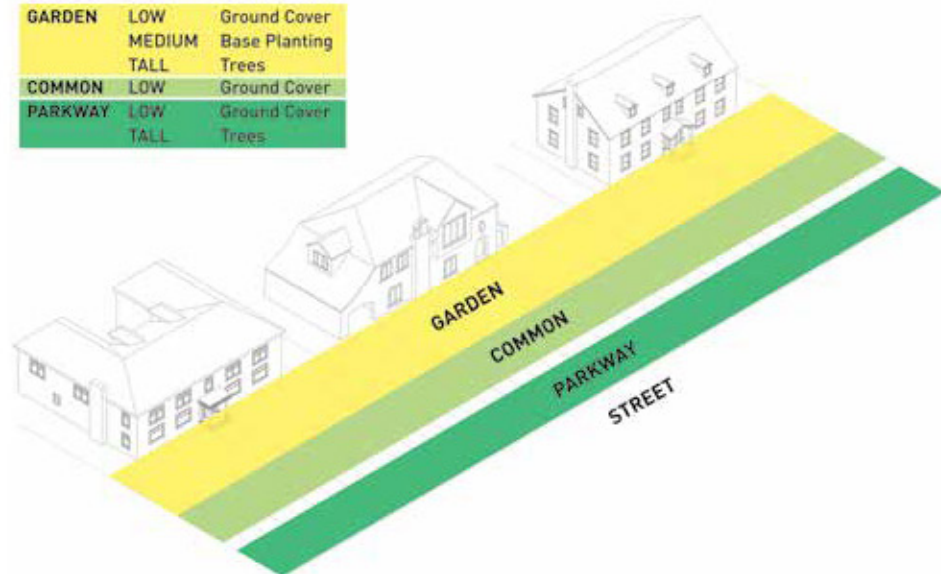


A Brief Guide to Plant Materials and Gardening Resources

Julie Grist

GARDEN	LOW	Ground Cover
	MEDIUM	Base Planting
	TALL	Trees
COMMON	LOW	Ground Cover
PARKWAY	LOW	Ground Cover
	TALL	Trees



Three zones organize the typical Los Angeles front yard, the "parkway" along the curb and street, the "common" adjoining the sidewalk, and the "garden" zone, where more plant variety is often seen. The predominance of low ground covers in commons and parkways maintains views across front yards and the traditional character of single-family neighborhood streetscapes.

The plants listed in this section are organized by use (groundcovers, grasses, small shrubs, medium trees, large trees, etc.), and garden location (parkway, common, or garden zones).

This list is also very abbreviated, noting just a few of the thousands of species and varieties that may be planted in Southern California front yards. It includes native plants that support the pollinators, insects, and animals that require local habitat for their nutrition. These latter plants typically require less water and maintenance than most of the ornamental non-native plants one finds at the typical big box nurseries. However, mixing natives into a garden can be tricky as their watering and pruning requirements vary greatly from non-natives. Before you start, consult a horticulturist at a local nursery, or a landscape design professional who can help you determine which plants work best in the sun, shade, soil, and water conditions of your yard.

Typically, front yard makeovers should start with the trees. Most importantly, keep well established trees happy by using plants with similar water requirements around their bases and under their canopies. If you are adding new trees, consider planting drought-tolerant native trees and use native plants in their surrounds. Trees are the most critical element defining the character of front yards and street commons; conserve and enhance your neighborhood's green canopy.

To learn more about plants, their potential sizes and the best sun, soil and watering conditions for each type, look at the books or visit the various resources suggested below. Not every plant thrives where you hope it might. You can expect some trial and error. But the more you know about the plants and their requirements, the more successful, beneficial, and beautiful your parkway, common, and garden.

Groundcovers and Grasses for Parkway and Common Zones

Achillea millefolium, Yarrow*
Agrostis pallens, Native California Bentgrass*
Arctostaphylos edmundsii 'Carmel Sur,' Carmel Sur Manzanita*
Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet,' Emerald Carpet Manzanita*
Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point,' Pigeon Point Coyote Brush*
Buchloe dactyloides, UC Verde Buffalograss*
Carex Pansa, California Meadow Sedge*
Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay,' Anchor Bay Ceanothus*
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus var. *griseus* 'Yankee Point,' Yankee Point
Ceanothus*
Lessingia filaginifolia 'Silver Carpet,' Silver Carpet Aster*
Lippia nodiflora 'Kurapia,' Frog Fruit or Kurapia
Myoporum parvifolium 'White' Prostratum, Creeping Myoporum
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Boule,' Rosemary Boule
Salvia mellifera 'Terra Seca,' Terra Seca Black Sage*
Stenotaphrum secundatum, St. Augustine Grass
Trachelospermum asiaticum, Asian Jasmine
Trachelospermum jasminoides, Star Jasmine

Small and Medium Perennials for Garden Zones

Epilobium canum, California Fuschia*
Eriogonum grande rubescens, San Miguel Island Buckwheat*
Erigeron karvinskianus, Santa Barbara Daisy
Heuchera maxima, Island Alumroot*
Lavandula intermedia 'Provence,' French Lavender
Lavandula stoechas, Spanish Lavender
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP,' Margarita BOP Foothill
Penstemon*
Phlomis fruticosa, Jerusalem Sage
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus,' Prostrate Rosemary
Salvia leucophylla 'Amethyst Bluff,' Amethyst Bluff Purple Sage*

