Plants for Part Shade

Shady spots in a garden offer refuge from the heat and add ambiance.

Plant California climate-friendly plants that do well in the shade in areas such as side yards, places under overhangings, and north-facing spots that receive less than a full day of sun.

Yellow Clivia Clivia miniata 'San Marcos Yellow'

Clivia miniata 'San Marcos Yellow' (yellow clivia), perennial, 2 feet tall and wide, with broad, dark green, strap-shaped leaves with blunt tips and clusters of yellow flowers in mid-winter and early spring followed by showy, yellow fruit. Selection of a species native to South Africa. Part shade to shade, well-drained soils. Good choice for dry shade.

Sunset: 12-17,19-24



Purple Vine Lilac Hardenbergia violacea 'Canoelands'

Hardenbergia violacea (purple lilac vine), evergreen vine, fast growing to 10-15 feet, with dark green, leathery, lance-shaped leaves, pendulous clusters of lavender-purple or white flowers in mid-winter to spring, and gray-brown seedpods. Climbs by twining stems. Native to eastern and southern Australia from the coast into the mountains. 'Happy Wanderer' has larger leaves and flowers than the species. 'Alba' has white flowers. 'Mini-Ha-Ha' is a 3-foot shrub. Sun along the coast, part shade inland, most well-drained soils.

Sunset: 8-24



Corsican Hellebore Helleborus argutifolius

Helleborus argutifolius (Corsican Hellebore), perennial, 2-3 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide, with leathery, glossy, dark bluish green leaves divided into three lance-shaped leaflets with toothed margins and showy clusters of pale greenish white sepals surrounding small, inconspicuous flowers in late winter and early spring. Native to varied habitats on the Mediterranean islands of Corsica and Sardinia. Cool sun or light shade along the coast, light shade to full shade inland, Cut stems to the base after flowering to renew. May be offered as H. lividus subsp. corsicus or as H. corsicus.

Sunset: 3b-9,14-24





Plants for Part Shade



Canyon Snow Iris Iris 'Canyon Snow'

Iris 'Canyon Snow' (Canyon Snow Iris), perennial, 12-18 inches tall and 2-3 feet wide, with narrowly strap-shaped, glossy, dark green leaves and bright white flowers with golden yellow markings in early spring. Spreads slowly by rhizomes, forming large clumps over time. Hybrid between I. douglasiana and I. innominata, both native to coastal western Oregon and California. Cool sun to light shade, afternoon shade inland, well-drained soils.

Sunset: 4-9,14-24

Creeping Lilyturf Liriope spicata 'Silver Dragon'

Liriope spicata 'Silver Dragon' (creeping lilyturf), perennial, to 1 foot tall and spreading by rhizomes to 3-4 feet wide, with upright, narrowly strap-shaped, white-striped, glossy green leaves. Short spikes of pale lavender to almost white flowers in late summer and fall are partly hidden among the leaves. Species is native to China and Japan and can spread aggressively in moist soils. Cool sun or light shade, most soils.

Sunset: 3-10,14-24





Chinese Fringe Flower Loropetalum chinense rubrum

Loropetalum chinense and cultivars (Chinese fringe flower), evergreen shrub, 8-12 feet tall and 6-8 feet wide, with small, oval to elliptical, olive green or reddish purple leaves on arching or horizontal branches and clusters of white to creamy white or pink flowers with frilly, narrow petals in spring. Native to forested slopes and open spaces from the mountains of northeastern India to China and Japan. Many cultivars, including compact plants 4-6 feet tall and 1- to 3-foot, mounding groundcovers. Sun to part shade, neutral to acidic, well-drained soils.

Sunset: 6-9,14-24



Plants for Part Shade

Beard Tongue Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP'

Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP' (beard tongue), perennial, 1-2 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide, with glossy, silvery blue-green, narrowly oval to linear leaves and showy, tubular, summer flowers in an electric combination of pinkish purple and bright blue. Species is native to coastal mountains of northern and southern California and the northern Sierra Nevada foothills. 'Margarita BOP' is a garden selection, possibly a hybrid but usually offered as a selection of the species. Sun or afternoon shade, fast drainage. Adaptable.

Sunset: 7-24



Variegated Mock Orange Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata'

Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata' (variegated mock orange), evergreen shrub, 5-12 feet tall and wide, with leathery, spoonshaped, gray-green leaves with irregular white margins and clusters of small, fragrant, white flowers in spring that age to creamy yellow. Flowers are followed by small, green capsules that age to brown. Species is native to China, Japan, and Korea. Cool sun or part shade, most well-drained soils. Good seaside plant. May be offered as 'Variegatum'.

Sunset: 8-24

Coffeberry Frangula (Rhamnus) californica

Frangula californica (coffeeberry) evergreen shrub, 6-10 feet tall and wide, with leathery, dark green leaves, pale green beneath, insignificant and greenish yellow flowers in late spring to early summer followed by showy, red fruits that age to black. Native to dry, sandy or rocky slopes from southwestern Oregon to northern Baja California and east to western New Mexico. Sun to shade, most well-drained soils. May be offered as Rhamnus.

Sunset: 3a-10,14-24



