



# Landscaping Guide For Rolling Hills

While most of the existing vegetation in the City of Rolling Hills is not originally native to the City or peninsula, it is desirable that new or replacement landscaping is regionally appropriate for the area. With the goal of maintaining the City's rural and equestrian environment and vistas, landscaping is encouraged that is regionally appropriate, attractive, water tolerant, limited in height and fire resistant. The qualities of desirable plants and trees for landscaping include:

- Ability to store water in leaves or stems
- Produce limited dead and fine material
- Extensive root systems for controlling erosion
- Low levels of volatile oils or resins
- Ability to withstand drought
- Prostrate or prone in form
- Ability to withstand severe pruning
- Ability to resprout after a fire
- Limited in height to avert view impairment

The following is a list of suitable plants, trees and shrubs to serve as a guide for landscaping in Rolling Hills. Most of these are fairly common, locally available or reproducible and most also have very attractive appearance.

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## REFERENCE LEGEND

### Plant Characteristics

**s:** shrub;  
**p:** perennial;  
**a:** annual;  
**f:** fire resistant;  
**lg:** low growing;  
**gc:** ground cover;  
**n:** native;  
**nn:** non-native.

### Water Needs

**H:** high  
**M:** moderate  
**L:** low  
**VL:** very low

### Zones

- A:** Zone where a tree or shrub may be planted within 0 to 20 feet from any structure. "A" followed by a number indicates the minimum distance allowed from any structure, for example, "A-15" indicates a tree or shrub should be planted no closer than 15 feet from any structure.
- B:** Zone where a tree or shrub may be planted no closer than 20 feet from any structure up to 100 feet. "B" followed by a number indicates the minimum distance allowed from any structure.
- A, B:** A tree or shrub that may be planted in either an "A" or "B" zone.
- X:** A tree or shrub that should be planted within 30 to 50 feet from any structure.

**Ref.:** Page number in the *Handbook of Wildflowers, Weeds, Wildlife and Weather of the South Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula Including Tidepools and Seashore Life* by Rolling Hills resident Donald Moore Gales, Third Edition, 1988.

### NOTES:

- Sunset's *Western Garden Book* provides excellent guidance to plants and planting in various conditions and situations for Southern California climate zones, and has colored pictures of many plants.
- Some of the named plants are in the local nurseries. Others may be hard to find, but nurseries can suggest sources.
- Sources:
  1. Street Trees Recommended for Southern California, Street Tree Seminar, Inc. Prepared by Julie Heinsheimer (2005)
  2. County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Fuel Modification Forestry Unit, Keith Condon
  3. *Handbook of Wildflowers, Weeds, Wildlife and Weather of the South Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula Including Tidepools and Seashore Life* by Donald Moore Gales, Third Edition, 1988
  4. Plant List prepared by Blue Door Gardens, January 14, 2008

## SHRUBS

Ref.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Code	Notes:
189	Autumn sage	<i>Salvia greggii</i>	nn, s, lg, A,B, M, L	Colorful, hardy
149	Bush Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>	n, s, p	Low shrub with white flowers
122	Bush sunflower	<i>Encelia californica</i>	n, s, A-10, B, L, VL	Long flowering (yellow), 3 ft.
103	Cactus	<i>Opuntia spp.</i>	n, s	Comes with or without needles
141	California holly/toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	n, s, lg, A-20, L, VL	Hardy; many red berries in fall, to 15 ft.
	Fremontodendron	<i>Fremontodendron</i> 'California Glory'	A-20, VL	
	Geranium species	<i>Pelargonium spp.</i>	nn, s, lg, M	Colorful, hardy shrubs
	Graber's Pyracantha	<i>Pyracantha crenatoserrata</i> ( <i>P. fortuneana</i> ) 'Graber's'		
	Heavenly bamboo	<i>Nandina spp.</i>	A, B, M	
176	Hillside gooseberry	<i>Ribes californicum</i>	n, f, s	Likes moisture in canyons. Berries
178	Laurel sumac	<i>Rhus laurina</i>	n, s, low tree, X, L	Hardy attractive
174	Lemonadeberry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	n, f, s, X, L	Leathery-leaf, common spreading shrub
	Lotus	<i>Lotus spp.</i>	A-20, H	
180	Matilija poppy	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	n, s, A-20, L	Huge white spring flowers. Spreads
	Mexican bush sage	<i>Salvia leucantha, Salvia spp.</i>	A, B, L, VL	
	Monkey flower	<i>Diplacus longiflorum</i>	A-20, L	
	Pride of Madeira	<i>Echium fastuosum</i>	nn, tall, s, A-20, L, M	Striking, blue, hardy, big flowers
119	Queen Annes lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>	n, a	Lacy leaves, white flowers on top
	Rockrose	<i>Cistus spp.</i>	s, lgm gc, A-20, L, V	Attractive flowers
	Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus spp.</i>	nn, s, gc, A-20, L, M	Blue, herb, hardy, pretty
193	Verbena	<i>Verbena spp.</i>	n, p, s	
116	Wild lilacs	<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>	n, s, or gc, A-20, VL	Sizes range from ground cover to small trees

