

A California-Friendly Guide to Native and Drought Tolerant Gardens



Scale: $1/4" = 1'$

WELCOME to our newest edition of *"A California-Friendly Guide to Native and Drought Tolerant Gardens"*, a collection of plants featured in our customer newsletter, *The Current Flow*, plus useful information. This publication is intended to help beginning and experienced gardeners become familiar with the different varieties of plants that can help reduce water usage while providing a pleasing and attractive landscape.

Native and drought tolerant plants are important for this region, not just because they are water efficient, but because they are the cornerstone of biological diversity and the foundations of the native ecosystems in our local Santa Monica Mountains environment. Using "California-friendly" plants for everything from backyard gardens to wide scale re-vegetation is a positive practice that will benefit the local habitat and all residents who live here.

With our current climate conditions of increasing warmth and less moisture, more and more Californians are becoming interested in replacing high-maintenance, lawns that require a lot of water and fertilizers, with water-conserving plants. These can be anything from ground covers to a field of meadow flowers to stately oak trees – they all provide the benefits of lower water needs, reduced maintenance requirements, restored soil health, increased diversity that attracts birds and butterflies, as well as the aesthetic beauty of blending in with the natural landscapes.

Visit www.LVMWD.com for conservation information including irrigation tips, how to obtain and use Community Compost, rebate programs, how to register for landscape and garden classes, controlling urban runoff, and more.

LVMWD hopes this publication will help you get started on your journey to a waterwise garden and landscape.

Happy Gardening!



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Community Compost

What is Community Compost?

Community Compost is a natural product with a high humus content similar to peat. It is the end product of the environmentally sensitive solids handling process at Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility. Biosolids from Tapia Water Reclamation Facility are transformed through a composting process into an excellent soil amendment that can be used to enhance landscapes, ornamental areas, lawns, and vegetable gardens. This compost has been used at the Getty Museum, Palm Springs golf courses, and other locations throughout California.

How Can I Get My Free Supply?

How: Bring a container(s) with a cover, or strong plastic bags with ties, or a tarp to cover the bed of your pick-up truck. Shovels are provided, but you will be responsible for filling your own container(s).

When: Every Saturday, 8 am to 1 pm

Where: Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility, 3700 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas

For bulk supplies,
call 818.251.2200
for more information.

What Are the Benefits of Community Compost?

As a soil amendment, Community Compost increases water-holding capacity of light soils, enhances aeration in heavy soils, and provides slow-release nutrients for plant growth. As an alternative for biosolids disposal, it transforms waste into a beneficial product, offers a long-term disposal method and diverts material from landfills.

Product Boundaries

Compost will improve soil properties, such as lower bulk density and increase water infiltration and retention. However, compost will not fulfill all plant nutrient requirements and should be used in combination with fertilizers for optimum results.

Compost is not to be used to grow mushrooms as a food crop. Compost is hygienically and environmentally safe if it is used properly but it can become a hazardous nuisance if mismanaged.

As with all gardening products, wash your hands after using Community Compost. Use common sense and good hygiene when handling compost. Also, as with any product containing nitrogen, do not introduce Community Compost into any body of water. Avoid run-off when watering lawns and flower beds after its application.

How Should Community Compost Be Used?

Community Compost is an effective soil conditioner when applied as a topdressing to established lawns, flower beds and gardens, and as an amendment to all soils for new seed lawns or landscape. The organic, slow release of nutrients is less susceptible to loss through leaching than conventional fertilizers. Soils which are low in organic matter, highly compacted, with a low water infiltration rate, and suffering from poor nutrient content or lacking water-holding capacity can benefit from the addition of Community Compost.

Vegetable Gardens...EPA regulations allow the use of Community Compost on vegetable gardens, not to exceed one cubic yard per 1,000 square feet per year.

Flower Beds...For new flower gardens, use 3 cubic yards of Community Compost per 1,000 square feet (about 1-2 inches and incorporate to at least a 5-6 inch depth). Amend established gardens every other year with about 1/2 cubic yard of compost.

Also note, using more than recommended levels will stimulate vegetative growth and fewer flowers. Do not use on acid-loving flowers without adjusting the pH.

Planters...To make potting soil for outdoor or indoor planters, mix 1 part Community Compost to 2 parts soil mix. Mix the media components until uniform, plant your seeds/bulbs and water thoroughly.

Trees & Shrubs...Dig a planting hole 4 times the width of the tree or shrub, and save the soil to mix 2 parts to 1 part of Community Compost. Place a portion of the mixture in the hole and then the tree or shrub. Add the remainder of the mixture around the plant, occasionally firming it, to secure the root ball, then water thoroughly.

Community Compost may be used as a substitute for peat moss or milled pine bark and fertilizer.

Lawns...Top dress established lawns by uniformly applying 1-1/2 cubic yards of Community Compost per 1,000 square feet (1/2 inch) once a year.

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility
3700 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302
www.LVMWD.com



Slope Stabilization

To help avoid erosion and runoff on your property, put in some native plants to stabilize the soils, control erosion and reduce your future irrigation costs. Moist and cool months are ideal to start these "soil keepers". Once established they will require little irrigation. A mixture of plants is best, with various root depths to hold up a slope. In addition, a sprinkling of native seeds will add to the immediate coverage of your slope.

Blue-eyed Grass⁴

Sisyrinchium bellum

Delicate flowers, abundant from February to May, with grass-like leaves. A perennial, found naturally in grass meadows and other open places, re-seeds easily.

A lovely addition to a dry border and does well in containers with well-draining soil. Likes sun to partial sun exposure. Foliage will die back in summer heat. 1'h x 1'w



California Fuschia²⁷

Zauschneria californica

Reference books may list this as *Epilobium canum*. A very hardy native that can take a lot of abuse, this is commonly found in dry areas, rocky slopes and cliffs. Abundant, scarlet tubular flowers from July to November, popular with hummingbirds. Likes sun to partial sun exposure, may be used as a ground cover. 2'h x 4'w

California Redbud⁸

Cercis occidentalis

An interesting plant year round, with beautiful pea-shaped magenta flowers on leafless stems in the spring, followed by interesting seedpods and heart-shaped blue-green leaves. Deciduous, with yellow or red fall foliage on multi-branching stems.

Prefers sun exposure. Excellent for dry, seldom watered banks. 20'h x 15'w



Twinberry Honeysuckle⁵

Lonicera involucrata

Prefers moist areas and pruning will keep size under control. Dense foliage with unique orange-red flowers that produce berries, attractive to birds. Blooms in the spring, drops leaves in winter. Sun to partial shade exposure. 6'h x 6'w

Arid Plants

Many areas in our region are hot and dry for many months. Consider these water-efficient, drought tolerant selections for added variety in your landscaping and savings on your water bills. Each plant can be an attractive feature, massed with others, or on its own.



Santa Barbara Ceanothus²

Ceanothus impressus

A large shrub with a dense mass of dark wrinkled green leaves, covered with deep blue flower clusters in early spring, mostly March to April. Requires good drainage and infrequent to no summer watering, can be temperamental, preferring sun to partial sun exposure. 6-10'h x 6-10'w



Tree Poppy¹

Dendromecon rigida

Large shrub with linear gray foliage and showy bright yellow, poppy-like flowers that bloom from February to June. Thrives in dry, well-drained soil, can adapt to various soil conditions.

Good for banks, roadsides, preferring sun to partial sun exposure. Prune back after flowering to control untidy wild growth pattern. 3-10'h x 4-8'w



Golden Yarrow²

Eriophyllum confertiflorum

An abundant perennial small shrub found naturally at the base of cliffs in rock crevasses, preferring sun exposure. Finely leaved foliage, green above and woolly below. Blossoms are clusters of yellow flowers, displayed from March to August, attractive to butterflies. 2-4'h x 1-4'w

Showy Penstemon¹

Penstemon spectabilis

Found naturally in chaparral and coastal sage scrub zones, this perennial is a perfect choice for drought tolerant gardens.

Truly spectacular lavender-pink-purple flowers, April to June, are found on two-foot spikes above coarse textured leaves.

May naturalize and prefers sun to partial sun exposure.

Attractive to hummingbirds. 2-3'h x 3'w



Drought Tolerant “Extremists”

To reduce the amount of water used outdoors, consider a “California-friendly” landscape with drought tolerant plants. This is especially important in times of little rain – you can create an attractive waterwise garden, save money, and help prevent urban runoff. The following are very drought tolerant once established.

Mesa Bushmallow³² *Malacothamnus fasciculatus*

This medium shrub bears many small pink flowers on foot long stems covering the gray-green foliage in the spring and summer. This is a good slope stabilizer or hedge plant. 3-12’h x 6’w



Canyon Live-Forever¹ *Dudleya cymosa*

This evergreen succulent has rosette leaves with red-orange flowers in spring and early summer. Prefers full sun, good drainage and does well in containers or rock gardens. 1’h x 1’w



Matilija Poppy¹ *Romneya coulteri*

This perennial shrub may be a bit tricky to get established, but is worth the effort. It requires excellent drainage and lots of sun. Large 4-6” crinkled flowers appear from spring to summer. Spreads by underground rhizomes. 3-5’h x 8’+w



Desert or Apricot Mallow¹ *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

A very hardy evergreen perennial, this plant has coral flowers clustered on stems spring to fall. Prefers dry winters and benefits from pruning after it blooms. 3’h x 3’w

Native Trees

The cooler moist time of year provides an ideal climate for young natives, especially young trees, to get established. Soils are still warm from summer and the roots can spread and grow. Trees are an investment in your future – aesthetically and as cooling sunshades for your home and yard.

California Sycamore²

Platanus racemosa

A fast grower, with multi-branches that can be trained into attractive shapes. It likes sun, moderate water and can take wind and heat, but is drought tolerant once established. Large palm-shaped leaves are woolly on both sides in spring and change to a soft brownish yellow in the fall. The mottled bark results from thin layers that drop off, exposing greenish to whitish areas beneath. An important wildlife species, used extensively by hummingbirds and butterflies. 40'h x 30'w



Fremont's Cottonwood²

Populus fremontii

Extremely fast growing, this tree likes moist conditions, but can tolerate drought. Bright shiny green triangular leaves flutter in the wind and turn a lemon-yellow in the fall. An excellent shade tree, the males do not produce cotton. Cottonwoods are important bird and butterfly plants. Do not plant near septic systems or under power lines, as their root growth pattern and height can be problematic. 40-60'h x 35-40'w

Pacific Wax Myrtle²

Myrica californica

With its dense fragrant foliage, this makes an excellent screen or hedge plant that will tolerate wind. The spring flowers are inconspicuous, but the fall purplish wax-covered fruits are attractive to birds. Requires good drainage. Tolerates drought and prefers sun to partial shade. 10-25'h x 10'+w



California Bay Laurel³

Umbellularia californica

A fine shade tree often with multi-trunks, with evergreen, aromatic leaves and yellow flowers from December to May. The small fruits are inedible. Grows best in deep soil with ample water, but tolerates drought. With dense foliage, this tree makes a good screen or can be trimmed into a formal hedge. 80'h x 25'w

Oaks Native to Southern California

Oaks provide shade, fall color, and sustenance for a complex network of insects, birds, and other wildlife. Oak trees can thrive with a minimum of maintenance and irrigation, once established.

Much of California's landscape features oak-dotted hillsides. To grow and care for an oak is to invest in the future as lifespans of hundreds of years are not uncommon for these trees.

Several species of native oaks are found in this area. The southern range for Valley Oaks runs through our area. Interior Live Oaks, Coast Live Oaks and Scrub Oaks are common sights on the rolling hillsides and open spaces that surround our communities.



