


**W**ildfire is a danger to human life and property in Cambria. One way to lessen this danger is to cut or control vegetation around buildings, creating a defensible space. But the way in which we cut plants around our homes can harm the surrounding forest.

This pamphlet describes ways to control combustible vegetation and have the least impact on the Monterey pine forest in which we live.

## >> FUEL BREAKS AROUND CAMBRIA'S HOMES



The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection requires homeowners living inside and outside the Cambria Community Services District jurisdiction to remove combustible fuel for a minimum of 30 feet around a home or to the property line (PRC 4291).

Cambria Community Services District requires owners of undeveloped lots next to a house to maintain a fuel break on their lot that is 25 feet wide with all weeds cut to a maximum of 4 inches in height. All fallen wood greater than 12 inches in diameter must be cut and stacked neatly out of access lanes in fuel breaks or in the middle of cleared lots. Fallen wood less than 12" in diameter must be hauled off the lots. Fire ladders must be removed. (Fire ladders are the lower limbs of trees that allow a fire to spread from the underlying grass or brush into the crown of the trees.) Otherwise, the District will have the threatening fuel removed and bill the lot owner for the expense.

## >> PRECAUTIONS IN CREATING FUEL BREAKS

Clearing all the brush and grass from around a home may be the easiest way to maintain a fuel break, but this scalping also destroys the forest we live in. Effective fuel breaks can have clumps of native grasses and brush to reduce the speed that fire spreads.

Before removing combustible fuel with a weedeater or mower, flag very small trees and shrubs and patches of native bunch grasses so they can be avoided. Hand weed around the base of all trees and shrubs.

Young trees and shrubs have their growing tissue directly under the thin layer of protective bark. Slashing of this thin bark on young trees and shrubs by weed eaters causes stunted growth, infections and the death of these fragile plants.

Slashing can also severely damage older trees and make them susceptible to attack by fungi, rusts and insects.

To prevent introduction of diseases to the trees, avoid removing live limbs that are not fire ladders. Sealing of wounds is not an effective method of protecting trees from disease.

Mowers and weed eaters can start fires on dry days. Start before 10:00 a.m.

If we follow these procedures, we will maintain the character of our native Monterey pine forest as we protect our homes against fire.

## >> THE MONTEREY PINE FOREST

Cambria's Monterey pine forest is unique. Many native plant species make the forest attractive and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Special care should be taken to protect mature native plants and their seedlings which are necessary for the perpetuation of the forest.

# NATIVE

## PLANT SPECIES OF OUR FOREST WHICH REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE DE NUESTRO BOSQUE QUE REQUIEREN CUIDADO ESPECIAL

>> The following species are important components of our forest and are especially susceptible to damage by weedeaters and mowers.

Use this guide to recognize the beneficial native plants of our forest.

>> Las siguientes especies son importantes componentes de nuestro bosque y son especialmente vulnerables a los daños causados por las cortadoras de pasto y malezas.

Use esta guía para reconocer las plantas nativas beneficiosas de nuestro bosque.

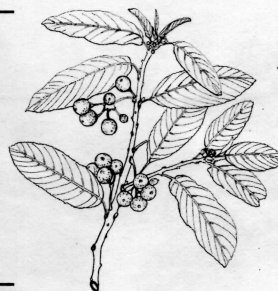
[ monkey flower ]

mímulo  
*Mimulus*



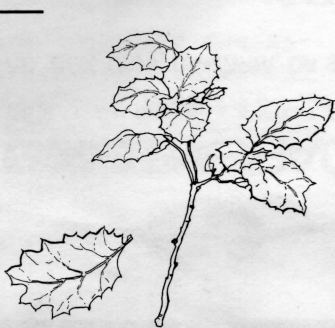
[ coffeeberry ]

capulincillo  
*Rhamnus californica*



[ coast live oak seedling ]

roble costero  
*Quercus agrifolia*



[ chaparral currant ]

