Use of Ornamental or Non-native Landscaping

**Handout 5-B of 7**

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.

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*

**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 europaeus*

**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*

**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*