

Recommended Tree Species List

Selecting an appropriate tree species for the area in which you live is a key factor in determining both how successful that tree will be after its planted and how that tree will contribute to the community forest overall. Many factors play into what makes a tree species appropriate or suitable for a given area, including its water use requirement, resilience to extreme hot and cold temperatures, and whether that tree already grows in the area natively, among many other factors. The Recommended Tree Species List for Los Angeles County is meant to serve as a guide and resource for both residents and municipalities interested in planting region-appropriate and climate-resilient trees with the highest chance for successful establishment and long-term survival.

The Recommended Tree Species List has several columns with information to help the user choose which tree species to plant. These columns include:

- **Tree Species /Botanical Name:** This is the formal botanical or Latin name for the tree species.
- **Common Name:** This is the corresponding common name for the tree species that is often more easily recognized than the botanical name.
- **Climate Areas:** The County has been split into six distinct climate areas (see **Figure 1**) that are based on groupings of the Sunset Climate Zones (See **Table 1**) and other geographic and major road boundaries. You can use the map in **Figure 1** to find which climate area you are located in, and then identify what tree species are suitable for your climate area using the climate area data in this column (1 - Coast, 2 - LA Basin, 3 – Santa Monica Mountains, 4 - Foothills, 5 - Desert, 6 – Angeles National Forest Mountains).
- **Foliage Type:** This column indicates whether the tree species is deciduous (loses all its leaves every year), evergreen (retains all its leaves or needles through the year), or semi-deciduous (loses foliage for a very short period, or loses only part of their foliage).
- **Height at Maturity:** How tall the tree species will grow.
- **Spread at Maturity:** How wide the tree canopy will grow, measured from a bird’s eye view, or the horizontal distance across the tree canopy from one end to its opposite end.
- **Min and Max Spacing:** These measurements (often a range) are the circular dimensions of the required planting area that are needed for the tree species to ensure it has enough room to grow and will not encroach with other planted tree or shrub species.
- **Native Tree to LA County:** This column denotes whether the tree species grows natively in Los Angeles County or not.
- **Recommended Street Tree:** This column denotes whether the tree species is recommended for street tree planting. If the answer is “no,” this means the tree is only recommended in areas other than streets, such as parks, open spaces, or backyards.
- **SelecTree Water Use Rating:** This column indicates the amount of water the tree species needs to grow in a healthy way, from very low to high as defined by SelecTree.
- **SelecTree Link:** This column contains links to Cal Poly’s Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (UFEI) SelecTree website for each specific tree species, with helpful information about the tree species, including photos.
- **Do Not Plant List:** This table includes a list of tree species and palm species that residents and municipalities should avoid planting within Los Angeles County due to their invasive status, high water use, poor survivability in the Southern California climate, or other reason.

