



## Prune with Ease

- Correct pruning impacts flowers, fruit, and new growth.
- Select appropriate plants for your site to minimize the need to prune.
- Prune plants sparingly. A healthy plant—one that is native to the area and growing under the right conditions—should not need pruning, except when it is not in the right location (where safety or liability is a concern).
- Pruning and hedge trimming requires fewer plant debris disposal trips and reduces the impact on local landfills.
- Properly and regularly prune dead plant material to reduce the availability of fuel for wildfires.



## Grasscycling

- Proper mowing is required for successful grasscycling. Cut grass when the surface is dry, and keep mower blades sharp.
- Follow the "1/3 Rule:" mow the lawn often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blade is cut in any one mowing. Frequent mowing will produce short clippings that will not cover up the grass surface.



- Grasscycling reduces disposal costs and saves money while creating a healthier lawn.
- Grasscycling reduces turf grass fertilizer and water requirements, which minimize chemical runoff entering storm drains and polluting creeks, rivers, and lakes.



## Fire Management

- Control the growth of invasive plant species, such as Pampas Grass, Ice Plant, Castor Bean, Spanish Broom, and Mexican Fan Palm, to minimize fire risk and protect human communities.
- Land overrun with invasive plants and weeds is fuel for wildfires. Weeding out invasives decreases the chance of fire damage and improves water drainage.

### DO NOT PLANT THESE INVASIVES!



## For More Information

Visit the County of San Diego website:  
[www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/composting.html)

Contact Solana Center:  
 (760) 436-7986 ext. 700  
[www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org)  
[info@solanacenter.org](mailto:info@solanacenter.org)

This information is brought to you by the County of San Diego and Solana Center for Environmental Innovation.



# Sustainable Practices for the Landscape Professional





## Smart Plant Selection

- Choose native plants that naturally grow well in San Diego County's climates.
- Non-native plants often require large amounts of water and restrict the growth of native plants.
- Invasive plants increase the risk of wildfires and floods.
- Shrubs that are easy to grow and native to Southern California; Manzanita, California Wild Lilac, Matilija Poppy, California Buckwheat, and Cleveland Sage. Native trees such as Mexican Alder, Sycamore, Live Oak, and Desert Willow are good choices.
- Select plants and trees that are appropriate for the site, keeping in mind the mature size.
- Allowing growth to mature without trimming will create healthy, low maintenance landscapes that reduce disposal costs.



## Plant Debris Disposal

- When removing plant debris from your job site, keep clean landscape trimmings separate. Put them in your green debris recycling bin, if available, or transport them to one of the compost and mulch facilities.



- Clean green disposal fees are less expensive than solid waste fees.
- Many green material recycling facilities offer low-cost mulch and compost.
- See tipping fees insert in County of

San Diego Yard Trimmings Guide for local facilities that accept clean, green plant debris.

California Buckwheat is easy to grow and native to Southern California.



- Develop a yard maintenance and watering schedule to minimize over-watering, over-pruning, and over-fertilizing.
- Designing and maintaining landscapes that reduce water and disposal costs creates year-round benefits for you, your customers, and the environment.
- Select location-appropriate plants to lower plant debris disposal costs.

**Save money by landscaping with California-friendly plants that are native to Mediterranean climates like San Diego County's.**

**Native landscaping requires less watering and lower disposal costs.**



## On-Site Composting Area

- Start and maintain a compost bin on-site with grass clippings and plant debris to allow this material to decompose naturally.
- Encourage customers to add their fruit and vegetable scraps to the pile.
- On-site composting avoids transportation and disposal costs for green waste.
- Finished compost makes great soil amendment, which conserves water, returns nutrients to the soil and saves money by reducing the need to buy commercially-made fertilizers.
- Solana Center for Environmental Innovation offers free composting and landscaping workshops throughout the County, including a Master Composter certification course. For more details, visit [www.solanacenter.org](http://www.solanacenter.org).



## Make Your Own Mulch

- Allow leaves under trees and shrubs to form a natural mulch layer. This layer will protect tree trunks and roots from mower damage.
- Chip yard trimmings, leaves, and tree limbs to create mulch.
- Before mulching, remove diseased leaves that can infect other plants.
- Spread the mulch around plants and bedding areas to suppress weeds and improve soil conditions.



- Mulch acts as a natural weed control, reducing the need for herbicides and consequently costs.
- Applying mulch conserves water.
- Keep mulch away from base of tree trunks and plant stems.