grosella  
*Ribes malvaceum*



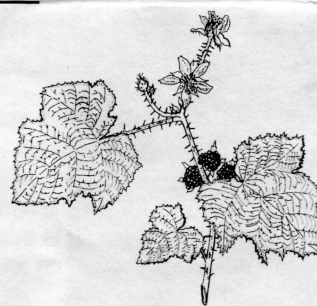
[ giant ryegrass ]

ballico gigante  
*Lemus condensatus*



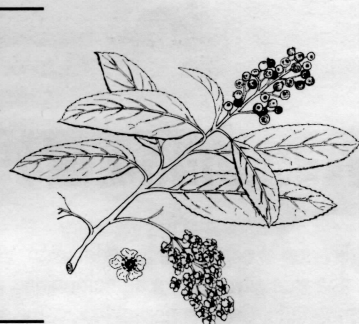
[ blackberry ]

zarza  
*Rubus ursinus*



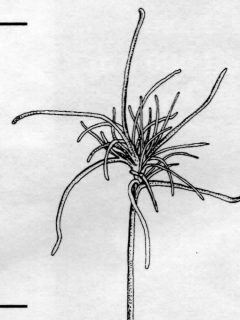
[ toyon ]

(christmas berry)  
toyón  
*Heteromeles arbutifolia*

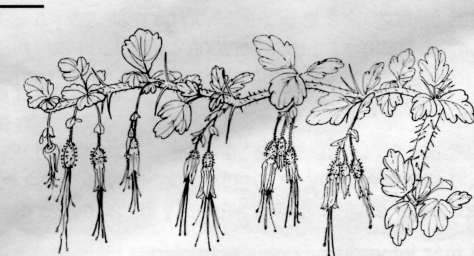


[ monterey pine seedling ]

árboles de semilla  
de pinos de monterey  
*Pinus radiata*



[ fuchsia-flowered  
gooseberry ]  
grosella de flores fucsia  
*Ribes speciosum*



[ ferns ]  
helechos



# INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES HARMFUL TO THE FOREST

## INVASORAS QUE SON DAÑINAS PARA EL BOSQUE

>> Use this guide to detect the unwanted invasive plants in our forest.

>> Use esta guía para detectar las plantas invasoras no deseadas en nuestro bosque.



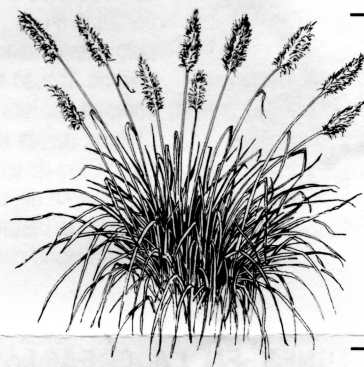
**[ fig-marigold ]**  
(iceplant)  
flor de sol (rayito de sol)  
*Carpobrotus edulis*



**[ cape ivy ]**  
hiedra alemana  
*Delairea odorata*



**[ scotch broom ]**  
(also French & Spanish)  
escoba francesa,  
escoba blanca,  
retama escocesa  
*Cystisus multiflorus*,  
*Cystisus scoparius*



**[ pampas grass ]**  
de las pampas  
*Cortaderia selloana*

For more information call the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at 927-4262 or the Cambria Fire Department at 927-6240. Please view color pictures of native and non-native plants described in this brochure at [www.Greenspacecambria.org](http://www.Greenspacecambria.org).

Para obtener más información, llame al Departamento de Bosques y Protección contra Incendios de California [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection] al 927-4262 ó al Departamento de Bomberos de Cambria al 927-6240. Por favor vea las imágenes en color de las plantas nativas y no nativas que se describen en este folleto yendo a [www.Greenspacecambria.org](http://www.Greenspacecambria.org).

>> THIS INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH SUPPORT FROM:

Greenspace The Cambria Land Trust  
Cambria Forest Committee  
San Luis Obispo County Community FireSafe Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
NCSWAP  
Cambria Fire Department  
Cambria Community Services District

Funding of this project provided by:



**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Lynn Rathbun  
**DESIGN:** LOUDesign, Cambria  
**PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER:** Lighthouse Litho, Cambria

*Greenspace  
The  
Cambria  
Land  
Trust*