Trees and shrubs for power line-friendly landscaping

Central California
At Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), our most important responsibility is the safety of our customers and the communities we serve.

As part of that responsibility, we created this guide to help you select the right trees and shrubs when planting near power lines. Planting the right tree in the right place will help promote fire safety, reduce power outages and ensure beauty and pleasure for years to come.

Plan before you plant

How to plant and care for your tree

Key characteristics of recommended small trees

Keeping the lights on and your community safe
Consider these questions for successful planting:

1. **What types of utility lines are near you?**
   Planting restrictions for trees and other vegetation vary widely for different types of utility lines—electric transmission lines, electric distribution lines and gas pipelines.

2. **Are you planting in a high fire-threat area?**
   If you live in an area designated as high fire threat by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), you can take steps to help reduce wildfire risks.

3. **Are there any underground utility lines?**
   To avoid contact with underground utilities, call 811 at least two working days before digging. Workers will visit your property free of charge to mark the location of gas lines or other underground utilities so you can avoid them.

Learn which plants will thrive in your region. Refer to the *Sunset Western Garden Book* map to find your planting zone.
Plan before you plant

Planting with fire safety in mind

You can help reduce wildfire risks by choosing the right plants, trees and shrubs and by following new vegetation and fire safety standards that require greater clearances between trees, limbs and power lines.

Create defensible space
In addition to maintaining a safe distance between trees and power lines, we recommend fire-resistant plants in high fire-threat areas. Their purpose is to replace important plants for wildlife in areas where brush and tree removal can leave an area bare.

Fire-resistant plant features include:
• High moisture content
• Minimal buildup of dry vegetation
• Fewer branches and leaves
• Slow growing
• Stems, leaves or needles that are not oily or waxy

To learn more about high fire-threat areas visit cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps

A Planting outside of high fire-threat areas
Planting restrictions for trees and other vegetation vary widely for different types of utility power lines—electric transmission, electric distribution and gas pipelines. Please consider the following when planting near:

Distribution power lines: Select only small trees that will grow no taller than 25 feet at maturity.

Transmission power lines: Plant only low-growing shrubs under the wire zone and only grasses within the area directly below the tower. Along the border of the transmission line right-of-way, plant only small trees no taller than 10 feet.

B Planting within high fire-threat areas
You play a vital role to ensure that the right tree is safely planted in the right place. This planting guide will help you select a species of tree and appropriate planting location that is compatible with our safety clearances.

Small zone: Within 15 feet of the pole, plant only low-growing plants less than 12 inches at maturity that have high moisture and low sap content.

Medium zone: From 15 to 50 feet of the pole, plant trees no taller than 40 feet at maturity.

Tall zone: At least 50 feet away from the pole, plant trees taller than 40 feet at maturity.

Avoid Conflicts with Power Lines—Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

Any incompatible or hazardous vegetation is subject to removal.
Plan before you plant

Proper tree and site selection

Always consider tree size when planting where space is limited—near power lines, in narrow side yards or close to buildings.

Small trees that grow no taller than 20 feet are the right choice.

1. When planting near distribution lines in high fire-threat areas, plant only low-growing, fire resistant shrubs.
2. Small flowering trees or shrubs add interest and beauty to the landscape and may attract butterflies and hummingbirds.
3. Many small tree species add curb appeal and help improve your neighborhood.
4. Small trees produce fruit or nuts that attract birds and other wildlife.
5. Small trees create hedges for privacy or screening.
6. Small trees add interest and beauty to small spaces.

Safety tip for planting

Know what’s below
To remain safe while planting trees, shrubs or flowers, call 811 at least two days before digging. Workers will visit your property free of charge to mark the location of gas lines or other underground utilities so you can avoid them.

When planting, you should AVOID:

1. Blocking vision at street corners. Plant at least 10 feet from the curb at corners.
2. Planting too close to sidewalks, streets or driveways.
3. Planting closer than 8 feet from the front and 2 feet from the back and sides of pad-mounted transformers.
4. Planting within 10 feet of the base of utility poles and allowing vegetation that can grow more than 8 feet above the ground.
1. Prepare the planting area. Mark an area several times wider than the root ball diameter. Loosen this area to about the depth of the root ball.

