

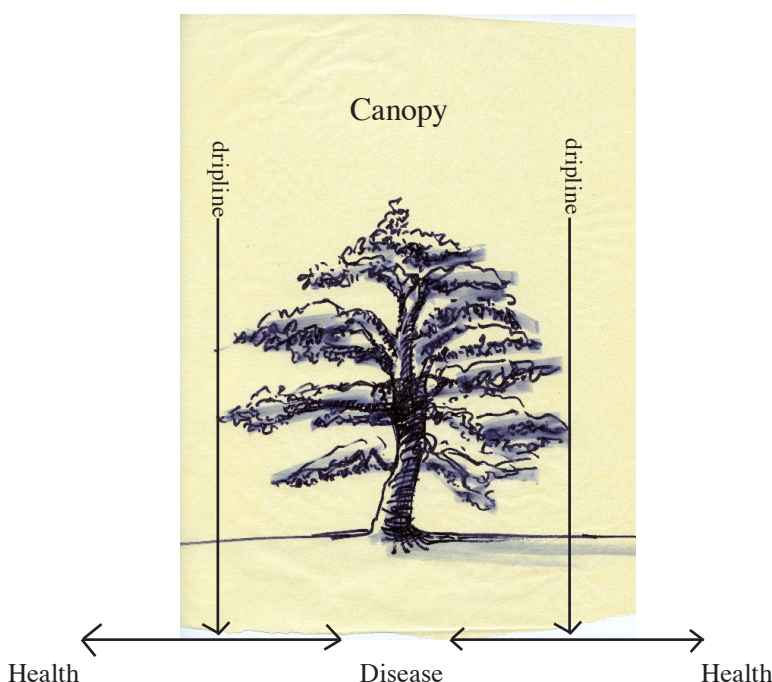
Christmas Tree Lane Association

christmastreelane.net

The Christmas Tree Lane Association exists to support and maintain the Deodar cedar trees that are the basis of Altadena's own California Landmark No. 990, and to decorate them for the lighting display that has been held each Christmas season for decades.

But help is needed. These trees can succumb to a deadly fungus that attacks the roots of the trees. Once infected, there is no cure and the trees will die. How can this be? In a natural environment, the trees that are true cedars spend their summers without water. This protects the tree, but the fungus that attacks it needs to have water rear-round to grow.

Our Deodars do well when: (1) weeds and unwanted vegetation are cleared from beneath their canopies, and (2) sources of water, such as lawn irrigation and sprinklers systems, are directed away from the dripline.



During warm months: Water inside the dripline increases the likelihood of disease. Water outside the dripline increases the likelihood of health.

The Christmas Tree Lane Association (CTLA) wants to help you maintain a healthy Deodar tree (or trees) next to your home. By helping you sustain these trees, we can support both an Altadena tradition and your neighborhood property values.

We've been consulting with the design firm Scrub Jay Studios to devise a program that will be more proactive in fighting the fungus, but which at the same time will suggest ways to add natural beauty beneath the tree canopies that blend with your yard's plantings.

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Here's what we can do, and what you, the homeowner, can do:

1. Select Native Plants to place around Deodars and treat them basically like mature Oaks -- stay well away from the trunk, and allow them to be wet in winter, dry in summer.
2. Choose individual plants with an eye to exposure: full sun, part shade, or near total shade. Even California Natives need to be placed where they best thrive!
3. Ask us about exotic plants (non-natives) that can also do well around Deodars.

The Lane Association (CTLA) plans to create an online database to track the history of each Deodar tree on the Lane. To accomplish this, a preliminary map has been created that locates each individual tree and each spot where a Deodar might fit in the future.

In addition, a new and permanent numbering system that incorporates each potential planting spot will be crucial to maintaining the above-mentioned history, while giving all interested parties a quick and efficient way to identify individual trees and/or spots.

We hope to soon begin a series of classes or workshops, organized seasonally, that focus upon tree care and the plantings and irrigation practices that are appropriate to our trees. From all of this, CTLA intends to teach and implement the best practices for our Altadena environment.

