

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS WEED ABATEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES

Dear Property Owner:

The City of Laguna Hills conducts an annual weed abatement program designed to reduce fire hazards during the summer season. This year, the program is scheduled to commence in early March. The weed abatement program is done in accordance with Government Code Section 39560, et.seq., and the Orange County Fire Authority standards .

Typically, in March of every year, the City's Public Services Department performs a limited "pre-canvassing" of private properties to identify properties, which have weeds or other noxious plants upon them that may pose a fire hazard during the fire season. In April, the Department sends a letter and a "Notice to Destroy Weeds" to property owners for properties that have historically been known to have weeds on them or were observed to have weeds on them during the pre-canvassing; therefore, not every property owner will receive a notice. The letters are sent to the property owners' last known address as reported by the County of Orange Tax Assessor's Office advising the owner to clear all weeds or noxious materials from their property before a pre-determined date. Those property owners that have not performed the weed abatement as required are subject to the City's contractor removing the weeds at the expense of the property owner.

The list of fire prone plant species (on the next page) within this document will be provided to owners that receive notices from the Department. Weeds identified in the list as well as any dead, overgrown, or dried out vegetation, plants, and trees must be removed within 100 feet of any structure. Please note that the 100-foot clearance also includes distances to those structures that may be located on a neighbor's property. The Public Services Department considers a structure to be an inhabitable building, such as a house, or any building that houses animals and any building that stores real property, such as a garage or storage shed.

The City wishes to avoid clearing weeds and noxious materials on private property and billing the property owner for this work; therefore, the best way to avoid this process is to clear the weeds out before the deadline stated in the official notice. Please be reminded that persons who receive a Notice to Destroy Weeds and who are not the current property owner of the property in question on the date of the notice MUST contact the City of Laguna Hills promptly at (949) 707-2657 or the person may be required to pay for any clearing work on the property done by the City, if applicable.

The City of Laguna Hills wishes to thank you for your cooperation in making our community a safer place to live and work. If you have any questions about the City's weed abatement program, please call Humza Javed, Assistant Engineer, at (949) 707-2657.

Sincerely,



Humza Javed
City of Laguna Hills

FIRE PRONE PLANT SPECIES

Certain plants are considered to be undesirable in the landscape due to characteristics that make them highly flammable. These characteristics can either be physical or chemical. Physical properties that would contribute to high flammability include large amounts of dead material retained within the plant, rough or peeling bark, and the production of copious amounts of litter. Chemical properties include the presence of volatile substances such as oils, resins, wax, and pitch. Certain native plants are notorious for containing these volatile substances.

Plants with these characteristics should not be planted or maintained on private property or hillsides. Should these species already exist on your property, they shall be removed within 100 feet of any structure. The Public Services Department considers a structure to be an inhabitable building, such as a house, or any building that houses animals and any building that stores real property, such as a garage or storage shed.

These plants are referred to as “target species” since their complete removal is a critical part of fire hazard reduction. These fire-prone plant species are (but not limited to):

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
Cynara Cardunculus	Artichoke Thistle
Ricinus Communis	Castor Bean Plant
Cirsium Vulgare.....	Wild Artichoke
Brassica Nigra.....	Black Mustard
Silybrum Marianum	Milk Thistle
Sacsola Austails.....	Russian Thistle/Tumblewood
Nicotiana Bigelevelil.....	Indian Tobacco
Nicotiana Glauca.....	Tree Tobacco
Lactuca Serriola	Prickly Lettuce
Conyza Canadensis	Horseweed
Heterothaca Grandiflora.....	Telegraph Plant
Anthemix Cotula.....	Mayweed
Urtica Urens	Burning Nettle
Cardaria Draba.....	Noary Cress, Perennial Peppergrass
Brassica Rapa.....	Wild Turnip, Yellow / Field Mustard
Adenostoma Fasciculatum.....	Chamise
Adenostoma Sparsifolium	Red Shanks, Ribbon Bush
Cortaderia Selloana	Pampas Grass
Artemisia Californica	California Sagebrush
Eriogonum Fasciculatum.....	Common Buckwheat
Salvia Mellifera.....	Black Sage

Property owners shall also remove **ALL** dead, overgrown, or dried out vegetation, plants, and trees within 100 feet of any structure.

Please view typical photographs of these weeds by accessing the City’s website at www.ci.laguna-hills.ca.us – *Forms Documents and Maps - Weed Abatement Guidelines*

PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIRE PRONE PLANT SPECIES

The following photographs are designed to give property owners and contractors a visual idea of the types of fire prone plant species the City of Laguna Hills requires to be removed from private properties. The accompanying botanical name / common name are listed immediately under the photographs.



Cynara Cardunculus / Artichoke Thistle



Ricinus Communis / Castor Bean Plant



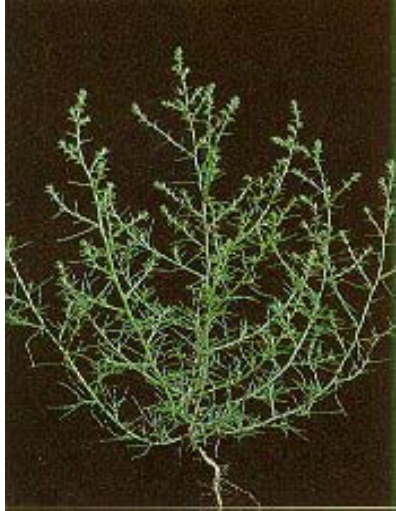
Cirsium Vigare / Wild Artichoke



Brassica Nigra / Black Mustard



Silybrum Marianum / Milk Thistle



Russian Thistle / Tumblewood



Nicotiana Bigelei / Indian Tobacco



Nicotiana Glauca / Tree Tobacco



Lactuca Serriola / Prickly Lettuce



Conyza Canadensis / Horseweed



Heterothaca Grandiflora / Telegraph Plant



Anthemix Cotula / Mayweed



Urtica Urens / Burning Nettle



Cardaria Draba / Noary Cress, Perennial Peppergrass



Brassica Rapa / Wild Turnip, Yellow Mustard, Field Mustard



Adenostoma Fasciculatum / Chamise



Adenostoma Sparsifolium / Red Shanks, Ribbon Bush



Cortaderia Selloana / Pampas Grass



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Artemisia Californica / California Sagebrush



Eriogonum Fasciculatum / Common Buckwheat



Salvia Mellifera / Black Sage

REFERENCES

List of Fire Prone Plant Species

Bret Anderson

Orange County Fire Authority

Orange, California 92866

Many of the Photographs of Fire Prone Plant Species

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California Lutheran University

Thousand Oaks, California, 91360

Wildflowers of Southern California web site

<http://ww1.clunet.edu/wf/index.htm>