2. Dig the hole. Shallow is better than deep. Ensure the sides of the hole are rough and uneven. In hard soils, a rough edge to the hole helps new roots grow out into the surrounding soil.

3. Place the tree in the hole. The trunk flare should be at or just above the soil surface. Planting too deep is the most common mistake since soil above the trunk flare causes the bark to rot.
   - For containerized trees, gently remove the container from root ball. Don’t pull by the trunk. Loosen roots with finger tips and prune away damaged or circling roots.
   - For balled and burlapped trees, rest the root ball in the center of the hole. Reshape the hole if necessary so the tree will be straight and at the proper level. Carefully, remove the burlap and any other material away from the sides and top of the root ball.

4. Loosen the soil near the trunk. Find the trunk flare, which should be visible at the top of the root ball. If the trunk flare is not visible, remove soil from the top of the root ball until it is visible.

5. Tree adjustments. Stand back and look at the tree before putting soil back into the hole. Careful adjustments can be made at this time to the planting height and the direction the branches face without seriously harming the roots.

6. Do not add fertilizer at time of planting. Do not add compost or other material to the hole. Fertilizer may be added at the drip line of the tree after the first year if poor growth is experienced. Follow fertilizer manufacturer’s instructions; too much will injure or kill the tree.

7. Fill the hole with original soil around the tree. Gently backfill the hole using one-third of the soil at a time. Break up dirt clods and remove any grass, weeds or rocks. Lightly pack the soil with the shovel handle to remove air pockets. Do not stamp on or compress soil heavily. The best soil for root growth has spaces for both air and water, but not large air pockets. Refill and pack again until soil is even with top of root ball. The trunk flare should be slightly above the soil. Water thoroughly.
   - For trees not planted in a lawn, construct a small earthen dam or berm, less than four inches tall, with excess soil just outside of the root ball zone. This will help hold water until it soaks into the soil, rather than letting it run off. The berm is temporary while your tree becomes established and, in most cases, should be removed two years after planting.

8. Cover the entire loosened area of soil. Use three to four inches of mulch. Keep mulch away from the trunk of the tree to prevent disease.

9. Stake only if tree stability is a problem. Staking is a temporary measure to allow the trunk to develop strength. The sooner the stakes and ties are removed the stronger your tree will be. If staked, typically this should be one to two years and no longer than three. Reddy Stakes are the easiest to use and are available from your local nursery.

10. Water: New trees need about 1 inch of water per week for about two years. This is true for all trees including native and drought tolerant. Be careful not to drown the roots; they need air to grow as well. Water slowly by hand.
How to plant and care for your tree

**Planting basics**

A. Dig hole no deeper than root ball.
B. Bottom of root ball on firm soil.
C. Top of root ball level with or slightly above ground.
D. Backfill with original soil, tamping gently and watering briefly when filling hole.
E. Mulch 3–4 inches deep in circle around tree.
F. Keep mulch away from trunk.
G. If not planting in a lawn, build a soil dam 3–4 feet from trunk.

**Young tree pruning**

A. Remove limbs that extend beyond the natural crown of the tree.
B. Remove competing stems to develop a single trunk.
C. Remove dead, broken or crossing limbs.
D. Remove limbs that turn inward towards the trunk.
E. Do not leave branch stubs.
F. Remove root suckers and sprouts.
G. Shorten low branches to develop trunk thickness.

--- Remove branches shown with dotted lines
Key characteristics of recommended small trees
(Reference zone map on page 1)

**Sweet Acacia**
Acacia farnesiana

Birds and wildlife are attracted to the seeds of this tree. The orange or deep-yellow puff ball flowers that appear in late winter and spring have been used for making perfume. Use as an accent or border away from pedestrian traffic areas and children due to its thorny branches.

*DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE*

![Sweet Acacia](image)

**Blackhaw**
Viburnum prunifolium

This is a versatile small tree with red fall color that attracts birds and butterflies. The sweet, edible fruit is about half an inch long. It is bluish-black, ripens in early autumn and contains a somewhat flattened stone. Plant in a sunny location for fruit development.

