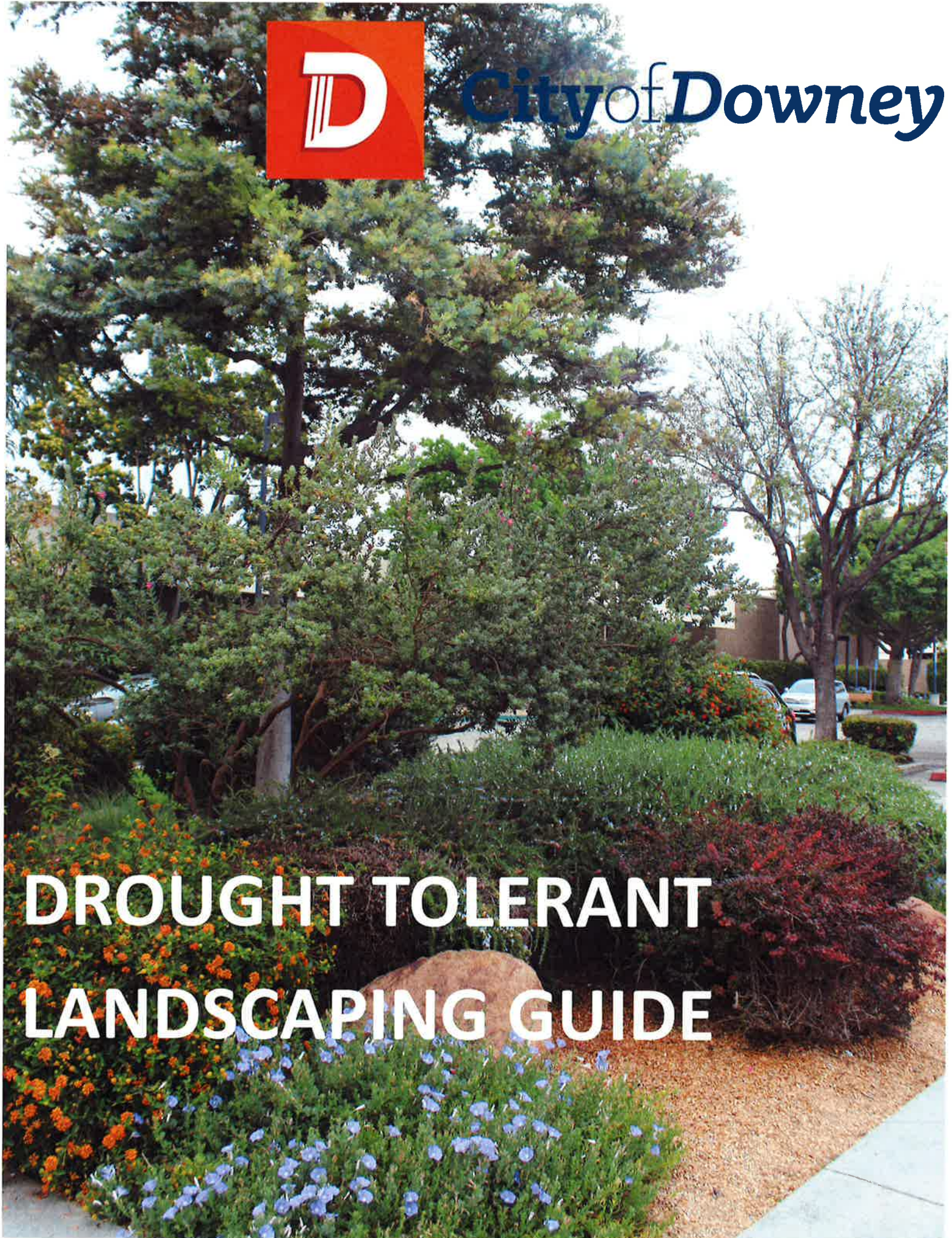




City of *Downey*

# DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING GUIDE





California is currently experiencing a drought in a magnitude which we have not seen. California's shortage of water calls for appropriate measures to be taken. One of these measures is to replace existing lawns and water intensive plants with drought tolerant species. Before you start there are some things you should take into consideration. Different types of plants have different necessities and conditions which they thrive under. Grouping plants based on their needs helps to maximize water efficiency. Take into consideration the shade and water needs of different plants by taking advantage of the different amounts of shapes. When done efficiently by taking into consideration the zone a drought resistant garden may exist with almost no necessity of water.

#### Things to Take Into Consideration

1. The purpose
2. Soil Type and Composition
3. Microclimates
4. Plant Necessities
5. City Standards

#### **The Purpose**

Drought resistant landscaping can take many shapes and forms from the traditional Californio gardens during the Spanish and Mexican eras to lush vegetative cottage gardens. The purpose of the garden can be for recreational uses as well as integrated with patios for entertaining guests. The purpose of the garden may also serve nature. Many plants can attract bees, humming birds, and butterflies as well as provide shelter for them.

