

Plants for California Wild Flower Meadow

A meadow of wildflowers native to California creates a symphony of color and requires less maintenance than you think. Combine bunch grasses with a sprinkling of native wildflowers such as poppy and Farewell to Spring. Native wildflowers prefer poor soil, making them a simple option for your garden. Include perennial bunch grasses and evergreen shrubs and trees to maintain the meadow throughout the summer and fall.

Narrow Leaf Milkweed *Asclepias fascicularis*

Asclepias fascicularis, (narrow leaf milkweed) perennial, 2-3 feet tall and wide, with long, narrow, pointed, mid-green leaves on upright stems topped by flat clusters of small, star-shaped, creamy white, summer flowers tinted pink or lavender as they age. Flowers are followed by large, inflated pods containing seeds with silky hairs that aid in dispersal by wind. Spreads by rhizomes and by seed. Can be weedy.

Leaves are larval food for butterflies. Native to sunny, dry to moist habitats below 1,000 feet from southeastern Washington and Idaho to Oregon, California, and Baja California. Sun to light shade, most well-drained soils.

Sunset: N/A



Blue Grama *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition'

Bouteloua gracilis and cultivars (blue grama), 6-12 inches tall, clumping or sod-forming, with fine-textured, bluish gray-green leaves that age to purplish golden brown and feathery, purple-tinted flowers held horizontally on 18-inch stalks. Dormant in summer if grown dry. Native to the Great Plains region from Canada to the southwestern United States. 'Blonde Ambition' is 12-18 inches tall and has chartreuse flowers. Can be mowed as rough turf. May be offered as Chondrosom.

Sunset: 1-3,7-11,14,18-21

California Poppy *Eschscholzia californica*

Eschscholzia californica (California poppy), perennial, 1-2 feet tall and wide, with finely dissected, blue-green leaves and golden yellow to orange flowers in late winter to summer. Self-sows freely. Native to grassy, open areas from southern Washington to Baja California and east to New Mexico. Cultivars, available with white, red, or pink flowers, may not persist or reseed. Full sun, most soils.

Sunset: 1-24



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Hairy Awn Muhly
Muhlenbergia 'Pink Flamingo'

Muhlenbergia 'Pink Flamingo' (hairy awn muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, 3-4 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide, with fine-textured, bluish gray-green leaves and tall plumes of pale pinkish gray flowers on 5-foot stems in fall. Flowers are followed by a haze of airy, purplish pink seedheads in late summer and fall. Natural hybrid discovered in Texas and believed to be between *M. lindheimeri* and *M. capillaris*. Sun to light shade, most well-drained soils, good air circulation.

Sunset: N/A

Pine Muhly
Muhlenbergia dubia

Muhlenbergia dubia (pine muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, 1-2 feet tall and 2 feet wide, with fine-textured, bright green leaves and tall plumes of purple-tinged, creamy white flowers in late summer and fall. Self-sows but not aggressively. Native to desert mountains from Arizona to southwestern Texas and northern Mexico. Sun to light shade, fast drainage, good air circulation.

Sunset: 3b,7-24



Lindheimer Muhly
Muhlenbergia lindheimerii 'Autumn Glow'

Muhlenbergia lindheimeri 'Autumn Glow' (Lindheimer muhly), warm-season bunchgrass, upright to 3-4 feet tall and wide, with fine-textured, medium green to bluish gray leaves and 5- to 6-foot stems with pale yellow, late-summer flowers that age to tan. Self-sows but not aggressively. Species is native to Texas and northern Mexico and has creamy white flowers that age to silvery gray. Sun to light shade, most soils, good air circulation. Accepts periodic flooding.

Sunset: 6-24