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Plant Selection and Cedar Care Guidelines

To preserve the one hundred-plus year old cedrus deodarus trees along the Christmas Tree Lane, this guide should assist residents with landscaping the areas in, around and beneath the established trees along Santa Rosa Ave, AKA Christmas Tree Lane State Historic Landmark #990 in Altadena. Most of the original trees planted at the direction of Frederic Woodbury in 1885 remain but the balance are re-plants that occurred due to the untimely death of their predecessors. The majority of tree deaths occur when residents and lawn-care maintenance personnel, new to the area, plant foliage with watering needs that encourage growth of naturally occurring soil fungus that thrives in the damp soil during the summers heat. The planting of new lawns within the drip-line of the trees has been the main reason for the demise of the mature trees. This pamphlet is not all inclusive of all the plants that could be considered suitable, but is intended to be a guide for watering, planting, propagating, and maintaining the deodars.



SCRUB JAY STUDIOS

Native Landscape design from an Artist's perspective

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Table of Contents

1. Basic tree care recommendations.
2. Tree care graphics, dripline.
3. Tree care graphics, root flare.
4. Plant lists, California natives to plant around Cedars.
5. Plant lists, California natives to plant around Cedars.
6. Images, California natives for full sun.
7. Images, California natives for part shade.
8. Images, California natives for shade.
9. Plant lists, Exotics to plant around Cedars.
10. Images, Exotics to plant around Cedars.

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Basic Tree Care Recommendations

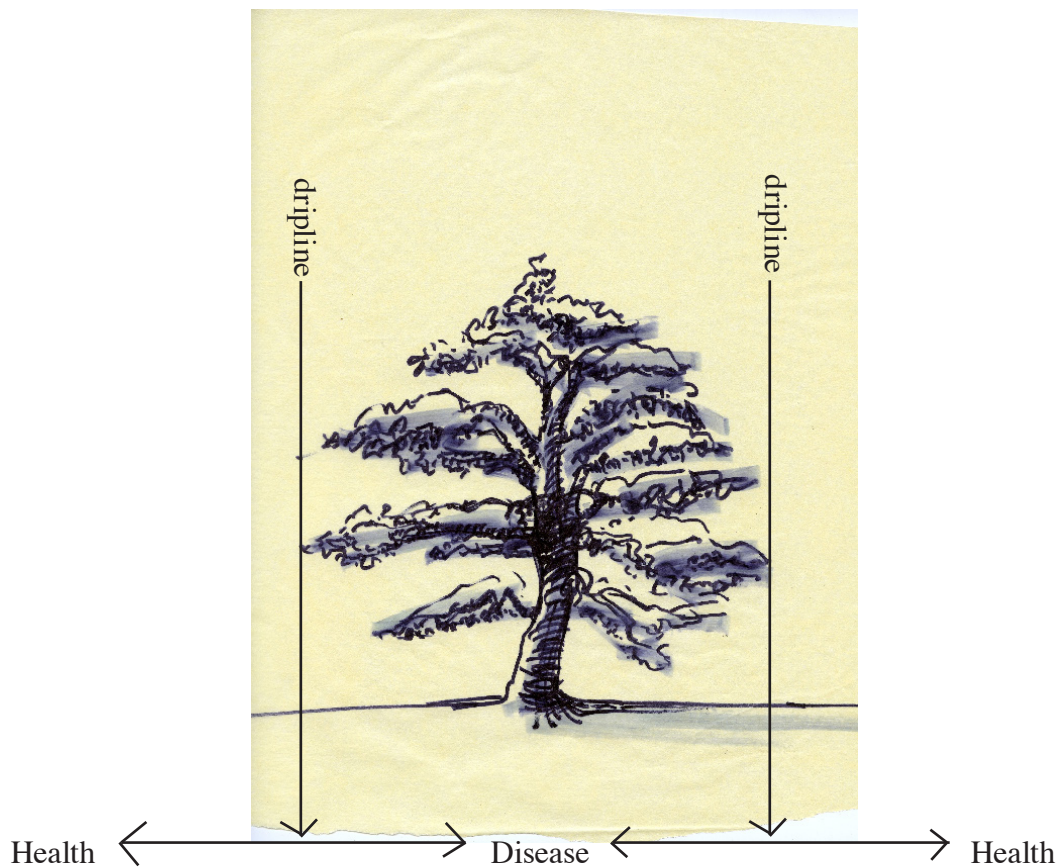
1. Canopy density should be checked annually for each tree as a basic indicator of overall health.
2. No irrigation within the dripline of the tree. Second best is no irrigation within ten (10') feet of the trunk.
3. No use of root barriers within the dripline of the tree.
4. No watering tubes should be used. Though this was a common practice a few years ago it has been found to be detrimental to the health of the tree.
5. Plant new trees as far from the historic stone gutters as possible.
6. Uncover all buried root flares, aka "root crowns". Many along the lane are completely or partially buried.
7. Avoid creating paths beneath the trees to avoid soil compaction.
If a path must be created;
Place 2-3" of 3/4" or larger gravel on the soil. Place a large stepping stone on top of the gravel to distribute the weight. Another option is to create an elevated walkway w/ as few support points touching the ground as is structurally feasible.
8. Mulch trees 3" - 6" deep while keeping the crowns exposed. The tree's own needles are the best mulch and should be maintained and encouraged.
9. Remove trees, shrubs and groundcovers that are competing with the Cedars for nutrients, space and moisture.
10. Never plant a lawn beneath an established Cedar.
11. Do not change the grade or change the watering regime of an established Cedar. If it grew up with consistent moisture it can tolerate regular irrigation in the winter but cut it back during the summer months. If a tree is irrigated water early in the morning (5 am would be nice) before soils heat up and water deeply. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings.