*Mature height: 20 feet. Zones 1–3, 7–9, 14–21.*
*DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE*

![Blackhaw](image)

**Mountain Alder**
Alnus tenuifolia

This tree is extremely hardy in cold and prefers abundant water and cool sites along streams. It often grows in thickets.

*DECIDUOUS, CALIFORNIA NATIVE*

![Mountain Alder](image)

**California Buckeye**
Aesculus californica

This tree, native to the dry slopes of the Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada foothills, makes an excellent choice for low water use areas. In spring, fragrant, cream-colored flower plumes transform it into a giant candelabra. Following winter leaf drop, its silvery bark creates an interesting silhouette.

*Mature height: 25 feet. Zones 7–9, 14–24.*
*DECIDUOUS, CALIFORNIA NATIVE*
Key characteristics of recommended small trees (Reference zone map on page 1)

**Buttonbush**
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Produces unusual flowers that smell like honey and attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Its seeds provide wildlife food, especially for ducks, and its thick foliage provides habitat for many wetland birds. Useful for naturalizing wet areas.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones:** 7–9, 14. **DECIDUOUS, CALIFORNIA NATIVE**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Cordia**
*Cordia boissieri*

Wild olive is a native North American evergreen tree reportedly close to extinction. White flowers appear year-round and olive-like fruit attracts birds and other wildlife. Good near a deck or patio, in sidewalk cutouts and as a street tree.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones:** 9, 14–24. **EVERGREEN, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Cockspur Coral Tree**
*Erythrina crista-galli*

This beautiful, showy tree, which boasts brilliant red and fragrant flowers in spring, attracts hummingbirds. It is widely planted as a street or garden tree.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones:** 7–9, 14–17, 19–24. **DECIDUOUS**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Crape Myrtle**
*Lagerstroemia indica*

This is among the longest blooming trees in existence, with striking summer color and attractive fall foliage. It is a favorite small tree for landscaping. It is drought tolerant and well suited as a buffer near a street, deck or patio.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 7–9, 14, 19–21. **DECIDUOUS**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**NOT fire-resistant**
**Golden Cypress (Stewart)**  
*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana ‘stewartii’*

This small-sized, elegant evergreen has fragrant bark and is commonly used in public parks and playgrounds. It is a good screen or hedge found from southwestern Oregon to northern California.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 7–9, 14–21. **Evergreen, California Native**

---

**Fringe Tree**  
*Chionanthus virginicus*

One of the most beautiful small trees when in full bloom, its purple-blue fruits attract many birds and other wildlife. Famous for its sweet but not overpowering fragrance, it is most commonly used as a free standing decorative tree.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 1–3, 15–17. **Deciduous, North American Native**

---

**Golden Ball Lead Tree**  
*Leucaena retusa*

Bright yellow powder-puff blossoms appear April through October. They are prominent after heavy rain and attract butterflies and wildlife. It seeds itself, spreads rapidly and is drought tolerant. Good as an accent tree in a shrub border or backyard garden.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 1–3, 7–9, 14–24. **Evergreen, North American Native**

---

**Dragon Tree**  
*Dracaena draco*

Native to the Canary Islands, this palm-like, tropical tree grows slowly and can live for hundreds of years. It is drought tolerant and makes a dramatic statement in landscaping. It is a good choice for coastal areas since it tolerates salty spray and soils.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 16–17, 21–24. **Evergreen**

---

**NOT fire-resistant**

---

**NOT fire-resistant**

---

**NOT fire-resistant**

---

**NOT fire-resistant**
Key characteristics of recommended small trees (Reference zone map on page 1)

Goldenchain Tree
Laburnum watereri

Yellow flower clusters hang gracefully and are 10 to 20 inches in length. A flexible tree that can be trained to grow over an arbor, pergola or other structure, it also makes a stunning landscape feature when pruned into an espalier. A good choice for lawns and moderately moist landscaping areas.