Coast Live Oak²³

Quercus agrifolia

This evergreen tree provides deep, wide shade with holly-like leathery dark green leaves, tooth edged, 1-3" long. Thick moist bark helps protect tree against fires. 20-70'h x 35'+w



Scrub Oak¹²

Quercus beberidifolia

A large shrub with dense growth, variable leaves, usually ¾ - 1½" long, medium green on top, grayish on bottom, and wavy edges.

Good as clipped hedge or background. 6-15'h x 6-15'w



Valley Oak¹

Quercus lobata

This deciduous tree with crooked branches and checked gray bark is a trademark of valley grasslands. Leaves are deeply cut, round-lobed 3-4" long, 2-3" wide, dark green on top, paler on bottom. Tolerant of heat. 15-70'h x 35-70'w

Interior Live Oak²²

Quercus wislizenii

A tree with a dense, rounded crown, is often wider than high. Glossy, elliptical, green leaves are 1-4"

long with smooth or spiny edges and abruptly pointed tip. Tolerant of shade. 30-75'h x 30-40'w



Perennial Penstemons

Easier to grow locally than anywhere else in the world, most penstemons are drought tolerant and most are native to the western states, found in the desert heat, on mountainsides, and in mild coastal zones. All require at least six hours of sun daily and well-drained soil that is loose and gravelly. Too much water and too rich a soil will accelerate their decline. Tubular flowers come in a variety of colors ranging from indigo blue to red/orange and pink. Any selection will be a welcome addition to the landscape and will attract hummingbirds as well.



Scarlet Bugler³

Penstemon centranthifolius

This penstemon has scarlet red blossoms with blue-gray foliage, a long bloom season, and is very drought tolerant. This plant prefers hot, dry summers and mild winters to perform well. 1-3'h x 3'w

Panamint Beard Penstemon¹

Penstemon floridus

A large showy perennial, this plant combines coarsely serrated to smooth leaves with hot pink flowers atop tall spikes. Prefers hot, dry summers and cold winters. 3-4'h x 3'w



Cleveland's Beardtongue²

Penstemon clevelandii

Rose pink flowers with gray foliage make this an attractive garden plant. Prefers hot summers and mild winters. 2-3'h x 2'w



Palmer's Penstemon¹¹

Penstemon palmeri

Very large and fragrant pale pink blossoms with gray foliage make this a beautiful plant. Grows with a very erect form, is attractive to hummingbirds, and is appropriate for areas with cold winters. 3'h x 3'w

Barren Spaces

Turn highly visible garden spots (along a fence, a driveway, or a sidewalk) that are parched into an oasis with plants that need little care or water. Planting a variety of bulbs, evergreen perennials and shrubs, or ornamental grasses will create an eye-pleasing bright spot. These waterwise species fill in quickly and, once established, remain low enough to not block traffic views.



**Firecracker
Penstemon¹¹**
Penstemon eatonii

This is a desert species with bright red flowers that bloom from spring to summer, on long evergreen stalks. Prefers full sun, good drainage, and will attract hummingbirds. Does better with some water in the summer. 3-4'h x 3-4'w



Western Blue Flax¹
Linum lewisii

This is a splendid small perennial with an interesting texture. Many 1" blue to white flowers cover the plant in early spring. Keeps its shape better if trimmed back after blooming. Prefers full sun. 1-2'h x 1-2'w



Douglas Iris¹
Iris douglasiana

Planted as a rhizome, this species grows linear, vase-shaped evergreen foliage and produces many beautiful light-purple, blue, white, or cream flowers in the spring. Tolerant of heavy soils and garden conditions, prefers sun to partial sun. 1'h x 2'w

Sulphur Buckwheat¹
Eriogonum umbellatum

Brilliant yellow flowers bloom in the spring on stems above mounds of pretty oval foliage. Very drought tolerant, it prefers full sun and will attract hummingbirds. 1'h x 3'w



Grasses

Often overlooked when selecting plants for the garden, grasses add so much – dramatic backgrounds, soft edges, interesting foliage colors and textures ranging from spiky to soft and silky. These varieties are very drought tolerant.

Sheep Fescue¹⁰ *Festuca ovina* "Glauca"

This is a clumping grass with soft, tough leaves that form blue-gray tufts. Useful as a ground cover in sunny to partially shaded areas and on slopes. Needs little water. Clip to enhance appearance; replant as small divisions. 4-10" h x 1' w



Deergrass¹² *Muhlenbergia rigens*

Provides interesting texture contrast, with many erect narrow blades that fan out in vase-shaped foliage, in dense clumps. Stays evergreen without summer water. 1-3' h x 2-3' w

Purple Needle Grass¹³ *Nassella pulchra*

This native bunch grass is a good addition to wild garden settings. Purplish flowers bloom before it matures in summer to golden yellow. Remains dormant until winter rains. 2' h x 2' w



Giant Wild Rye¹⁶ *Elymus condensatus*

A tall, erect clumping perennial useful in the back of a border garden. Distinct silver blue-gray foliage complements bluish flower plumes in summer. Native to San Miguel Island (Channel Islands), found locally in the zone between plant communities. 4-8' h x 3-6' w

Under Oak Trees

It takes a special plant to successfully grow beneath one of our local oak trees. It has to tolerate shade from the broad tree canopy, and thrive in the dry conditions that are essential for the oak's survival in the dry periods of the year. When planting under an oak, remember to not plant, irrigate, or disturb the soil within 10 feet of the trunk, and avoid injuring the roots. Also, plant sparingly; use drip irrigation or soaker hoses, not sprinklers. And finally, it is best to not plant under declining older oaks.

Alum Root Hybrids⁴

Heuchera maxima hybrids

This evergreen perennial plant displays foliage clumps 1–2' across, with shiny dark-green, round, heart-shaped leaves. Flowers range from whitish to pinkish. Hundreds of blossoms form in each narrow 2–3' long cluster that attracts hummingbirds. Blooms February to April, and makes a good ground cover or border. Looks very delicate but is quite drought tolerant and cold resistant. Plant about 2' apart with bark or chip covering as a 2–4" mulch. 1'h x 2'w



Hollyleaf Cherry¹

Prunus ilicifolia

The mature leaves of this plant are a deep, rich green, resembling holly leaves. New leaves are a lighter green, creating a pleasant contrast with the older foliage. Creamy white flower spikes appear with the new leaves in March. Birds are attracted to the fruit, which turns from green to red, then reddish purple. Does best in coarse, well-drained soils. Has an unusually high resistance to oak root fungus. 3-20'h x 10'w

Hummingbird Sage³

Salvia spathacea

This evergreen perennial has 2-3' whorls of red-magenta flowers on upright stems attractive to hummingbirds. Blooms appear spring to summer. It has large arrow-shaped fragrant leaves and will spread to form a nice mat via rhizomes. Likes at least 15" of rainfall per year, and will grow in a variety of soil types. 3½'h x 3'w



Pink-flowering Currant³

Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum

A deciduous shrub, this plant has long, graceful pink flowers, 15–40 in a cluster. Blooms from January to March and produces blue black berries. This is one of the most attractive native species in our area. Will tolerate a range of soil conditions, and is moderately drought tolerant. 3-8'h x 5'w

Spring Flowers and Butterflies

Below are just a sampling of native plants that offer springtime blooms and are attractive to various stages of the butterfly lifecycle. They will add a variety of textures, colors, and shapes to the landscape and are efficient users of water. Butterfly larvae (caterpillars) need food plants and adults need nectar varieties. Sunny areas that are protected from the wind will be the most appealing to the local and migrating "flutter-bys". Avoid pesticides unless you can target the garden pest without harming these interesting visitors.



Common Yarrow²

Achillea millefolium

A perennial/groundcover that spreads by its roots, this specimen presents 3-4" clusters of small white flowers above evergreen foliage that is delicate and finely textured. Adult butterflies enjoy this plant. Medium drought tolerant, it likes sun to partial sun. Excellent when used in a garden border or as a lawn substitute as it can be mowed. Widely adapted to variety of soil conditions. 4-6"h x 3'w

Scarlet / Western Columbine²

Aquilegia formosa

Delicate orange-red blossoms nod above gray-green lacy foliage from spring to summer. Attracts adult butterflies. Medium to low drought tolerant, this plant prefers a shady location. A favorite garden perennial, cutting first blooms will encourage a second crop (but leave some to reseed). 2½'h x 2'w



Bigleaf Lupine⁷

Lupinus latifolius

A beautiful lupine with long, fragrant rose-purple flowering spikes. Foliage, arranged like spread fingers on a hand, is an attractive gray-green. It is an important food plant for butterfly larvae. It is tolerant of garden conditions, and prefers sun to partial sun. 4'h x 4'w

Bush Sunflower¹

Encelia californica

A small shrub that looks best in the garden setting if cut back every two years and irrigated in the summer; however, this is useful for out-of-the-way places beyond irrigation. Bright yellow daisy-like flowers bloom from February to June. Prefers sun to partial sun location. 3'h x 5'w



Perennials with Spring Blooms

The following plants have it all: they are water efficient, have attractive flowers in the spring, and remain or return each year. Adding any one to your garden will bring bright color and save on irrigation costs.

Red Buckwheat²⁸

Eriogonum grande rubescens

Native to the Channel Islands, this plant is compact and low growing, with gray-green leaves and dark pink blossoms that attract butterflies. 2'h x 2'w



Scarlet Larkspur³

Delphinium cardinale

Native to coastal mountains, this perennial rootstock has wide lobed leaves, erect stems and large deep red blossoms that attract butterflies. 3-5'h x 1-2'w

Beach Suncups³²

Camissonia cheiranthefolia

Naturally found growing in sand dunes, this is a good choice for areas with good drainage. Low growing silver foliage with lemon yellow flowers. 1'h x 3'w



Coyote Mint²⁷

Monardella villosa

A California native, this bushy grower has gray-green leaves, purplish flowers, and mint fragrance. Requires good drainage and regular trimming back to maintain shape. 1-2'h x 2'w

Ground Covers

With a focus on water conservation, consider these drought-tolerant ground cover species as companions or extensions of traditional turf zones in your landscape. Some landscapes require a neat and unobtrusive appearance; in other situations, erosion control is the main function. Ground covers can satisfy many landscape needs. Some can hug the soil or grow into mounds up to 3 feet high and many require minimal maintenance so you save time as well as water. Decide on your specific needs and then enjoy!

Bearberry or Kinnikinnick²

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

A slow growing evergreen ground cover that creates a mat, spreading and rooting as it creeps out. Delicate light pink flowers appear in winter through spring atop dense leathery green leaves. Leaves turn a reddish tint in winter. It is useful on slopes or along retaining walls. Prefers sunny to partially sunny locations. Requires regular water after planting. Once established, depending on soil conditions, will thrive with infrequent summer water. 1'h x 2-3'w



Wild Strawberry¹

Fragaria chiloensis

Native to Pacific beaches and bluffs, this plant forms lush, compact mats of dark green, glossy leaves that turn reddish in winter. Tolerates sun along the coast to partial shade inland. Large 1" wide white flowers appear in spring. Fruit will seldom set in gardens but in natural setting will produce a seedy fruit in the fall that attracts birds. Annual mowing or cutting back in the early spring will stimulate new growth. Requires some water once established. 6-12"h x 1-2'w

Rockrose⁶

Cistus sp.