#### **Soil Type and Composition**

Soil composition can vary based on the different combinations of soil types, soil salinity, and, soil PH. Depending on the necessities of your plants you can change the soil composition by adding different organic matter as well as required nutrients.

### Soil PH

If the PH of soil is

Less than 7 = Acidic

Equal to 7 = Neutral

Greater than 7 = Basic

Select a ground cover which best suits your needs. There are many different types of ground cover including but not limited to: sand, mulch, rock cover, and pebbles.

### Microclimate, Plant Necessities

Microclimates are created through natural geographic conditions or smaller man made features.

Microclimates possess characteristics which are slightly different than the surrounding area. For example in the instance of our lawns a shady part of a garden which receives more runoff, a sunny part of the garden which receives more sun than the others. As mentioned before, when taken into consideration microclimates can increase water efficiency. For example plants which can tolerate both shady climates as well as full sun can be planted in shady conditions and water efficiency increased.

Check with your nursery provider as well as the information tags which come with your plants. For further information several amazing guides are published which cover the need of hundreds and sometimes thousands of plants.

### Downey Requirements

Downey's only requirement at the present time for landscaping applies to the front yard setback and side street yards setback. These areas must be landscaped with live plant coverage and maintained.

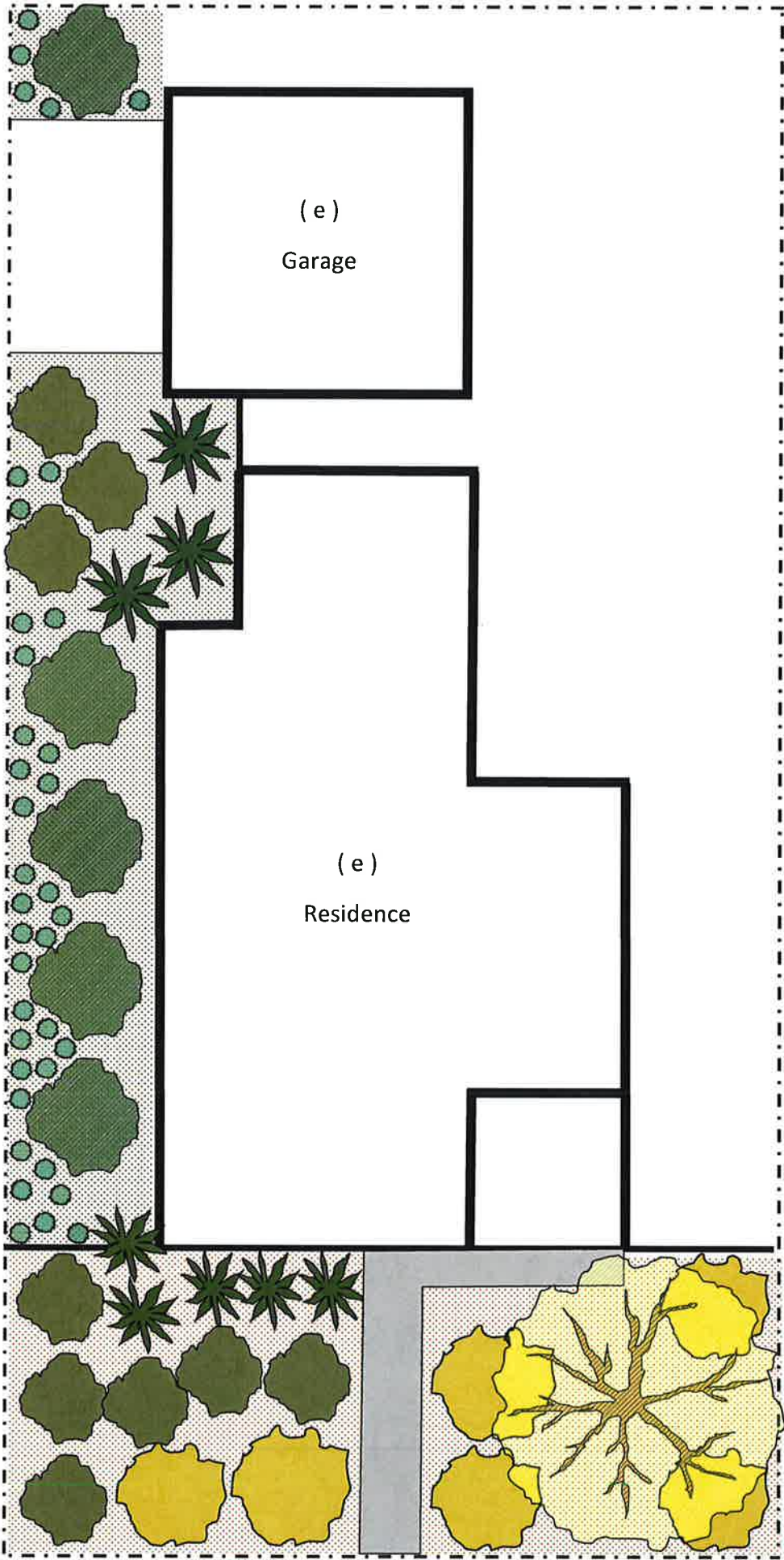
Front yard setback: 20 feet or prevailing

