

## B

# Plant List and Planting Guidance for Landscape- Based Stormwater Measures

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## B.1 Introduction

The purpose of this appendix is to provide guidance on the planting techniques and selection of appropriate plant materials for the stormwater measures described in this handbook.

The plant lists described in this appendix are not prescriptive, but should serve as a guide. In selecting plant materials, it is important to consider factors that influence plant establishment and success, such as microclimate, type of soil, water availability, proximity to saltwater and exposure to sun. Numerous resources are available to assist in selecting appropriate plant species in Alameda County, including Sunset's *Western Garden Book* and the East Bay Municipal Utility District's *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*.

The plant lists described in this appendix are not prescriptive, but should **serve as a guide**. In selecting plant materials, it is important to consider factors that influence plant establishment and success, such as microclimate, type of soil, water availability, proximity to saltwater and exposure to sun.

In addition, the function of the individual stormwater measure should be carefully considered when selecting plant materials. Factors to be considered include inundation period, expected flow of water, and access and maintenance requirements.

## B.2 General Recommendations

**Avoid the use of invasive species.** In selecting plants for stormwater measures, the use of invasive species should be avoided. A complete list of invasive plants can be found at [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org), the California Invasive Plant Council's Invasive Plant Inventory.

**Minimize or eliminate the use of irrigated turf.** Effort should be made to minimize the use of irrigated turf, which has higher maintenance requirements and greater potential for polluted runoff.

**Select California natives and/or drought tolerant plants.** Planting appropriate, drought tolerant California natives or Mediterranean plants reduces water consumption for irrigations, and reduces mowing, fertilizing, and spraying. For the purposes of the plant list on the following pages, "drought tolerant" refers to plants that meet the following criteria:

- Are identified as drought tolerant as follows: California Native Plants for the Garden (Borstein, et al.).
- Are identified as requiring occasional or infrequent irrigation in Borstein, et al., or Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates (East Bay Municipal Utilities District [EBMUD]).
- Are identified as requiring no summer water in EBMUD.
- Are identified as requiring little or no water in the Sunset Western Garden Book.
- Are identified as requiring low or very low irrigation in the Guide to Estimating Irrigation Water Needs of Landscape Plantings in California (University of California Cooperative Extension).

Plants not listed in any of the above references will require that the design professional base selection upon successful experience with species on previous projects under similar horticultural conditions.

**Site-specific Factors.** Given Alameda County spans several Sunset climate zones, with variable humidity, heat, frost, and wind factors, as well as varying soil characteristics, plants need to be selected with an understanding of specific climate and microclimate conditions, and grouped in appropriate hydrozones.

**Supplemental watering needs.** Many plants listed as drought tolerant per the above references may require more supplemental watering in fast-draining, engineered soils.

## B.3 Plants for Stormwater Measures

Plants play an important role in the function of landscape-based stormwater treatment measures:

- Infiltration and evapotranspiration. Plants aid in the reduction of stormwater runoff by both increasing infiltration, and by returning water to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration.
- Sedimentation. Some stormwater treatment measures, such as vegetated swales and vegetated buffer strips, are designed to remove coarse solids through sedimentation that is aided by dense, low-growing vegetation.
- Pollutant trapping. Vegetation helps to prevent the resuspension of pollutants associated with sediment particles. It is essential that pollutants removed during small storms are not remobilized during large storms.
- Phytoremediation. Plants for stormwater treatment measures are important for their role in phytoremediation, the uptake of nutrients and the ability to neutralize pollutants.
- Soil stabilization. As in any landscaped area, established plantings help control soil erosion. This is important both to keep sediment out of stormwater and to retain the surface soils, which help to remove pollutants from infiltrated runoff.
- Aesthetic benefits. Plants within or adjacent to stormwater facilities provide an aesthetic benefit.

Plants suitable for use in stormwater treatment measures are organized according to the following categories:

- **Emergent** refers to those species which occur on saturated soils or on soils covered with water for most of the growing season. The foliage of emergent aquatics is partly or entirely borne above the water surface.
- **Grasses** refer to those species that are monocotyledonous plants with slender-leaved herbage found in the in the Family Poaceae.
- **Herbaceous** refers to those species with soft upper growth rather than woody growth. Some species will die back to the roots at the end of the growing season and grow again at the start of the next season. Annuals, biennials and perennials may be herbaceous.
- **Shrub** is a horticultural distinction that refers to those species of woody plants which are distinguished from trees by their multiple stems and lower height. A large number of plants can be either shrubs or trees, depending on the growing conditions they experience.
- **Tree** refers to those species of woody plants with one main trunk and a rather distinct and elevated head.

Plants suitable for use in stormwater treatment measures are listed in two ways. First, a comprehensive list of all recommended plant species is provided in Table B-1, which lists the plants in alphabetical order by Latin name, in the categories described above. The columns in Table B-1 indicate stormwater treatment measures for which each plant species may be suitable. Following Table B-1 are brief descriptions of the stormwater measures for which technical guidance is included in this handbook, including the suitable plantings from Table B-1.

**Invasive species.** Under no circumstances shall any plants listed as invasive under [www.cal-ipc.org/paf](http://www.cal-ipc.org/paf) be specified.