Figure 1: Los Angeles County Climate Areas

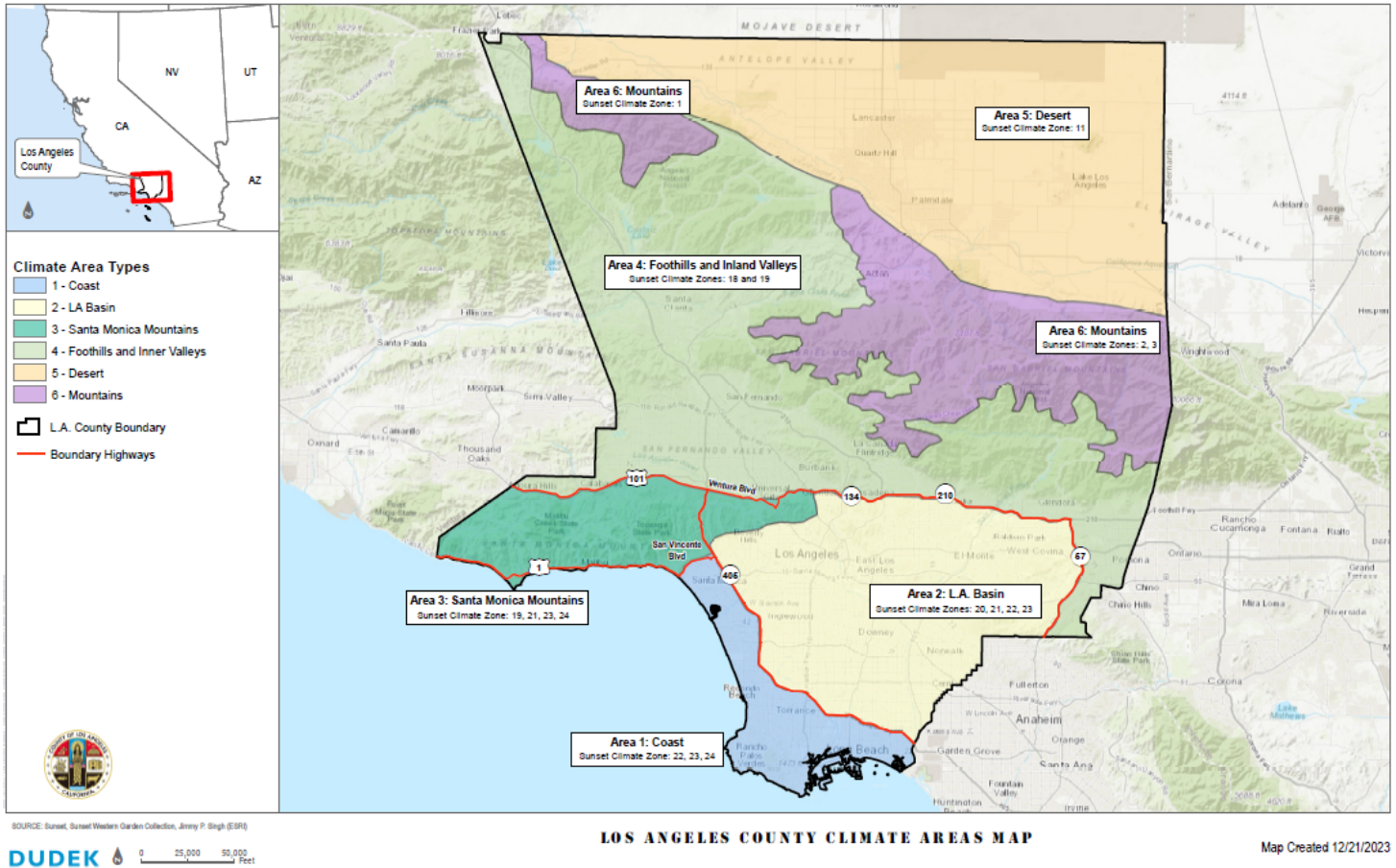


Table 1: Los Angeles County Climate Areas and their Associated Sunset Climate Zones

L.A. County Climate Area	Climate Area 1: Coast	Climate Area 2: LA Basin	Climate Area 3: Santa Monica Mountains	Climate Area 4: Foothills & Inland Valleys	Climate Area 5: Deserts	Climate Area 6: Angeles NF Mountains
Associated Sunset Climate Zones (length of growing season, timing and amount of rainfall, winter lows, summer highs, wind, and humidity)	24 - Maritime Influence Coastal Climate	20 - Cool Winters in SoCal w/ Occasional Ocean Influence 21 - Thermal Belts of SoCal w/Occasional Ocean Influence 22 - Cold-Winter Portions of SoCal Coastal Climate 23 - Thermal Belts of SoCal Coastal Climate	18 - Above & Below Thermal Belt SoCal Interior Valleys 19 - Thermal belts around SoCal Interior Valleys 21 - Thermal Belts of SoCal w/Occasional Ocean Influence 22 - Cold-Winter Portions of SoCal Coastal Climate 23 - Thermal Belts of SoCal Coastal Climate 24 - Maritime Influence Coastal Climate	18 - Above & Below Thermal Belt SoCal Interior Valleys 19 - Thermal belts around SoCal Interior Valleys	11 - Medium to high desert of California and southern Nevada	1 - Coldest mountain and intermountain areas 2 - Cold mountain and intermountain areas 3 - Mild areas of mountain and intermountain climates