## LOW GROWING AND GROUND COVER

Ref.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Code	Notes:
155	Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	nn, p	Hardy with purple flower clusters
92	Aster	<i>Aster spp.</i>	n, p, lg, M	Hardy
135	California everlasting flower	<i>Gnaphalium spp.</i>	n, p, lg, M	Various species, white clusters
203	California fuchsia	<i>Tauschnerio canum spp.</i>	n, f, p, lg, gc, A-20, L, M	Easy-to-grow, red hummingbird flower
127	California poppy (via seeds)	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	n, a/p, lg, L, M	Moisture prolongs blooms all year
165	Climbing penstemon	<i>Keckiellia cordifolius</i>	n, p, A-20, L, M	On rocky banks, hardy, red
162	Evening primroses	<i>Oenothera spp.</i>	nn, lg, p, B, L, M	Pretty spring flowers, hardy
130	Ferns	<i>Various species</i>	n, p, lg, L, M	Prefer moist rocky areas
111	Feverfew	<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>	nn, p, lg, M	Herb, many white flowers all year
167	Fiddleneck	<i>Phacelia species</i>	n, a, lg, L, M	Spring blooms, to 12 in.
111	Garland daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	nn, a, lg, M	Many yellow flowers and seeds, 3 ft.
	Gazania	<i>Gazania linearis</i>	nn, gc, L, M	Hardy, colorful
138	Gilia & Clarkia	<i>Gilia &amp; Clarkia spp.</i>	n, a, lg, L, M	Uncommon but nice wildflowers
190	Lamb's ear	<i>Stachys byzantia</i>	n, p, lg, gc, M	Spring flowering, 6 in. to 12 in.
	Geranium	<i>Pelargonium spp.</i>	nn, p, gc, lg, M	Colorful in garden, on banks; hardy
149	Lupine (via seeds)	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>	n, a, lg, B, L, M	Mostly annuals, low, blue flowers
91	Milkweed, wooly-pod	<i>Asclepias eriocarpa</i>	n, p, lg, L, M	Hardy
189	Nightshade	<i>Solanum spp.</i>	n, lg, a/p, M	Hardy, short lived
	Santolina	<i>Santolina spp.</i>	nn, gc, lg, VL, M	Yellow, herb, aromatic
	Society garlic	<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	lg, p, A, B, M	Long bloom, hardy herb to 2 ft.
145	Statice, Sea lavender	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	nn, p, lg, A, B, M	Everlasting clusters of blue flowers
	Succulents/sedums	<i>Sedum spp.</i>	nn/n, f, lg, L	Little moisture, many kinds
87	Sweet alyssum	<i>Alyssum maritimum</i>	nn, lg, gc, M	Common, hardy; white/purple
202	Wild peas	<i>Vicia, Lathyrus spp.</i>	n/nn, lg, a, L, M	Various kinds, many climb
	Yarrow	<i>Achillea spp.</i>	nn, f, p, gc, L, M	Long flowering, hardy, fern-like leaf

## TREES

Ref.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Code	Notes:
	Australian Tea Tree (White flowering)	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	A-15, B, L, VL	
	Australian Willow	<i>Geijera parvifolia</i>	A-15, B, M, L	
	Bronze Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya deflexa</i>	A-10, B, M, L	
	Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	B-30, M, L	
	Chinese Fringe Tree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i>	A, B, M	
	Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	B-30, L, VL	
	Crape Myrtle (Color TBD)	<i>Lagerstroemia hybrids</i>		
182	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	n, f, A-20	To 15 ft. mostly in canyons
	European Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	A-10, B, L, VL	
	Evergreen Pear	<i>Pyrus kawakamii</i>	A-10, B, M	
	Forest Pansy Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'		
	Gold Medallion Tree	<i>Cassia leptophylla</i>		
	Golden Trumpet Tree	<i>Tabebuia chrysotricha</i>	B, M	
	Green Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	A, B, M	
	Green Laceleaf Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Dissectum'		
	Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus californica</i>		
	Jacaranda Tree	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	B, M, L	
	Little Gem Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> 'Little Gem'	B, M	
	Long-Leafed Yellowwood	<i>Podocarpus henkelii</i>		
	Peppermint Tree	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	B, M, L	
	Photinia	<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	A-20, M, L	
	Pink Trumpet Tree	<i>Tabebuia impetiginosa</i>	B, M	
	Purple Leaf Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Atropurpurea'	A-10, B, M, L	
	Red Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Atropurpureum'		
	Red Laceleaf Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Ornatum'		
	Saucer Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i> 'Alexandria'	A, B, M	
	Silk Tree, Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> 'Rosea'	B, M	
	Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	A-10, B, M, L	
	Willow Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum phillyreoides</i>	A, B, L	