DECIDUOUS
NOT fire-resistant
FULL SUN

Washington Hawthorn
Crataegus phaenopyrum

The small white, abundant flowers in spring are followed by orange to red fruit that lasts until winter and attracts birds. The fall leaf color is striking orange and red. Well suited for creating a barrier or as a street tree.

DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE
NOT fire-resistant
FULL SUN

Pineapple Guava
Feijoa sellowiana

Hardiest of the subtropic trees, it blossoms in spring and produces fruit in late summer and early fall. Both flowers and fruit are edible and attract birds and bees. The plants can be pruned into a small tree or a hedge.

EVERGREEN
NOT fire-resistant
FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE

Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria

Tiny white flowers, which appear in spring, attract bees for several weeks. Bright red berries appear fall through winter and attract wildlife. Commonly used as a trimmed hedge, screen or windbreak. Well suited as a topiary.

EVERGREEN, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE
NOT fire-resistant
FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE
Key characteristics of recommended small trees (Reference zone map on page 1)

**Hoptree**  
Ptelea trifoliata

A native to North America, this tree has a round fruit that is reported to have been used as a substitute for hops in beer making. The bark and leaves are bitter, strongly scented, and have tonic qualities.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. Zones 1–3.  
**DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE**

- **NOT fire-resistant**  
- **FULL SUN**

**Persian Lime**  
Citrus aurantifolia

This lime is the variety most commonly found in grocery stores. It is usually seedless and has light-green to yellow pulp that is tender and acidic. It can be used for the same purposes as key limes and lemons and is often used as a substitute for vinegar.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. Zones 8–9, 14–24.  
**EVERGREEN**

- **Fire-resistant**  
- **FULL SUN**

**Rocky Mountain Juniper**  
Juniperus scopulorum

This evergreen features striking foliage with fragrant leaves that range in color from blue-green to medium green to gray. It has fleshy blue fruit that attracts birds and is drought tolerant.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. Zones 1–3, 7–9, 14–24.  
**EVERGREEN, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE**

- **NOT fire-resistant**  
- **FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE**

**Star Magnolia**  
Magnolia stellata

Hardest of the magnolias, its white flowers bloom in spring before the leaves appear. Fall brings copper and yellow leaves, and winter brings a silhouette of grayish-white bark.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. Zones 1–3, 7–9, 14–24.  
**DECIDUOUS**

- **NOT fire-resistant**  
- **FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE**
Leather Oak
Quercus durata

Native to the Coast Ranges, islands of California and Baja, this plant is often used as an urban tree and medicinal plant. It is useful for hot, dry, rocky areas where a small tree is needed. Fairly drought tolerant.

EVERGREEN, CALIFORNIA NATIVE

NOT fire-resistant ☀️ FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE

Japanese Maple
Acer palmatum

Famous for its striking display of fall color when leaves turn brilliant shades of scarlet, yellow or orange, it is one of the most beautiful small trees for the landscape. Well suited as an accent tree.

DECIDUOUS

NOT fire-resistant ☀️ PARTIAL–FULL SHADE

Mescal Bean
Sophora secundiflora

This tree exhibits a beautiful spring display of extremely sweet, fragrant violet-blue and sometimes white flowers. Later the flowers become hairy seed pods that contain poisonous but decorative red seeds that have been used to make necklaces.

EVERGREEN, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE

NOT fire-resistant ☀️ FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE

Manzanita
Arctostaphylos manzanita

Popular for shiny red or mahogany colored bark, its pink to white flowers attract wildlife and provide nectar to butterflies and hummingbirds. It is very drought tolerant and looks green even in the hottest, driest part of the summer. Good for hillside covers, background plantings and screens.

EVERGREEN, CALIFORNIA NATIVE

Fire-resistant ☀️ ☀️ FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE
Key characteristics of recommended small trees (Reference zone map on page 1)

**Pygmy Date Palm**  
*Phoenix roebelenii*

This lovely dwarf palm slowly reaches its mature height of about 10 feet. It has an upright or curving trunk topped with a dense, full crown of gracefully arching, feathery leaves. It produces small, jet-black dates that ripen to a deep red. This tree is especially attractive near a pool and grows well in containers.