A very hardy plant, with showy spring flowers. Accepts poor, dry soil and will tolerate cold ocean winds, salt spray or desert heat. Needs well-drained soil if irrigated. Little to no water is required once established. An occasional trimming of old stems will induce new growth. Height will vary depending on kind. Shorter varieties are useful as ground cover, in rock gardens, and in rough areas along roads or driveways. 1'h x 2-3'w



Spring Cinquefoil²

Potentilla tabernaemontanii

This tough and persistent plant has a dainty appearance. A tufted creeper, this plant bears clusters of butter-yellow flowers in spring and summer. Does well in most gardens and will smother out weeds effectively once established. Makes a good lawn substitute in areas of no-traffic. A fast grower, it is well used as a cover for bulbs. Little to moderate water is required. 2-6"h x 1-2'w

Sages in the Garden

Stars of the western garden, sage varieties grow as annual bedding plants, perennials in the border, shrubs and ground covers, with a variety of foliage and blossom colors. All have a common floral arrangement with whorls of two-lipped flowers either distinctly spaced along the stalk or tightly crowded to appear as one dense spike. The foliage scent ranges from sweet or flavorful to strong. Routine trimming will keep them attractive year-round in the cultured garden. Most are highly drought tolerant and will do well with little to no summer irrigation once established. They are excellent for erosion control on slopes, or for hot, dry locations on the edges of more routinely irrigated areas. Many are favorites of hummingbirds and butterflies.

Cleveland Sage⁹

Salvia clevelandii

One of the best-scented sages, this selection is evergreen with grey-green leaves and stunning lavender blooms. It likes sun and perfect drainage. The intense fragrance will carry 20-50 feet on a warm night. 3'h x 4'w



Mexican Bush Sage⁸

Salvia leucantha

This plant displays long purple spikes in summer and fall that gracefully arch above grayish green foliage. Will take some light shade. Keep tidy and attractive by cutting old stems off at the ground. 3'h x 4'w



Purple Sage¹

Salvia leucophylla

Foliage looks silver, with white woolly leaves. A very erect or spreading shrub, its summer blossoms are pinkish to purple. Very drought tolerant, annual trimming of branches will control its spreading pattern. 2-6'h x 3-4'w



Black Sage¹

Salvia mellifera

An excellent choice for erosion control, this shrub displays light green foliage, and delicate sky blue blooms. Likes sun to partial sun and is also available as a ground cover called 'Tera Seca'. 3-5'h x 6'w

Bulbs

Many types of flower bulbs and corms do well in Southern California. They are worth the effort to locate as they do not require coaxing to bloom and many naturalize easily. Truly gems for the garden, they add variety and require little water or maintenance.

White Mariposa Lily¹¹ *Calochortus venustus*

Native to Southern California Coast Ranges, this bulb blooms from May to July. Flower colors range from white, yellow and purple to dark red, all with the "peacock eye" at the base of the petals. 1'h x 2'w



Leopard Lily¹⁴ *Lilium pardalimum*

This perennial California native bulb likes moist shaded areas. In the spring and summer, clusters of large orange or red flowers with brown to maroon spots appear on tall flowering spikes. Leaves and flower stalk die back after blooming. 6'h x 2'w

Oneleaf Onion¹ *Allium unifolium*

A California native with lavender to pink flowers that appear in June on tall stems. A good cut flower either fresh or dried. Likes deep, rich, sandy loam soil. 2'h x 2'w



Harvest Brodiaea¹ *Brodiaea elegans*

Very common in California, this plant loves sun and heat and requires no summer water. Dark violet to blue flowers appear in late spring to mid summer. Mulch to protect corms from freezing. 2'h x 1'w

Deer Resistant

Living next to wildlife can be exciting – and frustrating, especially if they are eating your landscape. Deer are well adapted to browse flowers, shrubs and trees. With some planning, you can avoid providing a “deer buffet” and still enjoy the beauty of waterwise plants. In general, deer do not like plants that are prickly, spicy, bitter, tough, hairy, highly aromatic, or furry (see Suitability Lists). However, when natural food for deer is scarce, nothing is safe!

Western Spice Bush¹

Calycanthus occidentalis

A deciduous shrub that produces red/brown blossoms in the spring. Prefers sun to partial shade and moderate water. Can be trained into a multi-stemmed tree but best used as a background shrub or screen. Blossoms and bruised leaves have an “old wine barrel” fragrance. 6-12’h x 8-12’w



Sticky Monkeyflower¹¹

Mimulus aurantiacus

This showy perennial has abundant apricot colored blossoms that will attract hummingbirds. Occasional summer watering will extend the blooming season. Drought tolerant. 1-4’h x 3’w

Oregon Grape¹¹

Berberis aquilifolium

An evergreen shrub that does best with regular watering but can tolerate less. Grows in either sun or shade with creeping rhizomes. Buttercup-yellow spring blossoms develop into blue berries that attract birds. A popular landscaping species due to easy maintenance. 6’h x 4’w



California Redbud²⁸

Cercis occidentalis

This native shrub presents pea-shaped magenta flowers before the bright green heart-shaped leaves. In the fall, seed pods are produced with yellow foliage. 6-16’h x 20’w

Container Planting

Ideal for small balconies, patios, or as accent plants, plants in containers can be appreciated year round. They require more care (soil, water, and fertilizers) than plants in the ground, but are worth the effort. Container gardening also provides a way to grow species not suited for local garden conditions. Waterwise plants, including shrubs and small trees, adapt well to container-life; clip back leggy growth for best results.

Cleveland Sage⁹

Salvia clevelandii

One of the best-scented sages, this small evergreen shrub has stunning lavender blooms and gray-green leaves. Likes sun and perfect drainage. Intense fragrance will carry 20-50 feet on a warm night. 3'h x 4'w



Desert Beauty/Indigo Bush¹⁵

Dalea species

A perennial with springtime purple pea flowers clustered at the ends of silvery green leaf branches. Trim to promote fullness. Infrequent summer watering will prevent partial deciduous leaf drop. 3-5'h x 3-5'w



Pacific Sedum Stonecrop¹

Sedum spathulefolium

This is a succulent with bright yellow flowers in the spring that are carried above attractive rosette evergreen leaves. An attractive small plant, it prefers sun to partial shade and is highly drought tolerant. 4" h x 1' w



Alum Roots - Coral Bells⁴

Heuchera (hybrids)

This evergreen perennial plant displays foliage clumps with shiny dark-green, round, heart-shaped leaves. Hundreds of whitish to pinkish blossoms form in narrow 2-3 foot long clusters from February to April. Quite drought tolerant, cold resistant and attracts hummingbirds. 10" h x 1-2' w

Patio or Container Plants

Container gardening provides increased mobility, seasonal variety, and creative opportunities in the landscape. While container plants may require more frequent watering, these California natives are a few of the more efficient water users.

California Fuschia²⁷

Epilobium canum

Also referred to as *Zauschneria californica*, the abundant scarlet tubular flowers appear in the fall, looks best when trimmed after flowering or before new growth begins. Attractive to hummingbirds. 1-4'h x 4'+w



Douglas Iris¹

Iris douglasiana

Evergreen leaves up to 2' long show off flowers on 1-2' stems, ranging in color from purple to blue, and white to cream. Tolerates less than ideal garden conditions. 1'h x 2'w

Canyon Live-Forever¹

Dudleya cymosa

This is an evergreen succulent with basal rosettes that bloom from spring through summer with red-orange flowers. 1'h x 1'w



Island Bush Snapdragon²⁴

Galvezia speciosa

Bright red tubular flowers bloom from spring to summer on this plant that tolerates more shade. Attractive to hummingbirds. 3'h x 6'w

Landscape for Fire Safety

Fire is a part of the natural cycle in Southern California's Mediterranean climate. The keys to successful "Firewise Landscaping" are plant selection, plant placement, and maintenance. Use plants high in water content and low in available fuel. Reduce mass plantings by spacing trees and large shrubs apart to prevent "fuel ladders". Maintain the landscape with proper trimming, removal of dead wood, and provide appropriate irrigation. The following are examples of what can be used to be fire safe and provide an attractive landscape (see section on Firewise Landscape and Fuel Modification Zones.)



California Fuchsia²

Zauschneria californica

Sometimes referred to as *Epilobium canum*, this small shrub can take lots of abuse and still bloom in the fall with brilliant red trumpet flowers that attract hummingbirds. Provides excellent erosion control for steep slopes. 1'h x 4'w

Coyote Brush¹

Baccharis pilularis

This evergreen "mounding" groundcover can tolerate difficult situations. It is useful for slope stabilization and is extremely drought tolerant. 12-30"h x 4-10'w



Fairy Duster¹²

Calliandra eriophylla

This deciduous shrub is native to Baja California. Once established, it does not require water and produces beautiful clusters of pinkish fluffy flowers in the spring. 3'h x 4-5'w

Matilija Poppy¹

Romneya coulteri

This spectacular and extremely hardy perennial is native to Southern California. Large fragrant blossoms, up to 6" wide, resemble fried eggs. Root structure helps reduce erosion. Spreads by underground runners and prefers loose, gravelly soil. 5-8'h x 8'w



Wildfire Area Garden Plants

Every few years we are reminded of how Southern California neighborhoods and open spaces can burn during a wildfire. The following plants are included on the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's list for fuel modification guidelines (see section on Firewise Landscape and Fuel Modification Zones) and are approved for the area 20 feet beyond structures. They require little to moderate irrigation. From a fire defense angle, it is best if most plants in this area are low ground covers and shrubs.

Woolly Yarrow²⁹ *Achillea tomentosa*

This is a groundcover with flat golden flowerheads atop a spreading flat mat of fernlike gray-green, hairy leaves. 6-10" h x 1' w



Red-Hot Poker³⁰ *Kniphofia uvaria*

A plant with a shrub-size clump of grass-like foliage that requires moderate water to bloom and good drainage in winter. Leaves 2' long with dramatic red-orange to yellow blossoms. 3' h x 3-4' w

Seaside Daisy¹ *Erigeron glaucus*

Native to California, this groundcover forms clumps of stout stems topped by lavender flowers. Some summer irrigation is best. Tolerant of hot inland conditions. 1' h x 3' w



Society Garlic³¹ *Tulbaghia violacea*

A popular perennial with bluish-green 1-2' long leaves, this plant produces clusters of many lavender flowers mostly in spring and summer. Prefers well drained soils. Divide clumps to increase plantings. 1-2' h x 2' w

Native Wildflowers from Seed

Commercial wildflower seed mixtures, available in various sizes of packets, provide wonderful surprises of color and a wild feel to areas of your landscape. Many reseed and die back after blooming. These are a few that are often included.

California Poppy¹

Eschscholzia californica

A true perennial, this wildflower is often grown as an annual. Color varies from pale yellow to deep orange. Flowers spring to summer and reseed easily. Blossoms close at night. Plant seeds in fall, broadcasting on well-drained soil. Little irrigation required. 8-24”h x 12”w



Sky Lupine¹

Lupinus nanus

An annual that covers many local hillsides and fields, likes full sun and loam to clay soil. Pea-shaped spring-time flowers are a rich blue, tipped with white in dense spikes at the end of stems. Plant seeds in fall or winter. Self-seeds readily if there is little competition. Good for barren banks. Little irrigation required. 8-24”h x 9-12”w

Tidy Tips¹

Layia platyglossa

A showy yellow-white annual, this wildflower prefers clay to loam soil. Plant seeds in fall or early spring in areas of full sun. A rapid grower, blooms appear spring through early summer. Self-seeds and will naturalize on banks if grass is minimal. Very drought tolerant. 6”h x 12”w



Globe Gilia¹²

Gilia capitata

Related to phlox, this annual has 1-2” clusters of spring blue flowers that look like pincushions. Used by many butterflies. Plant seed in fall or early spring in well-drained soil. Likes rocky areas with lots of sun. Little to moderate irrigation required. 8-30”h x 8”w

Lavenders

Planting a variety of lavender provides blooms almost year round. The different foliage colors, growing habits, and fragrances make this group an outstanding waterwise addition to any local garden. Good drainage is important for success. They also like full sun and air space for circulation. In areas without summer rain, lavenders require some irrigation, more if grown in containers. Slow growing, lavenders reach full size in three years and benefit from annual pruning after the blooming season. For the best color and fragrance, wait until the flower buds have opened, and cut during the cool morning once any dew has dried.



