

Tree Selection Guide



Edible



Edible

Trees that produce fruit that is commonly eaten. The trees selected to be included in this category are low maintenance trees that require low to moderate amounts of water to produce fruit.

Climate Ready



Climate Ready

Trees that can adapt and thrive in the region's projected future climate conditions. These trees are chosen for their resilience to drought, heat, and other climate-related stressors.

Utility Friendly



Utility Friendly

Trees that are less likely to interfere with power lines, underground utilities, or other infrastructure. These trees typically have a small to medium size, a narrow canopy, and a shallow root system.

Fire Resistant



Fire Resistant

Trees that are likely to endure and survive wildfire events due to their innate traits like thick bark, compact dense foliage, minimal combustible materials, and ability to resprout after fire damage.

CA Native



CA Native

Trees that naturally occur and thrive in California. Native trees are well-adapted to the area's climate, soil, and wildlife, requiring less maintenance and support.

Deer Resistant



Deer Resistant

Trees that deer tend to avoid feeding on due to their unpalatable foliage, bitter taste, or unpleasant texture. These trees often have tough leaves, prickly bark, or strong scents that deter deer from browsing.

Common Name	Genus	Species	Cult./Var	CA Native	Edible	Deer Resistant	Utility Friendly	Fire Resistant	Climate Ready	Sunset Zone								
										3	11	13	18	19	20	21	23	24
mulga	Acacia	aneura					x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
shoestring	Acacia	stenophylla						x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
African fern pine	Afrocarpus	falcatus				x						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
peppermint tree	Agonis	flexuosa				x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
Marina' madrone	Arbutus	x				x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
kurrajong (bottletree)	Brachychiton	populneus				x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
lemon bottlebrush	Callistemon	citrinus				x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
incense cedar	calocedrus	decurrens		x		x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
gold medallion	Cassia	leptophylla				x	x							x	x	x	x	x
blue blossom	Ceanothus	thyrsiflorus		x		x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
blue atlas cedar	Cedrus	atlantica	Glauca			x						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
floss silk tree	Ceiba	speciosa						x					x	x	x	x	x	x
netleaf hackberry	Celtis	reticulata		x		x						x	x	x	x	x		
carob	Ceratonia	siliqua			x	x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
western redbud	Cercis	occidentalis		x		x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
desert willow	Chilopsis	linearis		x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x		
morning cloud chitalpa	Chitalpa	tashkentensis	Morning cloud					x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
lime	Citrus	aurantiifolia			x		x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
kumquat	Citrus	japonica			x		x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
lemon	Citrus	limon			x		x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
orange	Citrus	sinensis			x		x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
smoke tree	Cotinus	coggygia				x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Japanese blueberry tree	Elaeocarpus	sylvestris											x	x	x	x	x	x
Macbeth' Japanese Loquat	Eriobotrya	japonica	Macbeth		x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
lemon-scented gum	Eucalyptus	citriodora				x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
red flowering gum	Eucalyptus	ficifolia				x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
silver dollar gum	Eucalyptus	polyanthemos				x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
pink ironbark	Eucalyptus	sideroxylon	Rosea			x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
pineapple guava	Feijoa	sellowiana			x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
edible fig	Ficus	carica			x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
silk oak	Grevillea	robusta				x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
pink trumpet	Handroanthus	hetaphyllus						x							x	x	x	x
Arizona cypress	Hesperocyparis	arizonica		x		x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
Tecate cypress	Hesperocyparis	forbesii		x		x			x				x	x	x	x	x	
Toyon	Heteromeles	arbutifolia		x		x	x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x
jacaranda	Jacaranda	mimosifolia						x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
crape myrtle	Lagerstroemia	indica				x	x	x					x	x	x	x		
Brisbane box	Lophostemon	confertus						x						x	x	x	x	x
palo blanco (willard acacia)	Mariosousa (Acacia)	heterophylla (willardiana)				x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x
pink melaleuca	Melaleuca	nesophila					x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x
New Zealand christmas tree	Metrosideros	excelsa				x		x									x	x
olive (fruitless)	Olea	europaea	Wilson' or other					x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
olive (fruiting)	Olea	Europaea	Mission		x				x				x	x	x	x	x	x
Desert Museum' palo verde	Parkinsonia	x	Desert Museum			x		x	x				x	x	x			
mondell pine	Pinus	eldarica				x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x

Common Name	Genus	Species	Cult./Var	CA Native	Edible	Deer Resistant	Utility Friendly	Fire Resistant	Climate Ready	Sunset Zone								
										3	11	13	18	19	20	21	23	24
Torrey pine	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>torreyana</i>		X									X	X	X	X	X	X
Chinese pistache	<i>Pistacia</i>	<i>chinensis</i>	Red Push			X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
California sycamore	<i>Plantanus</i>	<i>racemosa</i>		X		X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fremont cottonwood	<i>Populus</i>	<i>fremontii</i>		X				X				X		X	X	X	X	X
thornless honey mesquite	<i>Prosopis</i>	<i>glandulosa</i>	Maverick	X					X				X	X	X	X	X	X
apricot	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>armeniaca</i>			X		X					X	X	X	X	X	X	
hollyleaf cherry	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>ilicifolia</i>		X		X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X
Pomagranite	<i>Punica</i>	<i>granatum</i>			X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
coast live oak	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>agrifolia</i>		X		X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Engelmann oak	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>engelmannii</i>		X		X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
holly oak	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>ilex</i>				X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
cork oak	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>suber</i>				X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
compton oak	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>x comptoniae</i>				X		X	X			X						
lemonade berry	<i>Rhus</i>	<i>integrifolia</i>		X		X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X
sugar bush	<i>Rhus</i>	<i>ovata</i>		X		X	X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X
purple robe locust	<i>Robinia</i>		Purple Robe			X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
blue elderberry	<i>Sambucus</i>	<i>mexicana</i>		X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puervian pepper tree	<i>Schinus</i>	<i>molle</i>				X		X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
African sumac	<i>Searsia</i>	<i>lancea</i>						X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
tipu	<i>Tipuana</i>	<i>tipu</i>				X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X