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The canopy of a tree is all the branches, twigs and leaves.

The dripline of a tree is the edge of the canopy.

For the optimum health of the tree plantings should be done outside the dripline.



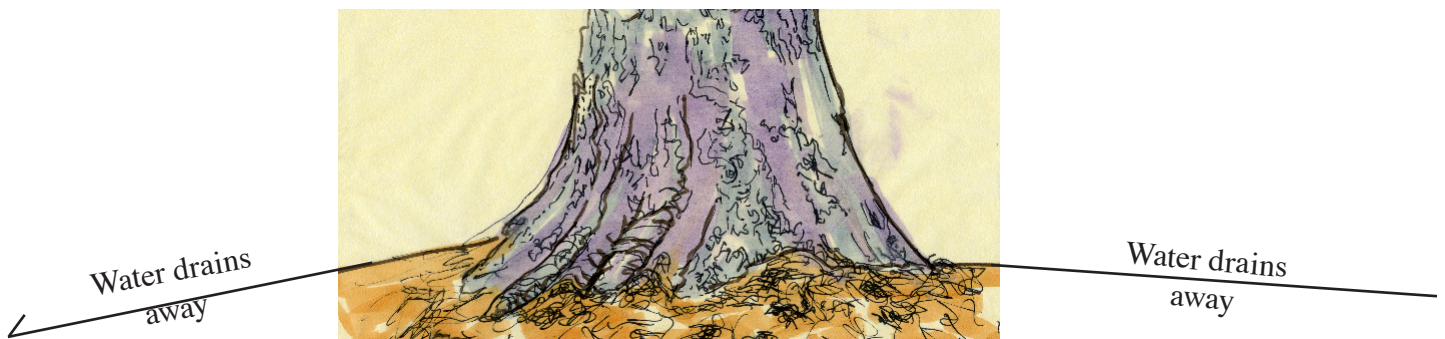
Within the dripline;

Planting or watering toward the trunk encourages disease and shorter life.

Planting or watering away from the trunk encourages health and longer life.