Side yard street setback: 10 feet

In these portions of the property must be fully landscaped. The use of mulch and rockscaping is permitted, so long as it remains under the hardscaping requirements in these areas. The extent which a property can be hardscape varies depending on the width. Properties which are 60 feet or greater is 40%, if the width of the lot is 59 feet or less it is 50%.

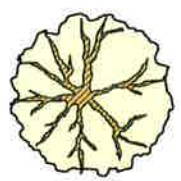


Examples of drought resistant landscaping in Downey.



(e)  
Garage

(e)  
Residence



Palo Verde



Lavender



Bird of Paradise



Blue Oat Grass



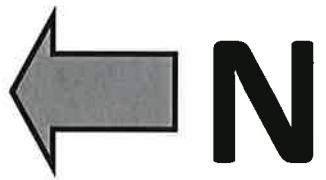
Manzanita

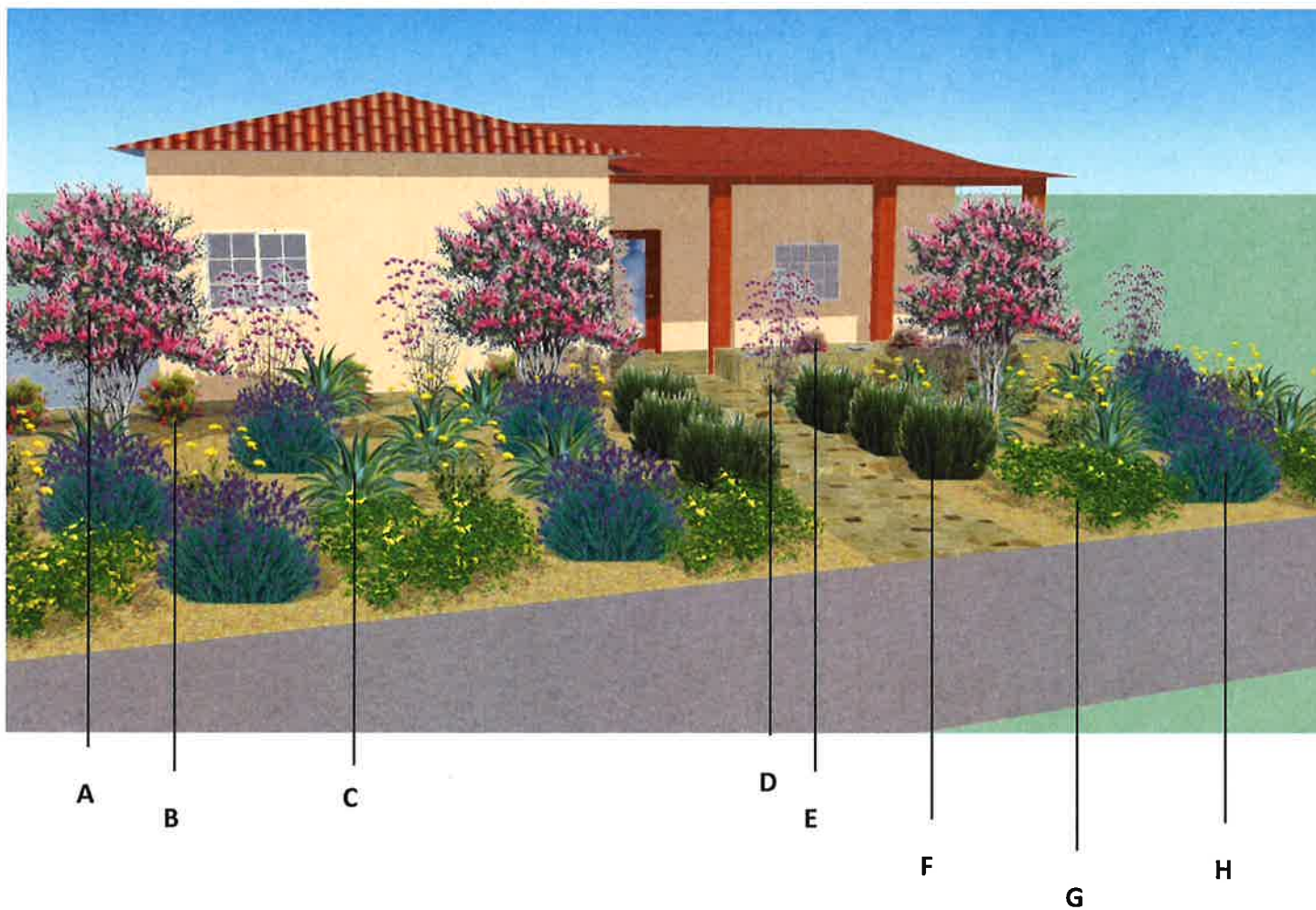


Aloe



Lantana





Agave attenuata	C	Very Low
Lantana	G	Low
Lagersroema indica	A	Moderate
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	F	Low
Verbena bonariensis	D	Low
Achillea millefolium	E	Low
Callistemon viminalis	B	Low
Lavandula	H	Moderate



A

B

C

D

E

F

G

Aloe striata	E	
Arctostaphylos edmundsii	C	
Anigozanthos flavidus	G	
Bougainvillia	B	
Buddleja lochinch	A	
Aloe Americana	D	
Parkinsonia aculeata	F	

# Recommended Plant List

## Shrubs

Agapanthus africanus	Moderate	3 x 3'
Anigozanthos flavidus	Moderate	5' x 2'
Arctostaphylos edmundsii	Low	4 x 6'
Buddleja lochinch	Moderate	8' x 8'
Caesalpinia pulcherrima	Low	9' x 6'
Callistemon viminalis	Low	6' x 8'
Carpenteria californica	Low	8' x 8'
Cistus purpureus	Very Low	6' x 6'
Dietes vegeta	Moderate	4' x 4'
Eschscholzia californica	Low	2' x 2'
Gazania linearis	Moderate	6" x 1'
Gaura lindheimeri	Moderate	4' x 4'
Hemerocallis hybrids	Moderate	4' x 3'
Iris douglasiana	Moderate	2' x 3'
Lantana	Low	varies
Lathyrus odoratus	Moderate	5' x 5'
Lavandula	Moderate	varies
Leucophyllum frutescens	Low	8' x 8'
Penstemon digitalis	Moderate	5' x 3'
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Low	4' x 4'