Small Shrubs for Garden Zones

Abutilon palmeri, Palmer's Indian Mallow*
Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Ian Bush,' Ian Bush Manzanita*
Buxus microphylla japonica, Green Beauty Boxwood
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Skylark,' Skylark California Lilac*
Cistus skanbergii, Pink Rockrose
Eriogonum arborescens, Santa Cruz Island Buckwheat*
Gambelia speciosa, Island Snapdragon*
Myrtus communis 'Compacta,' Dwarf Myrtle
Olea europaea 'Montra,' Little Ollie Olive
Pittosporum tobira 'Wheeler's Dwarf,' Mock Orange 'Wheeler's Dwarf'
Westringia fruticosa, Westringia

Large Shrubs for Garden Zones

Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn,' Howard McMinn Manzanita*
Arctostaphylos 'Sunset,' Sunset Manzanita*
Ceanothus papillosus var. *roweanus* 'Wheeler Canyon,' Wheeler Canyon
California Lilac*
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Snow Flurry,' Snow Flurry California Lilac*
Heteromeles arbutifolia, Toyon*
Rhamnus californica 'Eve Case,' Eve Case Coffeeberry*

Tall Decorative Grasses for Garden Zones

Elymus 'Canyon Prince,' Canyon Prince Giant Rye Grass*
Elymus condensatus, Giant Wild Rye*
Muhlenbergia rigens, Deergrass*

Small and Medium Trees for Parkway and Garden Zones †

Arbutus 'Marina,' Strawberry Tree
Cercidium (Parkinsonia) floridum, Blue Palo Verde*
Cercis occidentalis, Western Redbud*
Chilopsis linearis, Desert Willow*
Chitalpa tashkentensis, Chitalpa
Lagerstroemia 'Natchez,' White Crape Myrtle
Laurus 'Saratoga,' Saratoga Sweet Bay Laurel
Pistacia chinensis, Chinese Pistachio
Prunus ilicifolia ssp. Lyonii, Catalina Cherry*
Quercus ilex, Holly Oak
Rhus lancea, African Sumac

Large Trees for Parkway and Garden Zones †

Calocedrus decurrens, Incense Cedar*
Cinnamomum camphora, Camphor Tree
Fraxinus velutina, Velvet Ash*
Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius, Santa Cruz Island
Ironwood*
Platanus racemosa, California Sycamore*
Pinus sabiniana, California Foothill Pine*
Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak*
Ulmus parvifolia, Chinese Elm

* California Native Plant

† Planting or removal of trees in parkways requires a City of Los Angeles permit issued by the Bureau of Street Services. Residents of Windsor Square should refer to the *Windsor Square Master Plan of Parkway Trees* which guides street tree choices block by block. Recently, the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer has infested a variety of trees in Los Angeles including two native trees, Coast Live Oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) and California Sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*). Consult an arborist, landscape design specialist, and/or the City of Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division when considering the selection of new tree types.

A Very Few Best Gardening Practices

Consult with a landscape design professional who reviews and understands the sun, water, and soils conditions of your yard.

Look up the watering needs of trees. Typically, give them a deep watering monthly, especially in dry months.

Typically, don't plant underneath trees and review for suitability the compatibility of under-canopy plants. Don't allow mulch to come in contact with tree trunks.

Plant in the fall or early winter. Water new plantings deeply for the first 6 months or as instructed by a nursery or landscape design professional.

Trim trees and shrubbery in the fall, not in the spring when birds are nesting and new growth is occurring.

To feed plantings, apply one inch of organic compost on topsoil around plantings, then cover with one to two inches of mulch and water deeply.

Don't necessarily remove well-established plantings, even if they're not considered "water-wise"; they often have adapted to yard conditions and probably use less water than you think.

Limit or eliminate use of pesticides and insecticides. A spray of water infused with dish soap and botanical oils takes care of most insect problems.

Do not use gas leaf blowers. They contribute to air and noise pollution and their use in the City of Los Angeles is not allowed and illegal.

Reference Books

Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien, *California Native Plants for the Garden* (Los Olivos, 2005, Cachuma Press)
Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien, *Reimagining the California Lawn* (Los Olivos, 2011, Cachuma Press)
Barbara Eisenstein, *Wild Suburbia: Learning To Garden with Native Plants* (Berkeley, 2016, Heyday)
Glenn Keator and Alrie Middlebrook, *Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens* (Berkeley, 2007, University of California Press)
Bob Perry, *Landscape Plants for California Gardens* (Claremont, 2010)
Sunset Magazine, *The New Sunset Western Garden Book: The Ultimate Gardening Guide* (Oakland, 2012, Sunset Magazine)

Visit Online or On Foot

CalFlora, calflora.org
The Huntington Botanical Gardens, huntington.org
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, arboretum.org
Natural History Museum Los Angeles County Nature Gardens, nhm.org
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, rsabg.org
Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, theodorepayne.org
Tree People, treepeople.org