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The root “flare” should be visible and stay dry



If not, excavate to the tops of the first roots

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Native Plants to plant around Deodars

(See images)

Treat them basically like mature oaks, that is, plant outside the drip line and use plants that can take the same conditions as an oak - wet in winter and dry in summer.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
Shrubs and subshrubs:		
Berberis repens	Creeping Oregon grape	shady areas
Carpenteria cal	Bush anenome	partial shade
Ceanothus griseus“Centennial”	Centennial ceanothus	sun
Ceanothus “Yankee Point”	Yankee Point ceanothus	sun
Cercis occidentalis	Western redbud	sun
Galvesia speciosa	Island snapdragon	sun
Garrya elliptica	Coast silk-tassel	sun and part shade
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	sun and part shade
Keckiella cordifolia	Heartleaf keckiella	shady areas
Rhamnus species	Coffeeberry, redberry	sun and part shade
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade berry	sun
Rhus trilobata	Basket bush	sun and part shade
Ribes viburnifolium	Catalina perfume currant	shady areas
Ribes sanguineum var glutinosum		partial shade
Ribes speciosum		partial shade
Symphoricarpos species	Snowberry	sun and part shade
Venegasia carpesoides	canyon sunflower	shady areas
Perennials;		
Aquilegia formosa	Western columbine	shade
Carex species (all except spissa)		
Fragaria vesca	woodland strawberry	shade
Iris	Iris	sun and part shade
Juncus patens	wire grass	sun
Salvia spathacea	hummingbird sage	shade and part sun
Satureja species	Savory	part shade
Solidago californica	California goldenrod	sun
Thalictrum fendleri var polycarpum	Western meadow rue	shade and part sun

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Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
Grasses:		
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer grass	sun
Festuca californica	California fescue	sun
Leymus condensatus	Giant wild rye	sun
Melica imperfecta	Coast melic grass	sun
Ferns:		
Dryopteris arguta	Coastal wood fern	part shade to shade
Polypodium californicum	California polypody	part shade to shade
Woodwardia fimbriata	Giant chain fern	part shade to shade
Annuals:		
Collinsia heterophylla	Chinese houses	sun to part shade
Phacelia tanacetifolia	Tansy-leafed phacelia	sun
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy	sun

California native plants to use in full sun



Flannel bush

Fremontodendron species



California fuchsia

Epilobium species



Our Lord's candle

Hesperoyucca whipplei



Sagebrush

Artemisia californica



California buckwheat

Erigonum species



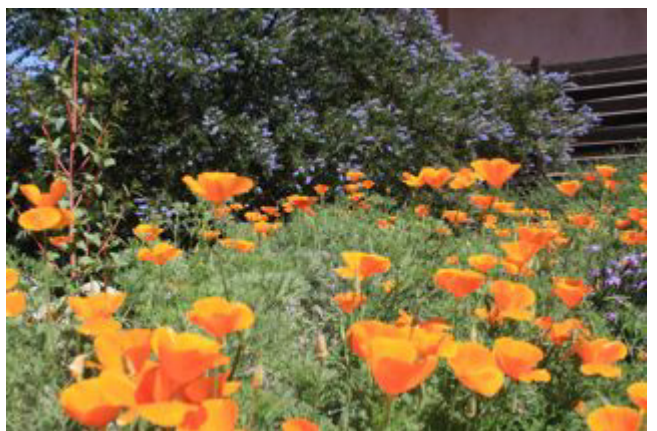
Coyote bush

Baccharis pilularis



Coffee berry

Rhamnus species



Annuals

Eschscholzia californica

California native plants to use in part shade



Basket bush

Rhus trilobata



Coffee berry

Rhamnus species



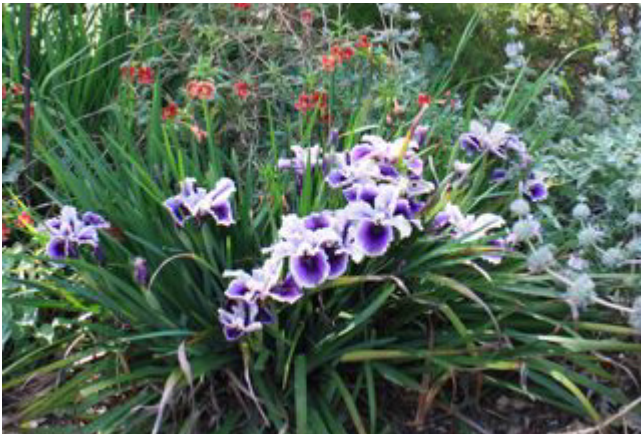
Deer grass

Muhlenbergia rigens



Wild rye

Leymus condensatus "Canyon Prince"