Spanish Lavender¹⁷

Lavandula stoechas

This is a stocky plant with dark grey-green, narrow leaved foliage. Ranging from purple to pink, the early spring blossoms are small with the top bracts resembling rabbit ears. 1 1/2-2'h x 3-4'w



Sweet Lavender¹⁰

Lavandula heterophylla

This plant has green foliage with smooth upper leaves and toothed lower leaves that remain evergreen. Bright purple flower spikes add height to overall shape and appear from spring to mid-summer. 2'h x 2-3'w



French Lavender¹⁰

Lavandula dentate

Narrow grey foliage with serrated edges give this variety its other name of "Toothed Lavender". Purple flowers on short spikes are topped with bracts like rabbit ears and appear from late spring into summer and almost year-round in mild winter areas. 3-4'h x 4-5'w



English Lavender¹⁷

Lavandula angustifolia

Sweetly fragrant, this is the variety used for perfume and sachets, and it's also the hardiest. The silvery-grey-green foliage is semi-evergreen and most varieties form low growing mounds. Blooms range from white, pink, lavender blue to shades of purple and appear in late summer or fall. 2-4'h x 4'w

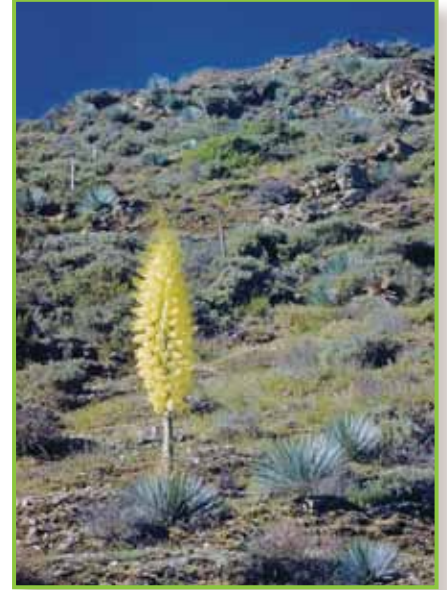
Succulents

Succulents store water in their leaves, stems or roots that help them survive periodic drought. While most are native to warmer parts of the world, not all tolerate summer heat. Succulents are useful as ground covers, erosion controllers, and as decorative additions to local landscapes. Those with sharp tipped leaves need to be carefully situated to avoid foot traffic.

Our Lord's Candle²

Yucca whipplei

Flower stalks can reach 12' + in height, covered with creamy white blossoms. Plant dies after blooming; new plants come from seeds or offsets. 2-3'h x 2-4'w



Pacific Sedum¹

Sedum spathulifolium

Attractive circular greenish leaves form rosettes with bright springtime yellow flowers. Does very well in rock gardens or containers. 4"h x 1'w



Chalk Dudleya⁸

Dudleya pulverulenta

Base rosette of thick, chalky, gray leaves forms spike of red flowers in spring. Prefers good drainage and does well in rocky areas. 12"h x 12-18" w



Parry's Nolina²

Nolina parryi

This plant is native to Southern California deserts and similar to *Yucca whipplei*. Long grass-like leaves form a nice mound and spring flowers are creamy white. Very drought tolerant. 4-5'h x 3-5'w

Cacti

Including cacti in your landscape plan will add year-round interest and help conserve water. Pocket gardens of these water efficient stars are perfect for those hard to irrigate spots. The following species produce beautiful blossoms.

Showy Stonecrop²⁹ *Sedum spectabilis*

Perennial with showy foliage and late summer flowers of pink, red or white. Prefers sandy, poor soil that drains well and requires moderate irrigation. Grows in upright clump, best in groups to form tall ground cover or small hedge. 1-2'h x 1'w



Beavertail Cactus³³ *Opuntia basilaris*

A favorite for home gardens due to smaller size and large showy bright pink flowers. Prefers sun, little to no water, and soils that drain well. 2-4'h x 3-4'w

Mojave Mound/Claret Cup Cactus¹² *Echinocereus triglochidiatus*

Popular in gardens because of its small size and long-lasting, generous orange-red blooms. Creates a dense clump that can spread to a 3' circle. Little to no water required. 8"h x 18" w



Hen and Chickens²⁹ *Sempervivum tectorum*

Clusters spread to form clumps up to 2' wide. Red or reddish brown blossoms on erect stems. A variety of colored leafed plants are available. 2-5"h x 2-5" w

Pond and Water Gardens

Even in our naturally arid area, ponds and water gardens can be designed to use California natives and will attract birds and other wildlife to your yard. These are some examples to use in a pond or nearby.

Common Monkeyflower¹

Mimulus guttatus

This plant grows naturally along streams and forms mats on still water. Large yellow flowers bloom throughout the growing season. 1-3'h x 1-3'w



Spreading Rush¹⁰

Juncas patens

Features include strong, erect blue-green foliage with delicate brown blossoms in the spring. Does best in boggy situations. 2½'h x 3'w

Mosquito Fern¹

Azolla filiculoides

A very tiny native floating fern with reddish green ruffled leaves, this grows densely on the surface of water and discourages mosquitoes from breeding. 1" h x 2" w



Scarlet/Western Columbine¹¹

Aquilegia formosa

Interestingly shaped scarlet and yellow flowers on tall stems above delicate foliage, prefers moist soils (not water logged or submerged). Reseeds readily. 2½'h x 2'w

Plants for Poolside

Plants near a pool or pond should be almost litter-free, have smooth branches, foliage, and flowers, and not be favorites of stinging insects. Here's a drought-tolerant selection that would enhance any landscape, with or without a water feature nearby.

Red Yucca³⁴ *Hesperaloe parviflora*

A native of Texas and New Mexico which produces tall stalks with rose red to bright red flowers from late spring through summer. Heat tolerant and excellent in a container. 3-4'h x 3-4'w



California Evening-Primrose¹² *Oenothera californica ssp. avita*

This perennial tolerates rough places with a tendency to invade. Best if kept in contained area with little irrigation. Attractive white to pink blossoms in summer. 2'h x 3'w



Island Bush Poppy¹ *Dendromecon harfordii*

A bushy shrub with oval gray foliage and bright yellow flowers spring to summer. Prune to shape after bloom. 6-15'h x 12'w



Bearberry²⁵ *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

A popular ground cover with dense bright green leathery foliage and light pink flowers; foliage turns to red or purple in winter. Slow to spread. 1'h x 3'w

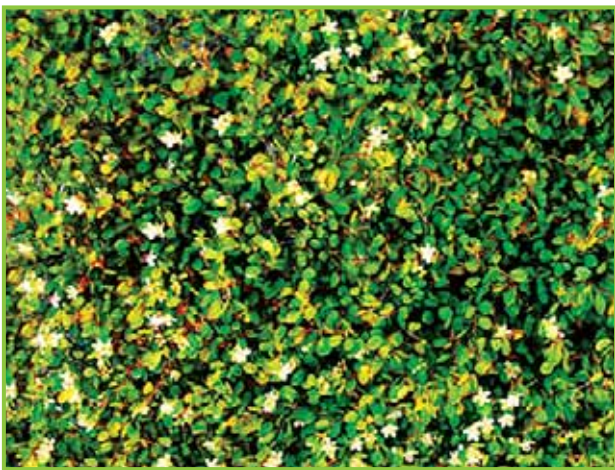
Plants for Paths and Lawn Substitutes

These hearty plants are drought-tolerant and withstand light to moderate foot traffic. Add variety to your landscape with their foliage textures and colors and save on lawn maintenance and irrigation costs.

Dymondia Silver Carpet²⁰

Dymondia margareta

A ground cover with light gray foliage, yellow summer blooms and deeply rooted. Tolerates light foot traffic. Good for use between stepping stones. 2-3”h x 20”w



Creeping Wire Vine²⁰

Muehlenbeckia nana

This plant spreads by rhizomes to create dense mounds with tiny leaves. It can be mowed yearly and tolerates poor soil and wind. 2”-1”h x 1”w

Red Creeping Thyme²⁰

Thymus serpyllum

A small member of the mint family, this plant has soft and fragrant foliage underfoot and dark green leaves with reddish flowers in summer. Likes well-drained soil. Can be cut back. 3”h x 3’w



Woolly Thyme²⁰

Thymus lanuginosus

Woolly gray foliage develops flat mats with pink flowers. Prefers infrequent sun to partial shade. 2-3”h x 3’w

Replace Your Lawn

To create a Southern California meadow, consider using a variety of ground covers, shrubs, small trees, and grasses with attractive stones or stumps and a winding path. You will reduce your water use and maintenance costs and you'll see more butterflies and birds.



Creeping Sage¹¹

Salvia sonomensis

Native to the California coast range foothills and Sierra Nevada, it's a mat-forming creeper, evergreen with narrow leaves and small lavender-blue flowers. Needs excellent drainage and gritty soil. 8-12" h x 3-4' w

Purple Needle Grass²⁸

Nassella pulchra

This is the classic native California bunch grass. Deep green leaves; purple seed heads age to a silvery color. 3' h x 2' w



Common Yarrow²⁷

Achillea millefolium

This erect plant has narrow gray-green leaves with tiny flat-topped white flower clusters. Spreads by underground runners. Cut back after blooms. 3' h x 1-2' w

Western Blue Flax¹

Linum lewisii

A small perennial with attractive blooms of 1" blue-white flowers that cover plant in spring; interesting texture. Cut back after blooming to keep compact. Easy to grow from seed. 1-2' h x 1-2' w



Fragrant Plants

Fragrance is just one of the pleasant benefits of having a garden. Oils in the leaves, stems or petals are responsible for what we smell. Warm air and moisture enhance a plant's fragrance, but even with the hot, dry weather often experienced in local summer, a fragrant garden can still be a treat for the nose. Fragrant plants in containers or beneath a window will provide a sweet or spicy scent that can drift into the house. These four are some of the more unusual choices and are also suitable for the water-efficient landscape.

Bush Anemone¹

Carpenteria californica

This evergreen shrub has shiny dark leaves and pleasantly fragrant white flowers with golden-yellow stamens, 1.5-3" in size, from May to August. Resistant to oak root fungus, this plant does well in dry, shady conditions. Prune after flowering to restrain growth or shape. 6'h x 5'w



Western Pennyroyal¹

Monardella odoratissima

Bearing beautiful white to purple pincushion flowers and evergreen slender leaves that have a strong mint-like fragrance, this plant is often visited by bees and butterflies. Does best in the shade, with fairly rich soil and garden watering. Should be cut back regularly to maintain shape. 2-3'h x 2-3'w

Western Azalea¹

Rhododendron occidentale

This deciduous shrub prefers shade and an acidic soil. Blooms from May to June with very fragrant showy funnel-shaped flowers in clusters, with colors varying from white to pinkish white to carmine rose markings. 6-10'h x 4-8'w



Mock Orange¹

Philadelphus lewisii

Satiny, white fragrant flowers, nearly 2" across, cover this deciduous shrub from June to July. Grows in an erect and arching style. Prefers moist soils. 8-10'h x 6-10'w

Hedges, Screens, Backgrounds

Garden hedges, either clipped into trimmed living walls or left more informal, add interest to any landscape. These attractive waterwise shrubs will help define a boundary, create a screen, present a background for the rest of your garden, and save on water needs.