**Table B-1 Plant List for Stormwater Measures**

		Bioretention Area - Including linear treatment measure	Flow-Through Planters	Tree Well Filters	Vegetated Buffer Strip	Infiltration Trench	Extended Detention Basin - biotreatment soil	Extended Detention Basin - non-biotreatment soil	Turf Block Pavers	Green Roof - extensive	Green Roof - Intensive	California Native	Drought Tolerant
<b>Emergent Species</b>													
<i>Carex barbarae</i>	Santa Barbara sedge			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Carex pansa</i>	California meadow sedge		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Juncus patens</i>	blue rush	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
<i>Limonium californicum</i>	Marsh rosemary					✓	✓				✓		
<b>Grass Species</b>													
<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Purple three-awn	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	
<i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i>	cape rush	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> <sup>1</sup>	tufted hairgrass	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa ssp. holciformis</i>	Pacific hairgrass	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
<i>Festuca rubra</i> <sup>1</sup>	red fescue		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Festuca rubra 'molate'</i>	Molate fescue		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i> <sup>1</sup>	meadow barley	✓			✓		✓				✓	✓	
<i>Leymus triticoides</i>	creeping wildrye	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Melica californica</i>	California melic				✓						✓	✓	
<i>Melica imperfecta</i>	coast range melic	✓	✓		✓						✓	✓	
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deerglass	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Nasella pulchra</i>	purple needlegrass	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
<i>Nassella lepida</i>	Foothill needlegrass			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
<b>Herbaceous Species</b>													
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Anthemis nobilis (Chamaemelum nobile)</i>	chamomile			✓				✓					✓
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	sea pink		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Clarkia</i> spp.	Clarkia	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Dietes</i>	fortnight lily	✓			✓				✓	✓			✓
<i>Epilobium densiflorum</i>	dense spike-primrose	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	

<sup>1</sup> Denotes species with phytoremediation capabilities

**Table B-1 Plant List for Stormwater Measures**

Bioretention Area - Including linear treatment measure	Flow-Through Planters	Tree Well Filters	Vegetated Buffer Strip	Infiltration Trench	Extended Detention Basin - biotreatment soil	Extended Detention Basin - non-biotreatment soil	Turf Block Pavers	Green Roof - extensive	Green Roof - Intensive	California Native	Drought Tolerant
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**Herbaceous Species cont'd**

<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	coast buckwheat		✓	✓						✓	✓
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	flattop buckwheat		✓	✓						✓	✓
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Kniphofia</i>	Red hot poker	✓									✓
<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	tidy tips			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> <sup>1</sup>	flax	✓	✓								✓
<i>Limonium californicum</i>	marsh rosemary	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
<i>Limonium perezii</i>	sea lavender	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
<i>Linanthus spp.</i>	Linanthus	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Lotus scoparius (Acmispon glaber)</i>	deerweed	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	common monkeyflower	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>	scarlet monkeyflower	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
<i>Monardella spp.</i>	coyote mint	✓			✓					✓	✓
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> 'Pink'	prostrate myoporum	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
<i>Narcissus</i>	daffodil	✓	✓		✓						✓
<i>Nepeta spp.</i>	catmint	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓
<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	bearded tongue	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
<i>Sedum spp.</i>	stonecrop				✓			✓	✓		✓
<i>Sempervivum spp.</i>	hen and chicks				✓			✓	✓		✓
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	blue-eyed grass	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Shrub Species**

<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	chamise				✓				✓	✓	✓
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'McMinn'	manzanita 'McMinn'	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>	common manzanita		✓		✓				✓	✓	✓
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> 'Emerald Carpet'	manzanita 'Emerald Carpet'	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓

<sup>1</sup> Denotes species with phytoremediation capabilities

**Table B-1 Plant List for Stormwater Measures**

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*Shrub Species cont'd*

<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks'	Baccharis pilularis 'Twin Peaks'	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
<i>Buddleia</i> spp. (excluding <i>Buddleja davidii</i> , which is invasive)	butterfly bush	✓			✓							✓
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spicebush	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	bush anemone	✓	✓		✓					✓		✓
<i>Ceanothus hearstiorum</i>	ceanothus	✓			✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.	ceanothus	✓			✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	mountain mahogany				✓					✓		✓
<i>Cistus</i> spp.	rockrose				✓							✓
<i>Corylus cornuta v. californica</i>	California hazelnut	✓			✓					✓		✓
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	coast silk tassel		✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Lavandula</i> spp.	lavender		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
<i>Lepechina calycina</i>	pitcher sage				✓					✓		✓
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	bush lupine				✓					✓		✓
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> ( <i>Berberis aquifolium</i> )	Oregon grape	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Mahonia repens</i> ( <i>Berberis aquifolium</i> var <i>repens</i> )	creeping Oregon grape	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Pacific wax myrtle				✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Nandina</i>	Heavenly bamboo	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	Pacific ninebark	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>	mock orange		✓		✓							✓
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	hollyleaf cherry				✓	✓				✓		✓
<i>Rhamnus californica</i> ( <i>Frangula californica</i> )	coffeeberry	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry				✓					✓		✓