**Mature height:** 10 feet. **Zone:** 9.  
EVERGREEN

**NOT fire-resistant** 🔥  🌅  FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE

---

**Sonoran Palo Verde**  
*Cercidium praecox*

Valued for its yellow floral display in spring, this plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. It does well in arid climates and is tough and trouble-free. Well suited for streetscape plantings or as an accent tree.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones:** 14, 18–20.  
DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE

**NOT fire-resistant** 🔥  🌅  FULL SUN

---

**Pawpaw (Custard Apple)**  
*Asimina triloba*

The pawpaw has the largest edible fruit native to America. The fruit is plump and similar to mango. American Indians are credited with spreading the pawpaw across the United States. Fossils prove the pawpaw is indigenous to North America.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 7–9, 14–17, 19–24.  
DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE

**NOT fire-resistant** 🔥  🌅  FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE

---

**Pinyon Pine**  
*Pinus edulis*

This rugged conifer is best known for its edible pine nuts. This pine grows slowly and does not overwhelm the surrounding area. It is more drought and wind tolerant than other pines. It provides good cover for wildlife. The tree works well in small, dry gardens and can be used to screen unwanted views, as a windbreak or an accent tree.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 3, 7–9, 14–17.  
EVERGREEN, CALIFORNIA NATIVE

**NOT fire-resistant** 🔥  🌅  FULL SUN–PARTIAL SHADE
Key characteristics of recommended small trees (Reference zone map on page 1)

**Pomegranate**
Punica granatum

This tree has beautiful orange-red, trumpet-shaped flowers in spring and produces round, edible fruit that is used to make juice, jam and wine. It has beautiful fall color and mottled bark. It is good as a hedge and is fire resistant.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones 7–9, 14–24.**

**EVERGREEN**

---

**Tanyosho Pine**
Pinus densiflora

Multi-trunked with upright branches, this tree’s bark is a beautiful orange to reddish-brown and gives this tree its decorative qualities. The soft, bright green needles are short, with slight twisting. Also known as Japanese Red Pine.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones 1–3, 7–9, 14–21.**

**EVERGREEN**

---

**Wild Plum**
Prunus Americana

The decorative value of this tree is in its long, wand-like branches that are attractive in winter. In spring, it is covered with white flowers, followed by abundant bright foliage and fruit that attracts birds. It is grown for beauty, not fruit production.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones 1–3.**

**DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE**

---

**Western Redbud**
Cercis occidentalis

Striking blossoms appear all over the tree in spring, then it produces beans that provide food for hummingbirds and other wildlife. Not suitable as a street tree but well suited as an accent tree.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones 2–3, 7–9, 14.**

**DECIDUOUS, CALIFORNIA NATIVE**

---
Key characteristics of recommended small trees (Reference zone map on page 1)

**Eastern Serviceberry**
Amelanchier canadensis

This is one of the earliest trees to blossom in spring. It produces white flowers that become blueberry-like, edible fruit attracting birds and wildlife. Its fall colors are orange, red and yellow.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 1–3.
**DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Partially–Full Shade**

---

**Tasmanian Tree Fern**
Dicksonia antarctica

Best known and hardest of tree ferns, it has a dark brown trunk and dark green, lacy fronds that arch five to seven feet. Easy to transplant and establish, it makes a beautiful accent tree for a tropical effect or can be a backdrop to other plants.

**Mature height:** 20 feet. **Zones:** 8–9, 14–17, 19–24.
**EVERGREEN**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Partially–Full Shade**

---

**American Smoke Tree**
Cotinus obovatus

Long flowers have a fluffy, grayish-buff appearance resembling a cloud. One of the best plants for fall color with orange, purple, red and yellow leaves. Best used in a shrub border or as a patio or accent tree.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 1–3, 7–9, 14–24.
**DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Partially–Full Shade**

---

**Toyon**
Heteromeles arbutifolia

Also known as “Christmas Berry” or “California Holly,” this evergreen is native to California Coast Ranges and is great in butterfly and bird gardens. Drought resistant and low maintenance, it blooms in summer and bears beautiful red berries in winter. It is well suited for hedges, screens for unwanted views or as an accent tree.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones:** 7–9, 14–24.
**EVERGREEN, CALIFORNIA NATIVE**

**NOT fire-resistant**

**Partially–Full Shade**
Common Witch Hazel
Hamamelis virginiana

The bark of this slow growing, drought tolerant plant is the source of the liniment witch hazel. It has bright foliage and yellow and red bloom clusters in the fall. It is well suited for borders and naturalistic, shady areas.