California Flannelbush¹

Fremontodendron californicum

Yellow flowers create an attractive display from May to June as flowers bloom all at once. Leathery leaves are dark green above, fuzzy beneath. This shrub needs good drainage, and hillside planting is the best with staking when young. Needs no dry-season watering. 10-20'h x 20-25'w



Toyon³

Heteromeles arbutifolia

This shrub benefits from trimming to keep its form. Thick, leathery leaves are a glossy green. Small clusters of white flowers bloom from June to July. Birds are attracted to the clusters of bright red berries from November to January. Drought tolerant, but looks better with periodic watering. 8-20'h x 20'w

Hollyleaf Cherry¹

Prunus ilicifolia

The mature foliage of this shrub is a deep, rich green that resembles holly leaves and contrasts with new leaves that are a light green. Creamy white flower spikes appear in March and bear colorful edible fruits that attract birds and wildlife. Does best in coarse, well-drained soils and requires no summer irrigation in normal rainfall years once it is established. 3-20'h x 10'w



Coast Silktassel¹

Garrya elliptica

An excellent foliage plant, this shrub is dense with elliptical, wavy-edged leaves, dark green above, gray and woolly beneath. Clustered flower tassels bloom on both male and female plants from December to February. Both plants must be present to produce grapelike clusters of purple fruit from June to September. Does best with some summer watering. 20'h x 15'w

Manzanitas

This group of native woody plants, with interesting red bark and urn-shaped flowers, is a gardener's favorite. Making up a major portion of the chaparral hillsides, they are excellent choices for water-efficient landscapes. Many varieties are available ranging from groundcover to large shrubs and small trees.

Bigberry Manzanita¹

Arctostaphylos glauca

An excellent slope stabilizer, this shrub has large light pink blossoms in late winter to early spring and is accented by deep red twisted bark. Attractive berries follow. 8-12'h x 8-12'w



Island Manzanita¹²

Arctostaphylos insularis

Often treelike, with cinnamon brown bark and broad bright green leaves, this plant has white flowers in loose clusters. Prefers well-drained soil. 3-8'h x 5-8'w



Bearberry or Kinnikinnick²

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

A natural for gardens with its dense, low mounds or mats that trail over rocks and walls. Slow growing, the young bark is reddish and flowers are light pink. 1'h x 2-3'w



Common Manzanita¹

Arctostaphylos manzanita

An interesting plant, this has crooked branching limbs, with smooth purplish-red bark and small green oval leaves. Generous clusters of white flowers are followed by white fruit that turns red. 6-20'h x 4-10'w

Fruits and Berries

Plants that produce colorful fruits and berries add variety to your landscape and often are attractive to wild birds. The selections below are also suitable for hedges if kept trimmed, border backgrounds, and are drought tolerant.

Toyon¹⁹

Heteromeles arbutifolia

This shrub benefits from trimming to keep its form. Thick, leathery leaves are a glossy green. Small clusters of white flowers bloom from June to July. Birds are attracted to the clusters of bright red berries from November to January. Drought tolerant, but looks better with periodic watering. 8-20'h x 20'w



Chaparral Honeysuckle³³

Lonicera subspicata johnstonii

A native evergreen perennial that generally looks good all the time. Clusters of creamy yellow flowers appear in spring, followed by yellowish berries that attract birds. 2-5'h x 8-10'w

Mexican Elderberry¹⁹

Sambucus mexicana

This plant can grow into a large deciduous tree. White clusters of flowers in the summer turn into purple berries. Attractive to many bird species. 8-25'h x 10'w



Golden Currant¹⁴

Ribes aureum

A semi-deciduous shrub that produces bright yellow flowers winter through spring, followed by yellow, orange, and red currants. 4-8'h x 7'w

Climbers and Espaliers

Waterwise plants that climb or can be trained to cover a wall or trellis are useful and attractive additions to any landscape. These selections are strong enough to climb and still be guided into position. With proper pruning and shaping, they will provide interesting color and texture backgrounds.

Hollyleaf Cherry¹ *Prunus ilicifolia*

Growing at a moderate rate, this tall shrub has deep green leaves 1-2" long that resemble holly. Creamy white flowers produce edible fruit attractive to wildlife. Grows in well-drained poor soils and once established requires no irrigation in a normal rain year. 3-20'h x 10'w



Lemonade Berry¹² *Rhus integrifolia*

This shrub has dark, leathery leaves with delicate pink flowers. Fairly tolerant to cold temperatures, watering once a month will improve its resistance to fire. 10'h x 15'w



California Honeysuckle¹ *Lonicera hispidula*

A climbing shrub, this plant is native throughout most of California and up the coast to Washington. Deciduous foliage, with large pink flowers, the edible fruit is bitter but attracts birds. Able to handle cold temperatures and is not favored by deer. 4'h x 1'w



California Wild Grape¹ *Vitis californica*

A deciduous vine, this plant produces clusters of small edible grapes. Able to climb better with support; prefers regular irrigation (but not wet soil) and will seek out as much sun as possible. Small flowers are attractive to bees. 30'h x 1-2'w

Showy Shrubs

If you think native and drought-tolerant shrubs are dull and boring, check out these examples that put on a showy display of blooms.

California Flannelbush¹

Fremontodendron californicum

Yellow flowers create an attractive display from May to June as flowers bloom all at once. Leathery leaves are dark green above, fuzzy beneath. This shrub needs good drainage, and hillside planting is the best with staking when young. Needs no dry-season watering. 10-20'h x 20-25'w



Red-flowering Currant¹

Ribes sanguineum

This deciduous shrub produces long drooping clusters of deep pink to red flowers in spring; blue-black fruit follows. 3-8'h x 3-8'w

Butterfly Bush²¹

Buddleja davidii

A semi-evergreen shrub with tall arching branches; blooms in mid-summer with dense small, fragrant spike-like clusters. Needs good drainage and pruning to keep shape. 4-7'h x 3-5'w



Bush Anemone¹

Carpenteria californica

This California native shrub displays dark green foliage highlighted by 3" single-petaled fragrant white flowers with golden stamens. 6'h x 5'w

Herbs in the Water Efficient Garden

The climate in our area is perfect for growing Mediterranean herbs. Perennial herbs can add color, fragrance and culinary options (using edible varieties such as these) to your garden. The following require little irrigation once established.

Rosemary¹⁰ *Rosmarinus officinalis*

A tough evergreen shrub with short, narrow green leaves on woody stems with delicate blue flowers. Requires good drainage; pruning encourages new growth. 4'h x 4'w



English Thyme¹⁰ *Thymus vulgaris*

An attractive plant with small, gray-green pungent leaves and white-lilac flowers in late spring. Useful as a border edging or in a container with good drainage. 1'h x 1'w



Greek Oregano¹⁰ *Origanum vulgare hirtum*

A shrubby plant with slightly fuzzy gray-green leaves and tiny clusters of small flowers. Needs good drainage. 2-3'h x 1'w



Common Sage¹⁰ *Salvia officinalis*

This shrubby plant with wrinkled oval leaves displays clusters of bluish flowers on spikes in the spring. Less than excellent drainage may cause root rot. 1-3'h x 1-2'w



Winter is Planting Time

The cool wet months of winter are ideal for planting native species. Root systems can be established before the stress of summer begins. Gardeners can generally begin to reduce the amount of irrigation to new plantings by the first spring. Try these colorful species to enjoy an attractive natural landscape.

Sticky Monkeyflower²⁶ *Mimulus aurantiacus*

This high-to-medium drought-tolerant perennial has showy spring apricot-colored blossoms that attract hummingbirds. Light summer watering will extend its blooming period. 1-4'h x 3'w



Bush Sunflower¹ *Encelia californica*

A small deciduous shrub with loose clusters of yellow daisy-like flowers. Light summer water will extend blooming. Cut back every two years to maintain shape. 3'h x 5'w

Chaparral Currant³ *Ribes malvaceum*

This medium-sized deciduous shrub has cascading clusters of fragrant pink flowers in the fall, winter, and early spring. Does best in the shade, requires very little maintenance, and light irrigation to prevent dormancy in the summer. 5-8'h x 5'w



Creeping Mahonia¹ *Mahonia repens*

An ideal groundcover for partial sun to full shade areas with colorful winter foliage. Does well under oak trees, requiring little to no irrigation once established. Yellow spring flowers are followed by berries that attract birds. 1'h x 3+'w

Interesting Blossoms

Here's an array of waterwise plants with interesting blossoms. One or more of the following might catch your eye and brighten your garden. Whether featuring feathery fairy-duster tassels, orchid-like brilliance, or unusual structure, these four species are all rated as high to medium drought tolerant.

Apache Plume¹² *Fallugia paradoxa*

A semi-evergreen shrub with flowers resembling single white roses that are followed by large, feathery seedheads that change from green to red. Requires well-drained soil. 4-6'h x 5'w



Desert Willow¹² *Chilopsis linearis*

This deciduous tree or shrub develops shaggy bark and a twisting trunk with age. Spring brings fragrant trumpet-shaped blossoms in a variety of colors, that attract hummingbirds. Drops seed pods in the winter. Trim to keep shapely. 15-30'h x 10-20'w



Matilija Poppy¹ *Romneya coulteri*

An extremely hardy perennial that's slow to start. Once established, produces amazing "fried egg" blossoms. Spreads by underground runners. 3-5'h x 8+'w



Western Spice Bush¹ *Calycanthus occidentalis*

This deciduous shrub has green leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Blossoms resemble brownish-red water lilies. Both foliage and flowers are fragrant. 4-12'h x 4-12'w

Hardy Waterwise Plants

Freezing winter temperatures may leave their mark on your landscape with dead shrubs and brown patches. As you replant, consider using one of these hardy natives that are less prone to cold weather damage. They are also water efficient and will help reduce your irrigation costs.



Bigberry Manzanita¹

Arctostaphylos glauca

This evergreen shrub has attractive deep red twisted bark. Abundant light pink flowers bloom during winter and spring. Hardy to 10 -15°F. 8-12'h x 8-12'w

California Buckwheat²⁶

Eriogonum fasciculatum

A small evergreen shrub with summer and fall blooms of pinkish flower clusters that turn rusty red. Attractive to butterflies and hardy to around 15°F. 3-5'h x 6'w



Mountain Mahogany²²

Cercocarpus betuloides

Extremely drought tolerant, this evergreen shrub is a good erosion controller. White flowers bloom in the spring and produce attractive seed plume. 6-20'h x 12'w



Evergreen Currant²⁸

Ribes viburnifolium

Evergreen shrub; fragrant dark green leaves; light pink to purplish flowers in winter and spring; suitable for under oaks; hardy to 15 – 20°F. 3-4'h x 6'w



Native Buckwheats

These natives are related to the true buckwheat of Asia grown as food crop. As a group they range from shrubs, to mounding and matting subshrubs. With a long bloom span from summer through fall, they are a welcome addition to the "California-friendly" landscape.



Ashyleaf Buckwheat³⁶

Eriogonum cinereum

This can be a nice shrub when kept trimmed. Silver gray foliage is covered with white flowers in the summer. Best planted in groups, this will tolerate salt spray and is good for erosion control. 4-6'h x 4-6'w



California Buckwheat³²

Eriogonum fasciculatum

This native is an important honey plant, attractive to butterflies, and will help stabilize slopes. Forms hemispheres of growth, topped with pinkish-white blossoms in the summer that turn to rusty red in the fall. 3-5'h x 6'w



Sulphur Buckwheat²

Eriogonum umbellatum

This plant is very drought tolerant and grows well on dry slopes with good drainage. Bright yellow flowers form in the spring above low, broad mounds of 1" green foliage. Flowers age to rust. 12"h x 3'w



Cliff or Coast Buckwheat³²

Eriogonum parvifolium

This is a low growing, spreading variety that cascades. White to pinkish flowers appear in late spring to summer above reddish green leaves. An important butterfly plant. 1-2'h x 4-6'w

Landscape Enhancers

A turf lawn requires up to 60" of water a year. That's five feet! Save water by converting part of your lawn to "California-friendly" plants. When you reduce the amount of lawn, you'll reduce your irrigation needs, provide habitat for native birds and insects, conserve water and save money.