<sup>1</sup> Denotes species with phytoremediation capabilities

**Table B-1 Plant List for Stormwater Measures**

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**Shrub Species cont'd**

<i>Ribes aureum</i>	golden currant	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	chaparral currant				✓					✓	✓
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	red-flowering currant				✓					✓	✓
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California wild rose	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
<i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	thimbleberry	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	salmonberry	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California blackberry	✓			✓					✓	✓
<i>Salvia brandegeei</i>	black sage				✓					✓	✓
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland sage				✓					✓	✓
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage				✓					✓	✓
<i>Salvia melifera</i>	black sage				✓					✓	✓
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	creeping sage				✓					✓	✓
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	elderberry	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
<i>Santolina</i> spp.	santolina	✓	✓		✓						✓
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	snowberry		✓		✓					✓	✓
<i>Stachys</i> spp.	lamb's ear	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
<i>Styrax officinalis redivivus</i>	California snowdrop	✓			✓					✓	✓
<i>Trichostema</i> spp.	wooly blue curls	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	evergreen huckleberry	✓	✓		✓					✓	
<i>Zauschneria californica (Epilobium c.)</i>	California fuchsia			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

**Tree Species**

<i>Aesculus californica</i>	buckeye	✓			✓					✓	✓
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry tree	✓			✓						✓
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European hornbeam	✓	✓	✓							✓
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common hackberry	✓	✓	✓							✓

<sup>1</sup> Denotes species with phytoremediation capabilities



**Table B-1 Plant List for Stormwater Measures**

Bioretention Area - Including linear treatment measure	Flow-Through Planters	Tree Well Filters	Vegetated Buffer Strip	Infiltration Trench	Extended Detention Basin - biotreatment soil	Extended Detention Basin - non-biotreatment soil	Turf Block Pavers	Green Roof - extensive	Green Roof - Intensive	California Native	Drought Tolerant
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*Tree Species cont'd*

<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	redbud
<i>Crataegus</i> ( <i>excluding Crataegus monoyna, which is invasive</i> )	Hawthorn
<i>Lagerstroemia</i> spp.	crape myrtle
<i>Laurus</i> 'Saratoga'	Saratoga laurel
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	goldenrain tree
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	sour gum
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> 'Columbia'	London Plane Tree
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Keith Davey'	Chinese pistache
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	California live oak

✓			✓							✓	✓
✓		✓	✓								✓
✓		✓	✓								✓
✓		✓	✓								✓
✓		✓	✓								✓
✓	✓	✓									
✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
✓		✓	✓								✓
✓			✓							✓	✓

<sup>1</sup> Denotes species with phytoremediation capabilities

A brief paragraph describing each stormwater measure is provided below, including the key factors that should influence planting techniques and plant selection. For suitable plantings, please refer to Table B-1.

#### Bioretention Area (including linear treatment measures)

Bioretention areas are intended to act as filters with plants. Plants in bioretention areas help with phytoremediation and infiltration. Therefore, nutrient uptake and the ability to neutralize pollutants are priorities for species selection. Plants for these areas should be able to withstand periods of inundation as well as extended periods of drought. Emergent, grass and herbaceous species can be planted in the bioretention area, while shrub and tree species should be concentrated on the outer edges. Grasses can also be planted along the exterior to slow the velocity of flow and allow the sedimentation of coarse solids, which helps minimize clogging of the bioretention area. Supplemental irrigation will be necessary to maintain emergent species during extremely dry conditions.

#### Flow-through planter

Plant species for flow-through planters will depend on the size of the planter. Shrubs and trees should be planted in planters only when there is sufficient space. Recommended minimum soil depth for shrubs is 18", and for small trees is 36". Plant species should be adapted to well-drained soils. Irrigation is typically required, but selecting plants adapted to extended dry periods can reduce irrigation requirements.

#### Tree well filter

Trees and shrubs planted in tree well filters should be an appropriate size for the space provided. Because plant roots are confined to the container, it is recommended that small trees and shrubs with shallow, fibrous roots be planted in the tree well filter. Provided that site conditions allow, it may be possible to work with the manufacturer to design a container that would allow for the planting of larger trees or shrubs. Plants for tree well filters should be tolerant of frequent, but temporary periods of inundation as well as adapted to extremely well-drained soils. Species with the ability to neutralize contaminants are preferred.

#### Vegetated buffer strips

Vegetated buffer strips should be designed to function and appear as natural vegetated areas adjacent to development. They treat surface runoff from adjacent impervious areas so a variety of trees, shrubs, and grass and herbaceous species should be included in order to maximize water and nutrient uptake, as well as to retain sediment.

#### Infiltration Trench

An infiltration trench is an aggregate filled trench that receives and stores stormwater runoff in the void spaces between the aggregate and allows it to infiltrate into the surrounding soil. Vegetated filter strips of grass species on either side of the trench can slow and pre-treat the runoff while the trench can physically remove fine sediment and other suspended solids.

### Extended Detention Basin

Extended detention basins are intended to capture and detain water for much longer periods (up to 5 days) than bioretention areas. They are designed to drain completely between storms. Plants in extended detention basins increase pollutant removal and assist with soil stabilization; therefore nutrient uptake and the ability to neutralize pollutants are priorities for species selection. Because extended detention basins are intended to capture and move large quantities of water, trees should not be planted in the basins, and shrubs are typically not specified for extended detention basins. Subject to approval by the municipality, trees and shrubs may be included on the outer perimeter (top of bank), provided that they do not interfere with detention. Species should be adapted to periodic inundation and saturation and extended periods of dry conditions. Emergent, grass and herbaceous species for extended detention basins should consist of species that are able to withstand extended periods of inundation. Supplemental irrigation will be necessary to maintain emergent species during extremely dry conditions. Extended detention basins typically have typically not been constructed with special soil, and beginning December 1, 2011, basins designed without biotreatment soil (having a long-term infiltration rate of 5 to 10 inches per hour) may not be used as stand-alone treatment measures, although they could be used as part of a treatment train, along with biotreatment measures (more information in Section 6.6).