Iris douglasiana



Island live forever

Dudleya hassei



Currant
Ribes species

California native plants to use in shade



Creeping Oregon grape

Berberis repens



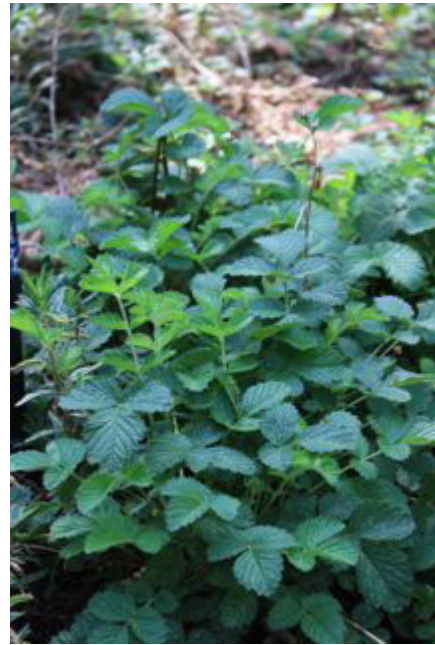
Snowberry

Symphoricarpos species



Catalina perfume currant

Ribes viburnifolium



Wodland strawberry

Fragaria vesca



Savory

Satureja chandlerii

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Exotic plants to plant around Deodars:

(See images)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Location
Acanthus Mollis	Bear's breeches	part shade
Aucuba japonica	Gold dust plant	part shade
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese barberry	part shade
Bergenia crassifolia	Siberian tea	part shade
Cotoneaster horizontalis	Rock cotoneaster	part shade
Euonymus fortunei	Winter creeper	part shade
Euphorbia characias	Mediterranean spurge	part shade
Juniperus species	Juniper	part shade
Polystichum munitum	Western sword fern	part shade
Rhaphiolepis umbellata	Yeddo hawthorne	part shade

Exotic Plants to use around Deodar cedars



Acanthus mollis
Bear's Breeches



Aucuba japonica
Gold dust plant



Euonymus fortunei
Winter creeper



Bergenia crassifolia
Siberian tea



Cotoneaster horizontalis
Rock cotoneaster



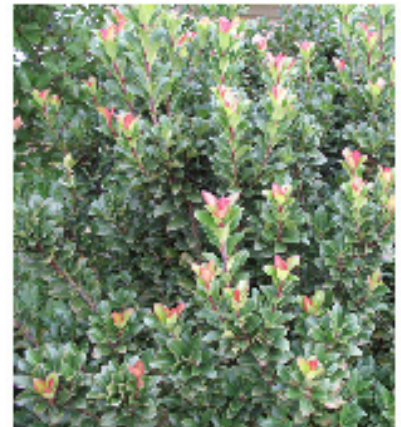
Polystichum munitum
Western sword fern



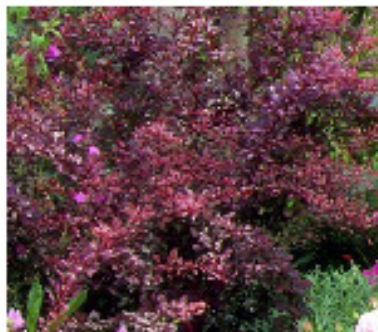
Euphorbia characias
Mediterranean sage



Juniperus sp.



Raphiolepis umbellata
Yeddo hawthorne



Berberis thunbergii
Japanese barberry