Cotoneaster¹⁰

Cotoneaster sp.

Plants range from ground covers to shrubs and require little to moderate water. Attractive arching branches, fall color; red or orange berries in winter add appeal. Thrives with little to no maintenance and does well on dry slopes and in poor soil. 4"-15'h x 10"-18'w



Desert Marigold¹²

Baileya multiradiata

This perennial has bright yellow flowers above gray-green foliage spring through fall. Extend blooming with periodic moisture. Attracts butterflies. Requires good drainage. 1-2'h x 1-1½'w



Wild / Sand Strawberry¹

Fragaria chiloensis

Native to Pacific coast beaches and bluffs, this perennial plant can be mowed or cut back in early spring to force new growth. Shiny green foliage turns red in the fall; white blossoms in spring with occasional fruit. 4-8"h x 1'w



Sea Lavender¹

Limonium perezii

A perennial with large leaves and clusters of tiny purplish flowers that is good for cutting and can be dried. Prefers temperatures above 25°F and tolerates heat; needs good drainage. 3'h x 2'w

Coyote Mints

These colorful and interesting plants are members of the mint family. They require well drained soil, have short underground rhizomes, develop clumps or small thickets of shoots, and range from ground cover size to 2' tall. Their predominant feature is their powerful aroma, a blend of sweet and minty to more pungent. Plants can often be purchased at native plant sales, botanic gardens, and specialized nurseries.



Yellow Mountainbalm¹

Monardella nana

A low-lying, often matting plant, the stems are greenish white. Flowers are spidery white to light pink, about 1" long, and bloom from April to July. 6"h



Coyote Mint¹

Monardella villosa

A plant with light purple 1" flowers from June to August. Foliage is furry gray-green and butterflies are attracted to the plant. Likes sun to partial shade. 1-2'h x 1'w



Serpentine Monardella³⁵

Monardella purpurea

Blunt-tipped leaves are up to 1" long and dark green. Flowers are reddish purple and bloom from mid-summer to early fall. 4" – 12"h



Western Pennyroyal¹

Monardella odoratissima

Beautiful purple flowers attract butterflies and bees; very minty fragrance. Cut back regularly to maintain shape. 2-3'h x 2-3'w

Variety of Lupines

Plan ahead for a spring show of beauty by planting lupines. Attractive to butterflies, lupines come in many varieties, some growing as carpets of annuals and others as garden perennials or shrubs. Trimming will keep plants sturdy and compact. The foliage and blossom colors will delight any gardener.

Silver Bush Lupine⁴

Lupinus albilfrons

One of the most variable lupines, often a shrub; narrow leaflets covered with silky hairs; purple-blue to reddish violet flowers on tall stems, often with sweet fragrance. 6-4'h x 4'w



Yellow Bush Lupine³

Lupinus arboreus

Shrubby with yellow flowers (blue flower types available), and lemony fragrance; grows erect, stem stout and gnarled; leaflets generally deep to pale green above and light green to gray beneath. 5'h x 4'w

Sky Lupine¹

Lupinus nanus

Easy to grow from seed sown in the fall or winter, this annual bears blue flowers marked with white. Self sows if there is little competition; good for bare slopes and banks. 8-24"h x 9-12"w



Broad-leaf Lupine¹

Lupinus latifolius

Perennial with large broad grey leaves and showy medium blue-purple flowers. 4'h x 4'w

Summer Color

Have you shied away from drought tolerant native plants in the belief they become less attractive in the warmer months? Here are a few suggestions that will bring sprays of color to your landscaping, save on irrigation costs and attract wildlife. That's a three-for-one bonus!

Mexican Whorled Milkweed²

Asclepias fascicularis

Spreading semi-deciduous perennial, commonly found in dry grassy meadows, with linear foliage. Flowers are greenish white or purple, blooming from June to September. Interesting seed pods open and spill out hundreds of fine white hairs. Provides an important food source plant for Monarch butterflies. Prefers sun to partial sun exposure. 3'h x 3'w



St. Catherine's Lace¹

Eriogonum giganteum

Native to San Clemente and Santa Catalina Islands, displays freely branching stems, with silver to grayish-white, broadly oval leaves, with magnificent white blooms throughout the summer. Blossoms are actually tiny, but grow in a cluster on long stems. Attractive to butterflies and in dry arrangements. Prefers sun exposure and well-drained, loose, gravelly soil. Useful to cover dry banks, among rocks. 6'h x 6'w

Heart-leaf Penstemon¹

Keckiella cordifolia

Deciduous perennial vining shrub, with spiked clusters of orange red tubular flowers on arching branches. Blooms from March to August. An important hummingbird plant, commonly found in canyons and hillsides, it prefers sun to partial sun exposure. Will remain evergreen with summer irrigation. 5'h x 8'w



Woolly Blue Curls³

Trichostoma lanatum

Many branched, tidy plant with linear leaves, pungently aromatic when bruised. Blossoms are striking purple spikes, attractive to hummingbirds, showing from March to August, and longer if old flower stems are cut back. Flowers have a woolly appearance, with blue, purple, or whitish hairs. Requires excellent drainage and sunny hillside exposures. Does not like summer irrigation. 4'h x 4'w



Weeds: Plants Out of Place

Invasive plants out-compete native species for resources. They change the landscape, the protections it provides, and can be a nuisance, or worse. Be watchful that these invasives don't begin to inhabit your landscape. (For other California invasive plants, go to www.cal-ipc.org)

Yellow Star Thistle¹⁸

Centaurea solstitialis

This relatively new arrival in the area is found in dry fields, along roads and trails, and other disturbed areas. An annual, with bright yellow disk flowers, that blooms May to October.

Spikes 1/4-3/4" long grow below the flowers and are painful when encountered. Horses that feed on this plant develop an incurable and fatal brain disease. 1-2'h x 6"w



Tocalote - Maltese Star Thistle²

Centaurea melitensis

A smaller cousin to Yellow Star Thistle, this common annual is found in dry fields, disturbed areas, and along trails and roads. Disk flowers (some are yellow), bloom May to June. Branched spines, up to 3/8" long, are purple or brown tinged. 1-2'h x 6"w



Black Mustard¹

Brassica nigra

An extremely common annual found growing in meadows, disturbed areas, and along trails and roads.

Bright yellow petals grow on top of erect branching stems, blooming February to July. 2-8'h



Tree-of-Heaven¹

Ailanthus altissima

A native of China, this deciduous tree grows rapidly, self-seeding and producing new plants with suckers. Leaves grow from 1-3' long. Does very well under adverse conditions. 50'h x 50'w

Common - Scientific Names

(NN = Non-California Native)

Alum Root Hybrids	<i>Heuchera maxima</i>
Alum Root/Coral Bells	<i>Heuchera (sanguina)</i>
Apache Plume (NN)	<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>
Ashleaf Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum cinereum</i>
Beach Suncups	<i>Camissonia cheiranthefolia</i>
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Beavertail Cactus	<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>
Bigberry Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>
Bigleaf Lupine	<i>Lupinus latifolius</i>
Black Sage (creeping)	<i>Salvia mellifera 'Tera Seca'</i>
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
Bush Sunflower	<i>Encelia californica</i>
Butterfly Bush (NN)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
California Bay Laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>
California Evening-Primrose	<i>Oenothera californica</i>
California Flannelbush	<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
California Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
California Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
California Sycamore	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>
California Wild Grape	<i>Vitis californica</i>
Canyon Live-Forever	<i>Dudleya cymosa</i>
Chalk Dudleya	<i>Dudleya pulverulenta</i>
Chaparral Currant	<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>
Chaparral Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera subspicata johnstonii</i>
Cleveland Sage	<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>
Cleveland's Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon clevelandii</i>
Cliff / Coast Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
Coast Silktassel	<i>Garrya elliptica</i>
Common Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i>
Common Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>
Common Sage (NN)	<i>Salvia officinalis</i>
Common Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Cotoneaster (NN)	<i>Cotoneaster spp</i>
Coyote Bush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Coyote Mint	<i>Monardella villosa</i>
Creeping Mahonia	<i>Mahonia repens</i>
Creeping Sage	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>
Creeping Wire Vine	<i>Muehlenbeckia nana (axillaris)</i>
Deergrass (Dwarf Mullee)	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>
Desert Beauty/Indigo Bush (NN)	<i>Dalea spp (greggi)</i>
Desert Marigold	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>
Desert/Apricot Mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>
Douglas Iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>
Dymondia Silver Carpet (NN)	<i>Dymondia margareta</i>
English Lavender (NN)	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>
English Thyme (NN)	<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>

Evergreen Currant	<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>
Fairy Duster (NN)	<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>
Firecracker Penstemon	<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>
Fremont's Cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i>
French Lavender (NN)	<i>Lavandula dentate</i>
Giant Wild Rye	<i>Elymus condensatus</i>
Globe Gilia	<i>Gilia capitata</i>
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>
Greek Oregano (NN)	<i>Origanum vulgare hirtum</i>
Harvest Brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea elegans</i>
Heart-leaf Penstemon	<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>
Hen and Chickens	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>
Hollyleaf Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
Hummingbird Sage	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>
Interior Live Oak	<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>
Island Bush Poppy	<i>Dendromecon harfordii</i>
Island Bush Snapdragon	<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>
Island Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos insularis</i>
Lemonade Berry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Leopard Lily	<i>Lilium pardalimum</i>
Matilija Poppy	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>
Mesa Bushmallow	<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>
Mexican Bush Sage (NN)	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>
Mexican Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>
Mexican Whorled Milkweed	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>
Mojave Mound / Claret Cup Cactus	<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i>
Mosquito Fern (NN)	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>
Oneleaf Onion	<i>Allium unifolium</i>
Oregon Grape (NN)	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>
Our Lord's Candle	<i>Yucca whipplei</i>
Pacific Sedum Stonecrop	<i>Sedum spathulefolium</i>
Pacific Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica californica</i>
Palmer's Penstemon	<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>
Panamint Beard Penstemon	<i>Penstemon floridus</i>
Parry's Nolina	<i>Nolina parryi</i>
Pink-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum</i>
Purple Needle Grass	<i>Nassella pulchra</i>
Purple Sage	<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>
Red Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum grande rubescens</i>
Red Creeping Thyme (NN)	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>
Red-flowering Currant	<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>
Red-Hot Poker (NN)	<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i>
Red Yucca	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>
Rockrose (NN)	<i>Cistus spp</i>
Rosemary (NN)	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Santa Barbara Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus impressus (cultivars)</i>
Scarlet Bugler	<i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>
Scarlet/Western Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Scarlet Larkspur	<i>Delphinium cardinale</i>
Scrub Oak	<i>Quercus beberidifolia</i>

Common - Scientific Names
(NN = Non-California Native) *continued*

Sea Lavender / Statice (NN)	Limonium perezii
Seaside Daisy / Beach Aster	Erigeron glaucus
Serpentine Monardella	Monardella purpurea
Sheep Fescue (Blue) (NN)	Festuca ovina (glauca)
Showy Stonecrop	Sedum spectabilis
Showy Penstemon	Penstemon spectabilis
Silver Bush Lupine	Lupinus albus
Sky Lupine	Lupinus nanus
Society Garlic (NN)	Tulbaghia violacea
Spanish Lavener (NN)	Lavandula stoechas
Spreading Rush	Juncas patens
Spring Cinquefoil (NN)	Potentilla tabernaemontanii
St. Catherine's Lace	Eriogonum giganteum
Sticky Monkeyflower	Mimulus aurantiacus
Sulphur Buckwheat	Eriogonum umbellatum
Sweet Lavender (NN)	Lavandula heterophylla
Tidy Tips	Layia platyglossa
Toyon	Heteromeles arbutifolia
Tree Poppy	Dendromecon rigida
Twinberry Honeysuckle	Lonicera involucrata
Valley Oak	Quercus lobata
Western Azalea	Rhododendron occidentale
Western Blue Flax	Linum lewisii
Western Pennyroyal	Monardella odoratissima
Western Spice Bush	Calycanthus occidentalis
White Mariposa Lily	Calochortus venustus
Wild/Sand Strawberry	Fragaria chiloensis
Woolly Bluecurls	Trichostema lanatum
Woolly Thyme (NN)	Thymus lanuginosus
Woolly Yarrow (NN)	Achillea tomentosa
Yellow Bush Lupine	Lupinus arboreus
Yellow Mountainbalm	Monardella nana