### Pervious paving – Turf Block Pavers

Some pervious paving systems can be planted with grass or herbaceous species in order to assist with erosion prevention as well as promote infiltration and pollutant uptake. Plant species should be tolerant of compaction, have the ability to neutralize contaminants, and should not interfere with maintenance and use of the paved surface. Most plant species cannot tolerate frequent vehicular compaction. Therefore, turf block pavers are best suited for areas requiring infrequent access, such as emergency vehicle access routes. Paver manufacturer should be consulted regarding recommended and acceptable plant species.

### Green roof

A green roof is intended to capture precipitation and roof runoff. Green roofs utilize a lightweight, porous planting substrate as a medium for plant growth. The depth and composition of this substrate is extremely important in determining types of plants that will be successful as part of a green roof system. Intensive green roofs, which can have up to 48" of substrate, can support a wider variety of plant types. The list in Table B-1 is only a sample of plants that could be suitable for an intensive green roof. Please note that shrub species may be used only if the substrate has a minimum depth of 12 inches; a minimum depth of 36 inches is required for planting trees.

Extensive green roofs, which have a depth of 3" to 7" of planting medium, are suitable for a limited number of grass and herbaceous species. These roofs generally require little maintenance and should be designed to succeed with minimal irrigation. In addition to the species listed in Table B-1, pre-vegetated mats can be utilized on extensive green roofs. Information can be found at: [www.thehenryford.org/rouge/leedlivingroof.aspx](http://www.thehenryford.org/rouge/leedlivingroof.aspx).

## B.4 Planting Specifications

Planting plans and specifications must be prepared by a qualified professional and coordinated with other site development details and specifications including earthwork, soil preparation and irrigation (if used). Plans indicating a planting layout, with species composition and density, should be prepared on a site-specific basis. Reference Alameda County's Bay Friendly Landscaping Guidelines prepared by Rescape California, also known as the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Coalition (available at [www.rescapeca.org](http://www.rescapeca.org)), which outline principles and practices to minimize waste, protect air and water quality, conserve energy and water, and protect natural ecosystems, including:

- Evaluate site and assess the soil;
- Consider potential for fire;
- Select plants for appropriate size upon maturity, do not over-plant;
- Irrigation, if required, should be designed as a high efficiency, water conserving system; and
- Utilize compost (see the specification in the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines) and non-dyed mulch to build healthy soils and increase the water holding capacity of the soil. Mulch should be organic, non-dyed, and should resist floating, as described in Section B5, under the heading, "Erosion Control."

### Propagation and Planting Methods

The propagation methods for different species will vary, depending upon type of plant and stormwater adaptation. In general, container stock will be utilized most commonly for greenroofs, flow-through planters, tree well filters, vegetated swales and buffer strips and infiltration trenches. Bioretention areas and extended detention basins will generally utilize native plants available as transplants (plugs), pole cuttings and seed mixes.

**Container Stock.** Planting holes for container stock should be twice as wide and only as deep as the container size. Plant spacing should be determined on a site-specific basis. When planting, the root collar and base of the stem should be 1" above the adjacent soil surface. Soils should be backfilled and tamped down to assure contact with the roots. The planting should be watered-in promptly to promote the settling of soil. If appropriate, container plantings may receive a balanced time-released fertilizer tablet, quantity and placement per manufacturer's recommendation, placed in the planting hole prior to installation of the plant. Planting berms for water retention and mulch shall be used to enhance plant establishment. Trees shall be staked or guyed to provide interim support until established.

**Transplants (Plugs).** Transplanted plant divisions, referred to here as "plugs", should be planted during the fall dormant period, preferably between October 1 and November 15 after first soaking rain. Plugs should be collected from a suitable collection site in the vicinity of the constructed basins. Plugs are clumps of plant roots, rhizomes or tubers combined with associated soil that can be manually removed, or salvaged with an excavator or backhoe. The maximum recommended size is 1 foot x 1 foot. Whole plants or plant divisions can be utilized. The plugs should be from healthy specimens free of insects, weeds and disease. The plugs should be spaced from 1 foot to 6 feet apart, depending on the size of the plug. Smaller plugs

can be planted at the minimum distance to promote faster spreading and cover. Larger plugs from cattail and bulrush species should be planted at 3-foot to 6-foot intervals.

To plant a plug, a hole slightly wider than the diameter of the plug should be prepared and the roots system of the plug placed in the hole. Do not over-excavate the hole depth or the plant will settle below grade. A shovel could be used to create the planting hole. Manual planting with a spade is recommended for wet soils. Power augers can be used for creating holes in dry soils. Alternatively, a trench could be created along the narrow axis of the extended detention basin, and planting material manually placed at specified elevations in relation to the proximity of permanently saturated soils. To plant a plug with an established root system, the base of the stem and top of the root collar should be level with the ground surface. Tubers should be secured to prevent floating. Rhizomes should be placed in the soil with a slight upward angle.