Portulacaria afra	Low	12' x 10'
Rhaphiolepis indica	Moderate	5' x 6'
Rosmarinus officinalis	Low	varies
Salvia greggii	Moderate	4' x 4'
Salvia Leucantha	Moderate	4' x 6'
Strelitzia juncea	Moderate	6' x 6'

## Succulents

Aeonium arboretum	Low	3 x 2'
Agave attenuata	Very Low	5' x 8'
Agave parryi	Very Low	3 x 3'
Aloe striata	Very Low	4 x 2'
Aloe vera	Low	3.5 x 3'
Dasyliirion wheeleri	Low	5' x 5'
Dudleya pulverulenta	Moderate	1.5' x 1.5'
Echeveria elegans	Low	4" x spreads
Hesperaloe parviflora	Low	4' x 4'
Yucca gloriosa	Very Low	10' x 8'
Yucca whipplei	Very Low	3' x 6'



# Recommended Plant List

## Vines

Bougainvillea	Moderate	30'
Jasminum polyanthum	Moderate	20'
Mascagnia lilacina	Moderate	20'

## Groundcovers

Convolvulus althaeoides tenuissimus	Moderate	6" x 3'
Lampranthus aurantiacus	Very Low	1.5' x 6'
Lampranthus spectabilis	Very Low	1' x 2'
Lantana	Low	3' x 8'
Melaleuca thymifolia	Very Low	4' x 8'
Oenothera speciosa	Low	1' x 3'
Thymus praecox	Low	3" x 3'

## Trees

Acacia	Varies	varies
Arbutus unedo	Moderate	18'-35'
Caesalpinia Mexicana	Low	12'
Chamaerops humilis	Low	4'-14'
Chilopsis linearis	Low	15'-30'
Genista aetnensis	Low	18'
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Moderate	50'
Juniperus californica	Low	10'-40'
Lagerstroemia indica	Moderate	20'
Lavatera assurgentiflora	Moderate	10'-12'
Olea europaea	Low	25'-30'
Olneya tesota	Very Low	15'-30'
Parkinsonia aculeata	Low	15'-30'
Pinus contorta	Low	20'-35'
Pistachio	Moderate	25'-30'
Yucca rostrate	Very Low	12'

## Ornamental Grasses

Carex divulsa	Moderate	1.5' x 2'
Festuca glauca	Moderate	1' x 1'
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Low	3' x 6'
Pennisetum setaceum	Moderate	3' x 3'
Phormium hybrid	Moderate	varies

# Recommended Plant List



Bougainvella



Bougainvella



# Recommended Plant List