Scientific - Common Names
(NN = Non-California Native)

Achillea millefolium	Common Yarrow
Achillea tomentosa (NN)	Woolly Yarrow
Allium unifolium	Oneleaf Onion
Aquilegia formosa	Scarlet/Western Columbine
Arctostaphylos glauca	Bigberry Manzanita
Arctostaphylos insularis	Island Manzanita
Arctostaphylos manzanita	Common Manzanita
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry
Asclepias fascicularis	Mexican Whorled Milkweed
Azolla filiculoides (NN)	Mosquito Fern
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Bush
Baileya multiradiata	Desert Marigold
Berberis aquilifolium (NN)	Oregon Grape
Brodiaea elegans	Harvest Brodiaea
Buddleja davidii (NN)	Butterfly Bush
Calliandra eriophylla (NN)	Fairy Duster
Calochortus venustus	White Mariposa Lily
Calycanthus occidentalis	Western Spice Bush
Camissonia cheiranthefolia	Beach Suncups
Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone
Ceanothus impressus (cultivars)	Santa Barbara Ceanothus
Cercis occidentalis	California Redbud
Cercocarpus betuloides	Mountain Mahogany
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow
Cistus spp (NN)	Rockrose
Cotoneaster spp (NN)	Cotoneaster
Dalea spp (greggi) (NN)	Desert Beauty/Indigo Bush
Delphinium cardinale	Scarlet Larkspur
Dendromecon harfordii	Island Bush Poppy
Dendromecon rigida	Tree Poppy
Dudleya cymosa	Canyon Live-Forever
Dudleya pulverulenta	Chalk Dudleya
Dymondia margareta (NN)	Dymondia Silver Carpet
Echinocereus triglochidiatus	Mojave Mound / Claret Cup Cactus
Elymus condensatus	Giant Wild Rye
Encelia californica	Bush Sunflower
Erigeron glaucus	Seaside Daisy / Beach Aster
Eriogonum cinereum	Ashleaf Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California Buckwheat
Eriogonum grande rubescens	Red Buckwheat
Eriogonum giganteum	St. Catherine's Lace
Eriogonum parvifolium	Cliff / Coast Buckwheat
Eriogonum umbellatum	Sulphur Buckwheat
Eriophyllum confertiflorum	Golden Yarrow
Eschscholzia californica	California Poppy
Fallugia paradoxa (NN)	Apache Plume
Festuca ovina (glauca) (NN)	Sheep Fescue (Blue)

Firecracker Penstemon¹¹



continued on page 52

Scientific - Common Names
(NN = Non-California Native) *continued*

<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Wild/Sand Strawberry
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	California Flannelbush
<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	Island Bush Snapdragon
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Coast Silktassel
<i>Gilia capitata</i>	Globe Gilia
<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i>	Red Yucca
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	Alum Root Hybrids
<i>Heuchera (sanguina)</i>	Alum Root/Coral Bells
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas Iris
<i>Juncas patens</i>	Spreading Rush
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>	Heart-leaf Penstemon
<i>Kniphofia uvaria</i> (NN)	Red-Hot Poker
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> (NN)	English Lavender
<i>Lavandula dentate</i> (NN)	French Lavender
<i>Lavandula heterophylla</i> (NN)	Sweet Lavender
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> (NN)	Spanish Lavener
<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	Tidy Tips
<i>Lilium pardalimum</i>	Leopard Lily
<i>Limonium perezii</i> (NN)	Sea Lavender / Statice
<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Western Blue Flax
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	California Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>	Twinberry Honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera subspicata johnstonii</i>	Chaparral Honeysuckle
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Silver Bush Lupine
<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Yellow Bush Lupin
<i>Lupinus latifolius</i>	Bigleaf Lupine
<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	Sky Lupine
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Mahonia
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	Mesa Bushmallow
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Sticky Monkeyflower
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Common Monkeyflower
<i>Monardella nana</i>	Yellow Mountainbalm
<i>Monardella odoratissima</i>	Western Pennyroyal
<i>Monardella purpurea</i>	Serpentine Monardella
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	Coyote Mint
<i>Muehlenbeckia nana (axillaris)</i> (NN)	Creeping Wire Vine
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deergrass (Dwarf Mullee)
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Pacific Wax Myrtle
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	Purple Needle Grass
<i>Nolina parryi</i>	Parry's Nolina
<i>Oenothera californica</i>	California Evening-Primrose
<i>Opuntia basilaris</i>	Beavertail Cactus
<i>Origanum vulgare hirtum</i> (NN)	Greek Oregano
<i>Penstemon centranthifolius</i>	Scarlet Bugler
<i>Penstemon clevelandii</i>	Cleveland's Beardtongue
<i>Penstemon eatonii</i>	Firecracker Penstemon
<i>Penstemon floridus</i>	Panamint Beard Penstemon
<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>	Palmer's Penstemon
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	Showy Penstemon
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	Mock Orange
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California Sycamore

<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont's Cottonwood
<i>Potentilla tabernaemontanii</i> (NN)	Spring Cinquefoil
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf Cherry
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak
<i>Quercus beberidifolia</i>	Scrub Oak
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak
<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>	Interior Live Oak
<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>	Western Azalea
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	Lemonade Berry
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Golden Currant
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i>	Chaparral Currant
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	Red-flowering Currant
<i>Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum</i>	Pink-flowering Currant
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen Currant
<i>Romneya coulteri</i>	Matilija Poppy
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> (NN)	Rosemary
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage
<i>Salvia leucantha</i> (NN)	Mexican Bush Sage
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	Purple Sage
<i>Salvia mellifera 'Tera Seca'</i>	Black Sage (creeping)
<i>Salvia officinalis</i> (NN)	Common Sage
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>	Creeping Sage
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Mexican Elderberry
<i>Sedum spathulefolium</i>	Pacific Sedum Stonecrop
<i>Sedum spectabilis</i>	Showy Stonecrop
<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	Hen and Chickens
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed Grass
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	Desert/Apricot Mallow
<i>Thymus lanuginosus</i> (NN)	Woolly Thyme
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i> (NN)	Red Creeping Thyme
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> (NN)	English Thyme
<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	Woolly Bluecurls
<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i> (NN)	Society Garlic
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California Bay Laurel
<i>Vitis californica</i>	California Wild Grape
<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	Our Lord's Candle
<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	California Fuchsia

Seaside Daisy¹



Suitability Lists

NOTE: The plants listed here may or may not be included in this booklet. Please check other reference guides for more descriptions if not represented.

Erosion Control – These plants have strong root systems. However, many should not be planted near structures as they produce large fuel supplies for fires.

Alum Root	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>
Bigberry Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>
Big-pod Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i>
Black Sage	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>
California Bay	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
California Brome	<i>Bromus carinatus</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
California Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
California Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
California Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria californica</i>
California Walnut	<i>Juglans californica</i>
Chamise	<i>Adenostema fasciculatum</i>
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Creeping Sage	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>
Deergrass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>
Eastwood Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos glandulosa</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>
Evergreen Currant	<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>
Flannelbush	<i>Fremontodendron sp.</i>
Fremont Cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i>
Giant Wild Rye	<i>Elymus condensatus</i>
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>
Greenbark Ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus spinosus</i>
Holly-leaf Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
Hollyleaf Redberry	<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sp.</i>
Laurel Sumac	<i>Malosma laurina</i>
Lemonadeberry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Mesa Bush Mallow	<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>
Our Lord's Candle	<i>Yucca whipplei</i>
Prickly Phlox	<i>Leptodactylon californica</i>
Purple Needlegrass	<i>Nassella pulchra</i>
Purple Sage	<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>
Rockrose	<i>Cistus sp.</i>
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum sp.</i>
Sugarbush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>
Valley Oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
White Sage	<i>Salvia apiana</i>
Yellow-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>

Deer Resistant – Deer do not seem to like plants with sticky, rough or fuzzy textures, spiny stems or fragrant leaves.

Agave	<i>Agave sp.</i>
Arizona Ash	<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>
Big-Leaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
California Bay	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
California Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>
California Sycamore	<i>Plantanus racemosa</i>
California Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria californica</i>
Catclaw	<i>Acacia greggii</i>
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Dusty Miller	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>
False Indigo	<i>Baptisia sp.</i>
Flannel Bush	<i>Fremontodendron sp.</i>
Golden Currant	<i>Ribes aureum</i>
Iris	<i>Iris sp.</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavendula sp.</i>
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia ssp.</i>
Matilija Poppy	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>
Mexican Marigold	<i>Tagetes lemonii</i>
Milkweed	<i>Asclepias sp.</i>
Nolina	<i>Nolina sp.</i>
Salvia	<i>Salvia sp.</i>
Sea Pink	<i>Armeria sp.</i>
Seaside Daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>
Sheep Fescue	<i>Festuca trachyphylla</i>
Spicebush	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>
Sugarbush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>
Valley Oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
Wild Lilac	<i>Ceanothus sp.</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea sp.</i>
Yerba Buena	<i>Satureja douglasii</i>
Yucca	<i>Yucca sp.</i>

Desert Natives – These require well-drained soils and very little irrigation.

Bladderpod	<i>Isomeris arborea</i>
Blue Grama	<i>Boutelona gracilis</i>
Brittlebush	<i>Encelia farinose</i>
Catclaw	<i>Acacia greggii</i>
Desert Agave	<i>Agave deserti</i>
Desert Mallow	<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>
Desert Marigold	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>
Live-Forever	<i>Dudleya sp.</i>
Mexican Palo Verde	<i>Parkensonia aculeate</i>
Palo Verde	<i>Cercidium floridum</i>
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum sp.</i>
Yucca	<i>Yucca sp.</i>

Water Tolerant – These plants will look nicer with regular irrigation.

California Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus californica</i>
Canyon Sunflower	<i>Venegasia carpesioides</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus sp.</i>
Deergrass	<i>Muhlenbergia reigens</i>
Giant Wild Rye	<i>Elymus condensatus</i>
Gumplant	<i>Grindelia stricta</i>
Melic Grass	<i>Melica imperfecta</i>
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>
Oregon Ash	<i>Fraxinus latifolius</i>
Spicebush	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>
Twinberry	<i>Lonicera involucrata</i>
White Alder	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>
Yellow-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>

Water Gardens – These plants can be used in and around ponds or in areas that receive regular irrigation.

California Wild Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Hooker's Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera hookeri</i>
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia ssp.</i>
Oregano of the Highway	<i>Monarda menthaefolia</i>
Reed	<i>Juncus sp.</i>
Scarlet Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus cardinalis</i>
Tufted Hairgrass	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>
Tule Mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>
White Hedge-Nettle	<i>Stachys albens</i>
Willow	<i>Salix sp.</i>
Yellow-Stream Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>
Yerba Buena	<i>Satureja douglasii</i>
Yerba mansa	<i>Anemopsis californica</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea sp.</i>

Fragrant – Many native plants exude strong fragrances, some mild and pleasant, others pungent.