The hole or trench containing the plug(s) should be backfilled with soil and the soil tamped down to assure good soil contact and secure the plug. The vegetative portion of the plant should be cut back to prevent water loss and wilting, and encourage the growth of roots and new shoots. Plugs of wetland plants should be grown in saturated soil. The soil should not be allowed to dry out after planting. Plugs should be planted immediately, when possible. When necessary, plugs can be stored in a cool, moist, shaded location for a maximum of one day. Plants must be thoroughly watered.

**Pole Cuttings.** Pole cuttings should be collected from the 1-year old wood of dormant trees and have a minimum of 5 viable nodes. The parent material should be healthy and free of diseases. The basal area of the pole cutting should be a minimum of one to two inches in diameter; however, the diameter at the base should not exceed 2 inches. The optimum diameter width of the base is 1 inch. The length of the cutting should be a minimum of 2 feet and should not exceed a maximum of 4 feet in length. Generally, 75 percent of the length of the cutting should be planted beneath the soil surface.

Pole cuttings should be collected no more than 2 days prior to planting. Cuttings should be placed in cool water to promote swelling of the nodes. Water should be kept fresh by aeration and/or by daily replacement. The pole cuttings should be placed in a hole approximately 3 feet deep (as determined by the length of the cutting) and backfilled with native soil, or a rich organic medium mixed with native soil. Soil should be tamped down to remove air pockets and assure soil contact with the cutting.

**Seeding.** Seeding should be conducted after plugs, container stock and pole cuttings are installed. Hydroseeding or broadcast method shall be utilized as appropriate for the size and accessibility of the area. The soil surface should be scarified prior to seeding. Do not damage previously planted vegetation. The seeds should be planted in fall, ideally in October.

Seeds should be broadcast or hydroseeded over the specified planting area. With broadcast seeding, the seed should be applied with hand-held spreaders to scarified soil. The soil surface should then be raked to cover the seeds with about one-eighth to one-quarter inch of soil to discourage predation, and tamped or rolled to firm soil surface.

Seeds should be planted at the ratios and rates specified by the supplier. The seed should be free of weeds and diseases. The supplier should provide the certified germination percentage.

## Water Level Management and Irrigation for Plant Establishment

All newly planted material needs careful attention to watering requirements to ensure proper establishment. As mentioned in the introduction, it is important to select plants based on specific site conditions, which will affect the availability of water for plant use. Also, grouping plants with similar water needs can help reduce irrigation demand. The specific approach will vary for irrigated and non-irrigated conditions, and for each stormwater application. In most cases, stormwater applications require a permanent irrigation system which shall be designed to maximize water conservation. Irrigation specifications and design plans shall be provided.

Plants such as shrubs and trees grown in naturalized areas that are not saturated to the surface or inundated shall be irrigated with drip irrigation. The irrigation system shall remain in place for a minimum of three years, and should continue until it is demonstrated that the plantings can survive on annual rainfall and/or groundwater. Seeded areas do not need irrigation in years of normal rainfall. If a period of drought occurs after seeding, supplemental watering may be needed for germination in the first year.

The plants on the bottom and edge of the constructed basins should be allowed to become established for one growing season prior to the onset of significant flooding that will inundate the plantings for extended periods. The types of plants recommended for these locations are rushes, sedges, grasses and herbaceous species. Initially, saturated soils are required for the bioretention areas and extended detention basins during the establishment period of the plantings. After the plants have become established, inundation with a surface depth of 1 cm to 2 cm alternating with short dry periods is recommended for the basins during the first year. Periodic shallow flooding of these basins can slow the growth of non-native weedy terrestrial species in the wetland system; however, the water depth should not be greater than the height of the plants. This initial irrigation regime will prevent plant mortality from dry periods or excessive flooding in the first year, and reduce the growth of non-native weedy species.

Emergent species should be planted in saturated soil so the plants will become established. For emergent species, the water level in the first year should be maintained to allow for soil saturation or shallow inundation around the base of the plants. Significant flooding and inundation of stems and leaves of the plants should be avoided the first year. Tall plugs and plantings can tolerate greater depths of inundation if a significant portion of the stems and leaves of the plantings remain above the water surface.

## B.5 Monitoring and Maintenance

### General Requirements

All planted areas shall be monitored and maintained as required to ensure proper establishment by a Contractor with a valid California C-27 contractor's license. Frequency of site visits and required maintenance practices will vary depending upon the stormwater measure and plant selection. Maintenance shall include watering, cultivation, weeding and pruning as necessary to maintain optimum growth conditions and, as appropriate to the specific stormwater measure, to keep the planted areas neat and attractive in appearance. In all instances, controlling weeds and unwanted growth with chemical applications is prohibited.

The contractor shall be familiar with the design and function of the specific stormwater measure(s) to ensure that the plantings are maintained appropriately and do not interfere with the efficient runoff drainage and filtration.

Ongoing management of invasive weed species is required in all applications. Monthly hand weeding will allow the naturalized vegetation to take hold, and will ultimately be less costly than less frequent, and more intensive clearing. Regular application of compost mulch, or other organic, non-dyed mulch material that will resist floating with surface runoff (such as pea gravel, rock, cobble, or large float-resistant wood mulches), will also help control weed growth. “Micro-bark” or “gorilla hair” mulches are not recommended.