**Mature height:** 25 feet. **Zones 1–3, 7–9, 14–16, 18–21.**

DECIDUOUS, NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE

![Fire-resistant](https://via.placeholder.com/15)

**NOT fire-resistant** ☀️ 🌡️ FULL SUN-PARTIAL SHADE

---

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This guide makes recommendations for planting small trees near distribution lines only.

Near or under transmission lines, plant only low-growing shrubs. Any incompatible vegetation is subject to removal.

If you are not sure if a power line is distribution or transmission, please call us at **1-800-743-5000.**
The following is a guide to small trees suitable near distribution power lines in areas that are not at high risk for wildfire. Work with your local nursery to identify other suitable plants for your specific planting zone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common/Scientific name</th>
<th>Mature ht.</th>
<th>Growth/yr.</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Wildlife attraction and flower facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acacia, Sweet*</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24–36 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Birds and wildlife, good screen or hedge. ORANGE OR YELLOW, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acacia farnesiana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackhaw*</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Wildlife, fruit in fall and winter, versatile fall color. CREAM OR WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viburnum prunifolium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye, California**</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Hummingbirds, provides screening, blooms in spring. WHITE, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesculus californica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttonbush**</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24–36 inches</td>
<td>Wet–Moist</td>
<td>Hummingbirds, butterflies, wildlife habitat. CREAM OR WHITE, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cephalanthus occidentalis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cockspur Coral Tree</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Hummingbirds, good for streets and gardens. PINK OR RED, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythrina cristagalli</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crape Myrtle</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Birds and wildlife, good for streets and patios. YELLOW OR WHITE, FRAGRANT, YEAR-ROUND FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagerstroemia indica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress, Stewart Golden**</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Small, fragrant, good as screen or accent. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana stewartii</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon Tree</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Slow growing, long lasting, drought tolerant. CHARTREUSE OR WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dracaena draco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Tree*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Birds and wildlife, decorative free-standing tree. GREEN OR WHITE, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chionanthus virginicus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Ball Lead Tree*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–36 inches</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td>Butterflies and wildlife, accent tree, drought tolerant. YELLOW FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leucaena retusa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenchain Tree</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–36 inches</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td>Small, good for screen, lawns and moist landscapes. YELLOW FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laburnum watereri</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guava, Pineapple</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Birds and bees, blooms in spring, edible flower and fruit. PURPLE, RED OR WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feijoa sellowiana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn, Washington*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Wildlife, good screen or street tree. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus phaenopyrum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly, Yaupon*</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Bees and wildlife, good hedge or screen. TINY, WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilex vomitoria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoptree*</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Drought tolerant, unpleasant bark, leaf and pollen fragrance. INCONSPICUOUS FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptelea trifoliata</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniper, Rocky Mountain*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Birds, fragrant leaves, drought tolerant. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniperus scopulorum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Key characteristics of recommended small trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common/Scientific name</th>
<th>Mature ht.</th>
<th>Growth/yr.</th>
<th>Soil</th>
<th>Wildlife attraction and flower facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lime, Persian</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Wildlife, cold intolerant, thorns, fruit. WHITE, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrus aurantifolia</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Blooms in spring, good for patio or lawn, fall color. WHITE, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia, Star</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Moist</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, colorful bark. PINK OR WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnolia stellata</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Fall color, good as accent tree. PURPLE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manzanita**</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Blooms in spring, slow growing, poisonous seeds. BLUE, LAVENDER, OR WHITE FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctostaphylos manzanita</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Drought tolerant, acorns in fall or winter. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple, Japanese</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Well Drained</td>
