

RECOMMENDED NATIVE TREES

EVERGREEN TREES:

Latin Name	Common Name
Calocedrus decurrens	Incense Cedar
*** Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
* Lyonothamnus floribundus	Catalina Ironwood
* Rhus laurina	Laurel Sumac
*** Prunus lyonii	Catalina Cherry
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak
*** Umbellularia californica	California Bay

DECIDUOUS TREES:

Latin Name	Common Name
Acer macrophyllum	Big Leaf Maple
*** Aesculus californica	California Buckeye
*** Cercis occidentalis	Western Redbud
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow
* Platanus racemosa	Western Sycamore
*** Populus fremontii	Fremont Cottonwood
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak
* Chitalpa taskentensis	Chitalpa
* Tecoma stans	Yellow Trumpet Flowers
* Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'	Wild Lilac

NOT RECOMMENDED TREES:

Latin Name	Common Name
Eucalyptus spp.	Eucalyptus
Schinus terebinthifolius	Brazilian Pepper
Ficus microcarpa	Laurel Fig
* Flowering	*** Bears Fruit & Flowering

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please call the Community Development Department at (949) 443-6331.

TOPPING VS. PRUNING

The Municipal Code (Section 9-3.557) prohibits the topping or severe trimming of trees. Topping is cutting branches back to stubs or lateral branches to reduce the size of a tree. Homeowners often feel that their trees have become too large for their property or feel that the trees pose a hazard and will seek the assistance of tree trimming companies to top the trees. Topping often removes 50%-100% of the leaf quantity and since the leaves are the food factories of a tree, the tree may become starved and seriously weakened. Re-growth will occur more rapidly than if the tree's canopy was appropriately pruned and will be structurally weak.



A stressed tree is more vulnerable to disease and insect infections. Large wounds caused by topping can expose the heartwood to attacks by insects and fungus. Once decay sets in, there is little that can be done to save the tree. Topping trees is not only a dangerous practice for a tree, but it also makes trees look unsightly, and can be expensive.

Proper pruning takes advantage of the natural structure of the tree. Trees provide value to a property and can often appraise 5%-20% higher than those properties that do not have trees. Hiring a certified arborist can provide the services of a trained crew, with all of the required safety equipment and liability insurance.



Your Guide to Understanding the TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS



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TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

The City's Municipal Code (Section 9-2.349) establishes regulations for removal of trees within the City. The ordinance regulates the removal of trees over six inches (6") in diameter measured three feet (3') feet above grade. It also establishes findings that the City must consider before acting on the permit.

Tree removal permits are required for new development projects, utility easements, common landscape areas, nonresidential projects, City facilities and right-of-way, individual residential lots, and heritage trees. For specific information on the applicability of a tree removal permit, refer to Section 9-2.349 of the Municipal Code.

The City conducts tree inspections weekly. Tree removals requiring Community Development Department review and action take approximately 1-3 weeks. Trees requiring Planning Commission review will require 1-3 months for final action.

Approved tree removal permits expire six months from the date of approval. If your permit expires and you have not removed trees covered by the permit, you must submit a new tree removal permit application.



SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A completed tree removal permit application with appropriate fee.
- A Site Plan indicating the specific location and labeling each tree (type, diameter, height, & condition).
- In cases where the reason for removal involves the health of the tree, the City may require the applicant to submit an arborist's report.

CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

The City considers the following findings in determining whether to approve or deny a tree removal permit application:

1. The tree proposed for removal is unsuitable to the planting area in that the area is too small to accommodate the height, diameter of trunk or canopy, or root zone of the tree, or excessive trees exist on the site requiring thinning to maintain tree health.



2. The tree is an unsuitable variety for the site in that the species is not a native variety, is not in keeping with the community character of San Juan Capistrano, is of an invasive species, or otherwise conflicts with the intent of this ordinance.
3. Removal of the tree will not have adverse impact on adjacent properties or the general welfare in that its removal will not adversely impact views, public streetscapes, or other aesthetic considerations.
4. Where appropriate, replacement trees have been proposed to maintain the urban forest canopy and the replacement tree are more appropriate to the site and to the

REPLACEMENT

The City typically requires replacement tree (s) be planted as a condition of approval. Suitable species are listed in this brochure.