### Erosion Control

Particularly with landscapes that are not fully established, contractors will need to monitor and evaluate potential for erosion and sediment accumulation in the runoff, which will influence irrigation scheduling and as well as determine the need for additional erosion control measures. Soil can be protected from erosion by a number of methods including:

- Keep the soil covered with vegetation to the extent possible;
- Slow water runoff by using compost berms, blanket, socks or tubes along slopes;
- Cover bare soil and maintain a 3-inch layer of “arbor”, “aged” or “composted” mulch on any exposed soil areas between plantings. Washed and clean pea gravel, rock, cobble, or other mulches that resist floating may also be used. Bark and “gorilla hair” mulches are not recommended. Only non-dyed mulch should be used in stormwater treatment facilities.
- Minimize the use of blowers in planting beds and on turf;
- Store leaf litter as additional mulch in planting beds as appropriate.

### Irrigation Systems

Bioretention facilities, flow-through planters, and other stormwater treatment facilities that use biotreatment soil may need to receive more frequent irrigation than other landscaped areas, due to the sand content of biotreatment soil. Provide separate irrigation control for bioretention areas, flow-through planters, and other stormwater treatment measures that use biotreatment soil. Specify weather-based irrigation controllers, sometimes called “smart” irrigation controllers, which use soil moisture sensors to signal the irrigation controller. Drip emitters should be used instead of spray irrigation. Where irrigation systems have been installed for temporary or permanent irrigation, the contractor shall maintain the irrigation system for optimum performance, as per manufacturer’s specifications. Contractor shall inspect the entire system on an ongoing basis, including cleaning and adjusting all drip emitters and valves, and any sprinkler and bubbler heads, for proper coverage. Contractor shall monitor the irrigation system while operating to identify and correct problems with water runoff or standing water.

In the event that a weather-based irrigation controller is not used, monitor soil moisture within plant root zones using a soil probe or shovel and adjust irrigation schedules accordingly, and schedule irrigation using a water budget approach, basing irrigation frequency on evapotranspiration data (ET) to avoid over-irrigation of plant material. Adjust irrigation frequency within each hydrozone area a minimum of every four weeks to respond to expected adjustments in ET data.

If a standard turf mix is used in lieu of a no-mow variety, implement grasscycling, where appropriate to the stormwater treatment measure. Grass clippings shall not be carried into the

drainage structures. Refer to A Landscaper's Guide to Grasscycling available from Rescape California (also known as the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Coalition) at [www.rescapeca.org](http://www.rescapeca.org).

### Bioretention and Extended Detention Basins

In bioretention and extended detention basins, in particular, non-native invasive plant species should be carefully monitored and controlled to reduce competition with the native plantings and to assure the success of the revegetation activities. The establishment of weeds and invasive species in the bottom of the basins can be partially controlled during the establishment period by implementing the watering schedule of initial saturation followed by alternating periods of shallow inundation and dry soil. Manual methods of weed removal should be conducted on the bottom, edge and side of the basins when these areas are not inundated. Areas with hydroseeding on the banks of the basins should be weeded carefully to avoid removal of the native species.

Weeding should be conducted regularly the first two years to prevent the growth, flowering, and seed set of non-native weeds and invasive species. After the first two years, weeding frequency will be determined on a site-specific basis as determined by the type of weeds and seasonal growth cycle of the weed species. In general, weeding once a month will be necessary to avoid more extensive and costly eradication in the future.

Long-term maintenance tasks on the banks of the basins will include continued control of nonnative weeds and invasive plants, and control of erosion. Erosion could include gullies, rills and sheet erosion. Actions to control erosion should include redirecting or dissipating the water source. Recontouring and subsequent mulching and/or reseeding with erosion control species may be required in bare areas. Maintain an adequate layer of organic, non-dyed, floating-resistant mulch, as described above, under the heading, "Erosion Control." In the event of extensive die-off of the native plant species, the bare areas should be replanted. Where the event that caused plant mortality was not a natural catastrophic occurrence, the site condition that resulted in the die-off should be investigated and remedial action to correct the problem should be undertaken prior to replanting.

## B.6 Bay-Friendly Landscaping and IPM

This section provides a summary of Bay-Friendly landscaping and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques, based on Alameda County's Bay Friendly Landscaping Guidelines prepared by Rescape California, also known as the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Coalition (available at [www.rescapeca.org](http://www.rescapeca.org)).

### Bay Friendly Landscaping

Bay-Friendly landscaping is a whole systems approach to the design, construction and maintenance of the landscape in order to support the integrity of the San Francisco Bay watershed. Project sponsors are encouraged to use landscape professionals who are familiar with and committed to implementing Bay-Friendly landscaping practices from the initial plant selection through the long-term maintenance of the site. This section summarizes Bay-Friendly Landscaping practices that may be implemented information that project sponsors need about how these practices can benefit water quality of the Bay and its tributaries.