Source: Street Trees Recommended for Southern California, Street Tree Seminar, Inc. Prepared by Julie Heinsheimer (2005)

## PLANTS

Ref.	Common Name	Botanical Name	Code	Notes:
	Broom	<i>Genista spp.</i>		
	Cape Plumbago (dark blue)	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i> (syn.: <i>P.capensis</i> ) 'Royal Cape'		
	Catalina Perfume, Evergreen Currant	<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>		
	Coast Rosemary (White flowering)	<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>		
	Coast Rosemary (Pale Lavender flowering)	<i>Westringia fruticosa</i> 'Wynyabbie Gem'		
	Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>		
	Common Blue Fescue	Grass – <i>Festuca ovina</i> <i>glauca</i>		
	Creeping Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus'		
	English Lavender	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>		
	Fruitless Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i> 'Little Ollie'		
	Grevillea	<i>Grevillea noellii</i>		
	Ground Morning Glory	<i>Convolvulus sabatius</i> (syn.: <i>C. mauritanicus</i> )		
	Johnson's Blue Geranium	<i>Geranium</i> 'Johnson Blue'		
	Mutabilis Rose, The Butterfly Rose	<i>Rosa</i> 'Mutabilis'		
	Pineapple Guava (low-branching)	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>		
	Red Valerian, Jupiter's Beard	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>		
	Rock Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>		
	Russel Lupine	<i>Lupinus</i> 'Russel Hybrids'		
	Salmon Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i> 'Petite Salmon'		
	Silverberry	<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> 'Fruitlandii'		
	Statice, Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium perezii</i>		
	Upright Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>		
	Variiegated Dwarf Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> 'Turner's Variegated Dwarf'		
	Wheeler's Dwarf Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> 'Wheeler's Dwarf'		
	White Valerian	<i>Centranthus</i> "Albus"		
	Wooly Blue Curtis	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>		

Source: Blue Door Gardens, January 14, 2008

## UNDESIRABLE PLANTS

### Avoid:

- Ivy plants, especially spreading, thick Algerian ivy and German ivy.
- Ice plants with big leaves (*Calochortus* species or *Mesembryanthemums*). Aggressive and slides down steep wet slopes.
- Tall and dense trees that take neighbors' views or are messy. Be a good neighbor.
- Oxalis (sour grass) pretty flowers; grows low but forms many tiny bulblets, that are hard to eradicate.
- Castor Bean, the most poisonous of all plants and spreads from seeds.
- Pampas grass. Hardy and attractive, but saw-like leaves cut and make it hard to maintain. Also burns if dry.

### Invasive Plant Species:

- *Arctotheca calendula* – Capeweed
- *Arundo donax* – Arando
- *Atriplex semibaccata* – Australian Saltbush
- *Carpobrotus chilensis* – Sea Fig, Ice Plant
- *Carpobrotus edulis* – Hottentot Fig
- *Cortadera* spp. – Pampas Grass
- *Cytisus* spp. – Broom
- *Eucalyptus globulus* – Blue Gum
- *Hedera canariensis* – Algerian Ivy
- *Myoporum laetum* - Myoporum
- *Pennisetum setaceum* – Fountain Grass – including all cultivars and varieties
- *Phoenix canariensis* – Canary Island Date Palm
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* – Black Locust
- *Schinus terebinthifolius* – Brazilian Pepper Tree
- *Tamarix* spp. – Tamarisk
- *Tecoma capensis* – Cape Honeysuckle
- *Vinca major* – Periwinkle
- *Washingtonia robusta* – Mexican Fan Palm

### Highly Flammable Plant Species :

- *Adenostoma fasciculatum* - Chamise
- *Adenostoma sparsifolium* - Red shank
- *Artemisia californica* - California Sagebrush
- *Eriogonum fasciculatum* - Common Buckwheat
- *Cortadera* spp.- Pampas Grass
- *Cupressus* spp. - Cypress
- *Jasminum humile* – Italian Jasmine
- *Pinus* spp. – Pine
- *Plumbago auriculata* – Cape Plumbago
- *Tecoma capensis* – Cape Honeysuckle