

Fire Hazardous Plant List











Fire prevention is of the utmost importance in Lamorinda. The rich vegetation and hot, dry summers can create an environment that is highly susceptible to wildfire. Refraining from planting highly flammable vegetation is critical in helping to reduce the speed at which wildfires can travel and spread.

The California Fire Code and the California State Fire Marshal have authority over all properties within the state. When you sell property that is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone (all zones in MOFD), you'll need documentation of a compliant Defensible Space Inspection within 6 months of the sales contract date. In many areas, these plants may not be planted.

The following is a partial list of plant species are prohibited in some jurisdictions and discouraged in others. The reasons for listing the plants are generally because they are resinous and/or have new, green growth that covers older, dead leaves, needles or branches. These factors, among others, make the plant a fire hazard. Some emit poisonous vapors when burning. Different agencies have different lists and a few of these species are on some allowable plant lists. It is all up to the local Fire District and Inspector.

The photos below are examples of the species. Most plant genera have many taxa (species, sub-species and varieties). For example, Abies, the Fir genus, has about 66 species. Use the photos as a guide to the type of plant and then, if you want more specific information, search the web for "xxx species identification".

See a more extensive listing at: <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/>

TREES			Cupressus Species-Cypress - Many of these trees are flammable. Some are very highly flammable, including the Leyland, Arizona and Italian Cypress. Remove cypress trees within 100' of structures and 15' of roadways or driveways. Limb up to 10' or 1/3 height of tree is less than 30' tall.
			Eucalyptus Species - non-native - consider removing within 100' of structures and 15' of roadways. Remove all limbs within 10' of ground. Remove all dead wood, peeling bark and undergrowth regularly.
			Picea Species-Spruce - Limb up 10' or 1/3 height is less than 30'. Remove all dead wood, dead needles, and twiggy growth regularly.
			Pinus Species-All Pines Except Dwarf Mugo - Needles are highly flammable. And, their resin is very flammable as well. Limb up to 10' or 1/3 of tree height. Provide canopy separation. Remove all ladder fuels. Remove dead wood.
			Thuja Species - Arborvitae - Thuja are an extremely fire prone species, and should not be planted in the defensible space zone or near roadways or driveways.