Bay-Friendly landscaping is based on 7 principles of sustainable landscaping and features the following practices:

1. **Landscape Locally.** Landscapes designed to be part of the larger ecosystem of the Bay Area can both protect the health, diversity and sustainability of this valuable resource while making the most of the natural processes of a well-functioning ecosystem. By selecting plants appropriate to the climate, exposure, soils, drainage and topography, plantings can be established more successfully with less consumption of resources and intensive maintenance. Landscape designers are also encouraged to use local, well-adapted plant communities as models and to consider the potential for fire when developing the plant palette for a project.
2. **Less to the Landfill.** Reducing waste –and thus conserving landfill space and fossil fuel for hauling this material to the landfill - starts with not generating it in the first place. Plant trimmings pruning can be reduced by selecting plants that can grow to their natural size in the space allotted them, by avoiding the use of sheared hedges as design elements and not specifying invasive species (see the list provided by the California Invasive Plant Council at [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)). Prune selectively, and avoid excessive plant growth by applying water and fertilizer judiciously.

The second step is to recognize the value of plant debris, and to keep this organic matter on the site, using it as a gardening resource for mulching and composting.

3. **Nurture the Soil.** Returning organic matter to the soil, in the form of plant debris, is the link between protecting our watershed and protecting our watershed. Healthy soil that is rich in organic matter is full of life and can store water and actively cycle nutrients, regulate and partition water flow, neutralize pollutants, and resist pests. The following practices will encourage a complex soil community of microorganisms, worms, and other beneficial creatures. Base the landscape design on a soil analysis and understanding of soil texture, structure and drainage. The following practices are recommended during construction:
  - Remove and store the topsoil for re-spreading after grading;
  - Limit construction traffic to areas that will not be landscaped;
  - Control soil erosion;
  - Amend the soils with compost before planting; and
  - Specify and maintain an adequate layer of organic, non-dyed, floating-resistant mulch, as described in Section B.5 – taking into account water flow and designing to avoid the loss of mulch with runoff.

Maintenance practices to benefit soils and the watershed include allowing grass clippings to remain on the lawn; feeding soils with naturally based products including compost and a water extract of mature compost, instead of synthetic, fast release fertilizers and avoiding pesticides.

4. **Conserve Water.** Amending the soil with compost and keeping it covered with composted mulch (or other organic, non-dyed mulch that resists floating) can increase soil permeability and water-holding capacity, reduce water loss through evaporation and decrease the need for irrigation. Planting appropriate, drought tolerant California natives or Mediterranean plants also reduces water consumption for irrigation, as well as

consumption of other resources for mowing, fertilizing, and spraying. Minimize the use of turf grasses that require regular watering and fertilizing to remain green, particularly on slopes or in narrow, irregular hard to water shapes. Arrange plants in “hydrozones” of low, medium or high water demand. Onsite collection systems can allow the use of rainwater, or the reuse of “graywater” – uncontaminated wastewater from sinks, bathtubs, and washing machines. Specify, install and maintain high-efficiency irrigation systems, and train landscaping staff to manage irrigation according to need.

5. **Conserve Energy.** Conventional landscapes are very fossil fuel consumptive. Selecting plantings that do not require regular mowing or pruning, fertilizing and watering can help reduce this demand and restore our landscapes to those that are more productive than consumptive. Tree plantings can be used to moderate building temperatures, and to shade paved areas and air conditioners. Trees can also intercept significant amounts of rainfall each year and thus help control stormwater runoff. Specify as large a tree as possible but be sure that it will be allowed to grow to its natural shape and size in the allotted space. Outdoor lighting should be designed to use less energy and minimize “light pollution.” Choose and maintain energy-efficient landscaping equipment to conserve fuel. Specifying local products and suppliers reduces the energy needed to transport products and supports local economies.
6. **Protect Water and Air Quality.** Bay-Friendly landscaping can help protect water quality by increasing on-site infiltration and reducing runoff, reducing pollutants in runoff, and increasing the soil’s ability to remove pollutants from runoff. It can help protect air quality by reducing fossil fuel consumption, recycling plant debris onsite, and planting trees to remove carbon dioxide and absorb air pollutants. Many of the practices described previously, such as minimizing high input decorative lawns, keeping soil covered with organic, non-dyed, floating-resistant mulch and planting trees play a critical role in protecting water and air quality. An additional very important component of Bay-Friendly landscaping is reducing the use of pesticides through integrated pest management, which is described in a separate section, below.
7. **Create and Protect Wildlife Habitat.** Although we tend to rely on parks and open space to preserve wildlife habitat, developed landscapes can also provide food, water, shelter and nesting sites for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects, and other creatures. This can be accomplished by providing a diverse landscape that includes annuals, biennials and perennials of many different sizes, shapes, colors and textures; by choosing California natives first; providing appropriate water and shelter for wildlife; eliminating the use of pesticides; and planning sites to conserve or restore natural areas and wildlife corridors.

### Integrated Pest Management

All creeks in the San Francisco Bay Area exceed water quality toxicity limits, primarily due to the pesticide Diazinon entering urban runoff. Although the residential use of Diazinon is currently being phased out, the use of a group of highly toxic chemicals, called pyrethroids, is increasing. Because all pesticides are toxins, integrated pest management (IPM) places a priority on avoiding their use. IPM is a holistic approach to mitigating insects, plant diseases, weeds, and other pests. Projects that require a landscaping plan as part of a development project application are required encouraged to use IPM, as indicated in each agency’s source control measures list, which is based on the Clean Water Program’s Source Control Model

List. Avoiding pesticides and quick release synthetic fertilizers are particularly important when maintaining stormwater treatment measures, to protect water quality.

