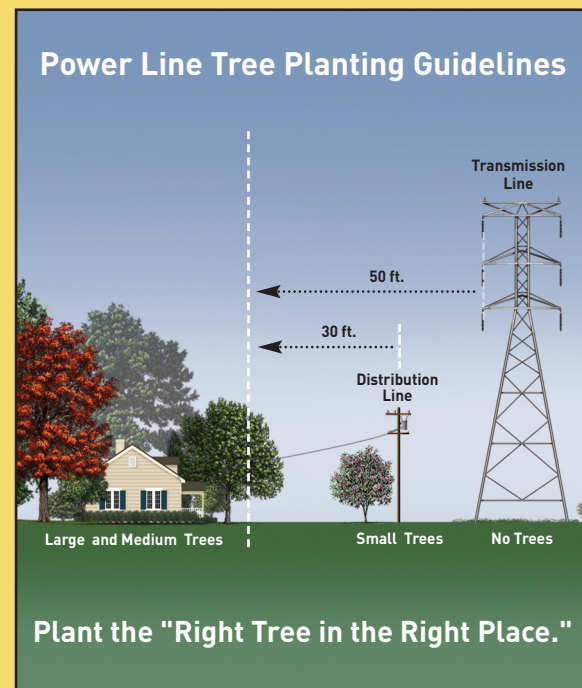
Planting trees under power lines can pose electrical shock hazards and fire safety risks.

To stay safe, keep the lights on and reduce the risk of fire, plant:

- Medium and large trees 50 feet to the side of **transmission** lines, poles and towers.
- Medium and large trees 30 feet to the side of **distribution** lines and poles.

For more information visit pge.com/trees or for California tree selections visit www.selecttree.calpoly.edu.

To request a "Guide to Planting Small Trees Near Distribution Lines" call 1-800-743-5000, or email RightTreeRightPlace@pge.com. Specify: Northern CA, Central CA or Bay Area/Inland.



This brochure was prepared by Tara Athan, Coordinator of the Inland Mendocino Cooperative Weed Management Area (IMCWMA), with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Its printing was funded by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, in cooperation with the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council.

Sources of invasive plant information and removal techniques:

California Invasive Plant Council (cal-ipc.org)
PlantRight (plantright.org)
Inland Mendocino Cooperative Weed Management Area (imcwma.org)

The following nurseries provided advice for this brochure:

Anderson Valley Nursery, Boonville 895-3853
Mendocino Community College, Ukiah 468-3148
Sanhedrin Nursery, Willits 459-9009
Sparetime Supply, Willits 459-6791

Tara Athan, Coordinator
IMCWMA

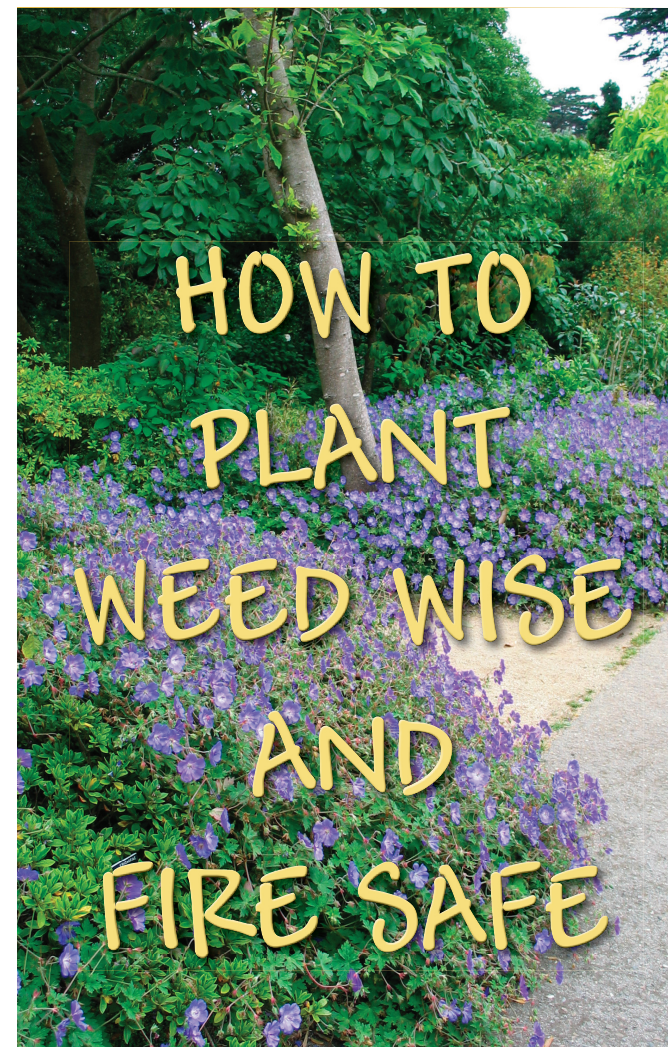
coord@imcwma.org
707-272-2115

PO Box 415 • Redwood Valley, CA 95470
www.imcwma.org

Mendocino County Fire Safe Council
firesafe@pacific.net
707-462-3662

P.O. Box 1488 • Ukiah, CA 95482
www.firesafemendocino.org

Firescaping zones and plant recommendations adapted from *Firescaping (2005)*, by Douglas Kent, Wilderness Press, Berkeley.



A Guide to Keeping Inland Mendocino County Safe and Beautiful

INVASIVE WEEDS

Invasive weeds are non-native plants. These weeds displace native vegetation that wildlife depends on. They also harbor pests, reduce crop yields, and increase soil erosion, fire danger, and flood risks. Californians spend \$85 million a year on invasive weed management. The following highly flammable invasive plants should be removed if possible.



French broom
(*Genista monspessulana*)



Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)



Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)



Pampasgrass (*Cortaderia* spp.)

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AVOID Scotch and Spanish broom (*Cytisus* spp.). Also **AVOID** Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), but please do not remove during Spring, as it is used by birds for nesting.

AVOID the following non-native invasive weeds that have appeared in some firescaping recommendations.



AVOID Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) This plant invades riparian areas and streambanks, displacing native vegetation but having poor soil retention properties. The resulting erosion and sediment damage fish habitat.



AVOID English and Algerian ivy (*Hedera* spp.) These plants are dispersed into natural areas by birds that eat the berries. They can kill trees, as well as damage buildings and other structures.



AVOID Saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) These trees invade riparian areas and use large amounts of water while providing little benefit to wildlife.