<td>Feathery fronds, good near pool or patio. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer palmatum</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Bees, butterflies and birds, smooth green bark, blooms in spring, drought tolerant. YELLOW FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mescal Bean*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Wildlife habitat, edible seeds, drought and wind tolerant. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophora secundiflora</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Multi-trunked tree, orange bark. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak, Leather**</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Dry</td>
<td>Good screen or hedge, blooms in spring, fire resistant. ORANGE, PINK OR RED FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus durata</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Hummingbirds, good screen or specimen. PURPLE SPRING FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm, Pygmy Date</td>
<td>10 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Well Drained</td>
<td>Birds and wildlife, edible fruit, blooms in spring. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix roebelenii</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Tolerant, easy to transplant and establish, good as an accent. NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Verde, Sonoran*</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Fall color. PINK OR WHITE, SMOKE-LIKE EFFECT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceratocladus occidentalis</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawpaw, Custard Apple*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Fall foliage and flowers, drought tolerant. YELLOW, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asimina triloba</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Drought tolerant, acorns in fall or winter. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine, Pinyon**</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Feathery fronds, good near pool or patio. INCONSPICUOUS FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus edulis</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Good screen or hedge, blooms in spring, fire resistant. ORANGE, PINK OR RED FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine, Tanyosho</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Hummingbirds, good screen or specimen. PURPLE SPRING FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinus densiflora</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Birds and wildlife, edible fruit, blooms in spring. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plum, Wild*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Tolerant, easy to transplant and establish, good as an accent. NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prunus americana</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomegranate</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Fall color. PINK OR WHITE, SMOKE-LIKE EFFECT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punica granatum</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbud, Western**</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Fall foliage and flowers, drought tolerant. YELLOW, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cercis occidentalis</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Hummingbirds, good screen or specimen. PURPLE SPRING FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serviceberry, Eastern*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Birds and wildlife, edible fruit, blooms in spring. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelanchier canadensis</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Tolerant, easy to transplant and establish, good as an accent. NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke Tree, American*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotinus obovatus</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Fall foliage and flowers, drought tolerant. YELLOW, FRAGRANT FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Tree Fern</td>
<td>20 feet</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Tolerant, easy to transplant and establish, good as an accent. NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dicksonia antarctica</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyon**</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Tolerant, easy to transplant and establish, good as an accent. NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heteromeles arbutifolia</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witch Hazel, Common*</td>
<td>25 feet</td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Tolerant, easy to transplant and establish, good as an accent. NO FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamamelis virginiana</td>
<td></td>
<td>12–24 inches</td>
<td>Moist–Dry</td>
<td>Butterflies, hummingbirds and wildlife, drought tolerant. WHITE FLOWERS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*North American Native  
**California Native
For more information regarding tree planting near power lines or gas pipelines and to download a copy of this booklet, please visit: pge.com/righttreerightplace.

To verify the type of utility line near you, schedule an appointment with our tree care professionals or request gas pipeline planting information, please call 1-800-743-5000.

Keeping the lights on and your community safe

At PG&E our most important responsibility is the safety of our customers and the communities we serve. We know how much trees mean to our communities, and we are committed to helping you ensure the right trees are located in the right places to help reduce wildfire risks and improve public safety.

Every year, we inspect each segment of approximately 100,000 miles of overhead power lines, with some locations patrolled multiple times a year. We prune or remove 1.4 million trees annually and work to address dead and dying trees in areas affected by drought.

By planting the right tree in the right place, you can help reduce fire hazards, promote safety and reduce the risk of damage to properties and power lines.

Additional references and resources:

- PG&E Vegetation Management Program: pge.com/trees
- Planting the right tree in the right place: arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace
- High Fire-Threat District Map: cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps
- California Tree Selections: selectree.calpoly.edu

Climate Zone maps and information are courtesy of Sunset Western Garden Book, 2008.

Illustrations Copyright © 2019 Robert O’Brien