IPM encourages the use of many strategies to first prevent, and then control, but not eliminate, pests. It places a priority on fostering a healthy environment in which plants have the strength to resist diseases and insect infestations, and out-compete weeds. Using IPM requires an understanding of the life cycles of pests and beneficial organisms, as well as regular monitoring of their populations. When pest problems are identified, IPM considers all viable solutions and uses a combination of strategies to control pests, rather than relying on pesticides alone. The least toxic pesticides are used only as a last resort. IPM features the following practices:

- **Prevent Pest Problems.** Fostering a healthy soil and selecting appropriate plant communities for the site helps reduce the susceptibility to disease and other pests. Landscape designs should include a diversity of species that are well-suited to the site; specify resistant varieties and native species, including plants that attract beneficial insects; place plants a proper distance from buildings; avoid over-planting; and include compost in the soil specifications. Cultural methods of avoiding pests during construction and maintenance include the following:
  - Selecting plant material that is free from disease and insects;
  - Planting at the right depth;
  - Watering thoroughly but not over-watering;
  - Keeping an adequate layer of organic, non-dyed, floating-resistant mulch on the soil surface at all times, and keeping it away from root crowns, as described above, under the heading, “Erosion Control.”;
  - Using slow release fertilizer, if necessary, and not over-fertilizing;
  - Pruning judiciously;
  - Eliminating noxious weeds before they go to seed or spread;
  - Cleaning equipment after use on infected plants;
  - Inspecting and removing invasive plant parts or seeds from clothing, tools and vehicle before leaving an infected site; and
  - Cleaning up fruit and plant material that is infected with insects or diseases.
- **Watch for and Monitor Problems.** Landscaping firms should provide their staff with the time and resources to learn to identify both pest and beneficial organisms, and train residential clients to monitor and record pest problems. Plants should be checked often for vigor and signs of pests. Clarify which problems are the result of pests and not other environmental problems. Evaluate the results of any treatments, and check regularly with the Bio-Integral Resource Center ([www.birc.org](http://www.birc.org)) or UC Davis ([www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)) for up-to-date resources and information.
- **Education is Key.** Many property owners have unrealistic standards of absolute pest control and need to learn how landscapes can tolerate a certain level of pests without resulting in significant, or even noticeable, damage. Landscape professionals should educate their clients and refer them to [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org) for fact sheets and information on alternative pest control strategies.

- **Use Physical and Mechanical Controls.** If pests are identified as causing unacceptable levels of damage, physical barriers or mechanical techniques are the first line of control. This can include the carefully timed and conducted pruning of infested plant material or removal of whole plants, spraying aphids with a strong jet of water, using pheromone or sticky traps to keep ants and other insects away or hand-picking large adult insect pests and larvae as they appear
- **Use Biological Controls.** Living organisms can also be used to keep pest populations under control. The most important biological controls appear naturally and will be abundant in a landscape that is not heavily treated with pesticides. Encourage beneficial insects by planting a wide range of plants that flower throughout the year (a list is provided in the Bay-Friendly Landscaping Guidelines), and introduce natural predators. Buy all biological controls from a reputable source, and do not use pesticides except as a last resort.
- **Least Toxic Pesticides are a Last Resort.** The least toxic and least persistent pesticide is used only when monitoring indicates that preventative and non-chemical methods are not keeping pests below acceptable levels. Pesticides are not used on a calendar basis. When used, their efficiency is maximized by understanding the pest and beneficial life cycles, by careful timing and targeted application.

## B.7 Nursery Sources for Native Plants

It is recommended that the native plants used in treatment controls be grown by a qualified nursery. Seed collection should be conducted by a qualified botanist and/or nursery staff. Seed should be collected locally from selected sites to maintain the genetic integrity of the native plant species. The seeds shall be propagated by the nursery for planting during the fall dormant season. The appropriate container size for each species shall be used by the nursery.

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery\*  
 1310 McGee Ave., Berkeley, CA  
 510-526-4704  
<http://www.berkeleyhort.com/>

Clyde Robin Seed Company  
 Castro Valley, CA  
 510-785-0425  
[www.clyderobin.com](http://www.clyderobin.com)

East Bay Nursery\*  
 2332 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA  
 510- 845-6490  
<http://www.eastbaynursery.com/>

Lamer Seeds  
 PO Box 407  
 Bolinas, California  
 415-868-9407, [info@lamerseeds.com](mailto:info@lamerseeds.com)  
[www.lamerseeds.com/](http://www.lamerseeds.com/)

Mines Road Natives  
17505 Mines Road, Livermore, CA  
925-371-0887 (Note: by appointment only)

Mostly Natives Nursery  
27235 Highway 1, Tomales, CA

707-878-2009  
[www.mostlynatives.com](http://www.mostlynatives.com)

Native Here Nursery  
101 Golf Course Road, Berkeley, CA  
510-549-0211  
[www.ebcnps.org](http://www.ebcnps.org) (click on "Native Here Nursery")

Oaktown Native Plant Nursery  
1019 Bella Vista Ave., Oakland, CA  
510-534-2552  
<http://www.oaktownnativenursery.info/>

Pacific Coast Seed  
533 Hawthorne Place  
Livermore, CA  
925- 373-4417  
[www.pcseed.com](http://www.pcseed.com)

Watershed Nursery  
Berkeley, CA  
510-548-4714  
[www.thewatershednursery.com](http://www.thewatershednursery.com)

\* Nurseries with a dedicated native plant section

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