Bladderpod	<i>Isomeris arborea</i>
Broad-leaf Lupine	<i>Lupinus latifolius parishii</i>
Bush Anenome	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
California Bay Laurel	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
Coyote Mint	<i>Monardella ssp.</i>
Currant/Gooseberry	<i>Ribes sp.</i>
Hedge-nettle	<i>Stachy ssp.</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavendula sp.</i>
Lavender Cotton	<i>Santolina virens</i>
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum polycarpum</i>
Mexican Bush Marigold	<i>Tagetes lemonii</i>
Mock Orange	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>
Oregano of the Highway	<i>Monarda menthaefolia</i>
Pitcher Sage	<i>Lepechinia sp.</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia</i>
Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia sp.</i>
Spicebush	<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>
Tule Mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i>
Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica californica</i>
Western Azalea	<i>Rhododendron occidentale</i>
Wild Lilac	<i>Ceanothus sp.</i>
Woolly Blue Curly	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>
Yerba Buena	<i>Satureja douglasii</i>
Yerba Mansa	<i>Anemopsis californica</i>

Fire Resistant – These plants are fire resistant due to physiological characteristics (FR), due to growth habits, or are succulents (S) which are considered fire retardant.

Agave (S)	<i>Agave sp.</i>
Alum Root	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>
Beach Suncups	<i>Camissonia cheiranthifolia</i>
Bladderpod (FR)	<i>Isomeris arborea</i>
Blue Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
Carmel Creeper	<i>Ceanothus griseus horizontalis</i>
Coast Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>
Conejo Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum crocatum</i>
Coyote Brush (FR)	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Creeping Barberry	<i>Mahonia repens</i>
Creeping Sage	<i>Salvia sonomensis</i>
Evergreen Currant	<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>
Four-winged Saltbush (FR)	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>
Guadalupe Island Rock Daisy (FR)	<i>Perityle incana</i>
Hummingbird Sage	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>
Iris	<i>Iris sp.</i>
Live-Forever (S)	<i>Dudleya sp.</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus sp.</i>
Matilija Poppy (FR)	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum polycarpum</i>
Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus sp.</i>
Nolina (S)	<i>Nolina sp.</i>
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon sp.</i>
Quailbush (FR)	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>
Red Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Red Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum grande rubescens</i>
Scarlet Larkspur	<i>Delphinium cardinale</i>
Sea Dahlia	<i>Coreopsis maritima</i>
Seaside Daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>
Stonecrop (S)	<i>Sedum sp.</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea sp.</i>
Yellow-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium californicum</i>
Yucca	<i>Yucca sp.</i>

Under Oak Trees - These plants tolerate shade and thrive in dry conditions essential for oak tree survival in dry months.

Barberry	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
Bush Anenome	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
Bush Snapdragon	<i>Galvezia juncea</i>
Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Creeping Barberry	<i>Mahonia repens</i>
Currant/Gooseberry	<i>Ribes sp.</i>
Holly-leaf Cherry	<i>Prunus illicifolia</i>
Hummingbird Sage	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>
Island Alum Root	<i>Heuchera maxima</i>

Attract Birds – These plants provide berries, foliage, fruit, and nectar.

Alum Roots	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda sp.</i>
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria californica</i>
Clarkia	<i>Clarkia sp.</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>
Currant/Gooseberry	<i>Ribes sp.</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>
Flowering Maple	<i>Abutilon sp.</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sp.</i>
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia sp.</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus sp.</i>
Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus sp.</i>
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon sp.</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia sp.</i>
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>

Hummingbird Plants – These plants provide nectar for hummingbirds. Non-nectar feeding birds use them for nesting, cover and feed.

Alum Root	<i>Heuchera sp.</i>
Bladderpod	<i>Isomeris arborea</i>
Bush Snapdragon	<i>Galvezia sp.</i>
California Fuchsia	<i>Zauschneria sp.</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>
Currant/Gooseberry	<i>Ribes sp.</i>
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>
Heart-leaved Penstemon	<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sp.</i>
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium sp.</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula sp.</i>
Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus sp.</i>
Penstemon	<i>Penstemon sp.</i>
Pitcher Sage	<i>Lepechinia sp.</i>
Primrose	<i>Oenothera sp.</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia sp.</i>
Scarlet Lobelia	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>
Woolly Blue Curls	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>

Tolerant of Heavy Soils – These plants will survive in heavy clay soils, depending on other variables involved.

Barberry	<i>Mahonia sp.</i>
Black Cottonwood	<i>Populus trichocarpus</i>
Bladderpod	<i>Isomeris arborea</i>
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>
Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>
Bush Anemone	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>
California Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>
California Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
California White Alder	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>
Catalina Ironwood	<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>
Coast Sunflower	<i>Encelia californica</i>
Coffeeberry	<i>Thamnus californica</i>
Currant/Gooseberry	<i>Ribes sp.</i>
Douglas Iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>
Hollyleaf Cherry	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
Island Alum Root	<i>Heuchera maxima</i>
Island Bush Poppy	<i>Dendromenon harfordii</i>
Island Bush Snapdragon	<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>
Lemonadeberry	<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus sp.</i>
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos sp.</i>
Matilija Poppy	<i>Romneya coulteri</i>
Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum polycarpum</i>
Mesa Bush Mallow	<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>
Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus sp.</i>
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>
Sage	<i>Salvia sp.</i>
Showy Penstemon	<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>
Silktassel	<i>Garrerya elliptica</i>
Stonecrop	<i>Sedum sp.</i>
Sugarbush	<i>Rhus ovata</i>
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>
Tree Mallow	<i>Lavater assurgentiflora</i>
Valley Oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>
Wild Lilac	<i>Ceanothus sp.</i>
Woolly Blue Curls	<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

Attract Butterflies – These plants provide a food source for butterflies and caterpillars.

Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>
Butterfly Bush	<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>
Coyote Mint	<i>Monardella ssp.</i>
Encelia	<i>Encelia sp.</i>
Golden Yarrow	<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>
Guadalupe Island Rock Daisy	<i>Periflye incana</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus sp.</i>
Mexican Marigold	<i>Tagetes lemonii</i>
San Clemente Island Cherry	<i>Munzithamnus blarii</i>
Seaside Daisy	<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea sp.</i>

Common Yarrow²



Western Redbud¹⁴



Plant Water Needs High, Moderate or Low

Common Name	Plant Type	
Alum Root Hybrids	Perennial	M
Alum Root/Coral Bells	Perennial	M
Apache Plume	Shrub	L
Bearberry	Ground Cover (GC)	M
Bigberry Manzanita	Shrub / GC	L
Bigleaf Lupine	Perennial	L
Black Sage (creeping)	GC	L
Blue-eyed Grass	Perennial	L
Bush Anemone	Shrub	M
Bush Sunflower	Shrub	L
Butterfly Bush	Shrub	M
California Bay Laurel	Tree	M
California Buckwheat	Shrub / GC	L
California Evening-Primrose	Perennial	L
California Flannelbush	Shrub	M
California Fuchsia	GC / Perennial	L
California Honeysuckle	Shrub	M
California Poppy	Perennial	L
California Redbud	Tree / Shrub	L
California Sycamore	Tree	M
California Wild Grape	Tree	L
Canyon Live-Forever	Perennial	M
Chalk Dudleya	Perennial	M
Chaparral Currant	Shrub	L
Cleveland Sage	Shrub	L
Cleveland's Beardtongue	Perennial	L
Coast Live Oak	Tree	L
Coast Silktassel	Shrub	M
Common Monkeyflower	Annual / Perennial	H
Common Sage	Perennial	M
Common Yarrow	GC / Perennial	L

Red Hot Poker³⁰



Coyote Mint²⁷



Common Name	Plant Type	
Cotoneaster	Shrub / GC	M
Coyote Bush	Shrub / GC	L
Creeping Mahonia	GC	M
Creeping Wire Vine	GC	M
Deergrass (Dwarf Mullee)	Perennial	M
Desert Beauty/Indigo Bush	GC	L
Desert Marigold	Perennial	L
Desert Willow	Tree	L
Desert/Apricot Mallow	Perennial	L
Douglas Iris	Bulb	L
Dymondia Silver Carpet	GC	L
English Lavender	Perennial	L
English Thyme	GC	L
Evergreen Currant	Shrub / GC	M
Fairy Duster	Shrub	L
Firecracker Penstemon	Perennial	L
Fremont's Cottonwood	Tree	M
French Lavender	Perennial	L
Giant Wild Rye	Grass	L
Globe Gilia	Annual	M
Golden Currant	Shrub	M
Golden Yarrow	Perennial	M
Greek Oregano	Perennial	M
Harvest Brodiaea	Perennial	L
Heart-leaf Penstemon	Shrub	L
Hollyleaf Cherry	Tree/Shrub	L
Hummingbird Sage	Perennial	L
Interior Live Oak	Tree	L
Island Bush Poppy	Shrub	L
Island Bush Snapdragon	Shrub	L
Lemonade Berry	Shrub	L

Common Name	Plant Type	
Leopard Lily	Perennial	H
Matilija Poppy	Shrub	L
Mexican Bush Sage	Shrub	L
Mexican Elderberry	Tree / Shrub	L
Mexican Whorled Milkweed	Perennial	M
Mock Orange	Shrub	M
Mosquito Fern	Perennial	H
Oneleaf Onion	Perennial	M
Oregon Grape	Shrub	M
Our Lord's Candle	Shrub	L
Pacific Sedum Stonecrop	GC	L
Pacific Wax Myrtle	Shrub/Tree	M
Palmer's Penstemon	Perennial	L
Panamint Beard Penstemon	Perennial	L
Parry's Nolina	Perennial	M
Pink-flowering Currant	Shrub	M
Purple Needle Grass	Perennial	L
Purple Sage	Shrub	L
Red Creeping Thyme	GC	L
Red-flowering Currant	Shrub	M
Red-Hot Poker	Perennial	L
Rockrose	Shrub	L
Rosemary	Shrub	L
Santa Barbara Ceanothus	Shrub / GC	L
Scarlet Bugler	Perennial	L
Scarlet/Western Columbine	Perennial	M
Scrub Oak	Tree	L
Sea Lavender / Statice	Perennial	M
Seaside Daisy / Beach Aster	Perennial	H

Purple Needle Grass¹³



Sulphur Buckwheat¹



Common Name	Plant Type	
Sheep Fescue (Blue)	Grass	L
Showy Penstemon	Perennial	L
Sky Lupine	Perennial	L
Society Garlic	Bulb	L
Spanish Lavener	Perennial	L
Spreading Rush	Perennial	H
Spring Cinquefoil	Perennial	M
St. Catherine's Lace	Shrub / GC	L
Sticky Monkeyflower	Perennial	L
Sulphur Buckwheat	Shrub / GC	L
Sweet Lavender	Perennial	L
Tidy Tips	Annual	L
Toyon	Shrub	L
Tree Poppy	Shrub	L
Twinberry Honeysuckle	Shrub	M
Valley Oak	Tree	M
Western Azalea	Shrub	H
Western Blue Flax	Perennial	H
Western Pennyroyal	Perennial	L
Western Spice Bush	Shrub	M
White Mariposa Lily	Perennial	M
Wild/Sand Strawberry	GC	M
Woolly Bluecurls	Perennial	L
Woolly Thyme	GC	L
Woolly Yarrow	GC / Perennial	L

Firewise Landscape and Fuel Modification Zones

Courtesy of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and Forestry Division

A fuel modification plan identifies specific zones within a property that are subject to fuel modification. A fuel modification zone is a strip of land where combustible native or ornamental vegetation has been modified and/or partially or totally replaced with drought tolerant, fire resistant plants.

Fuel modification reduces the radiant and convective heat, and provides fire suppression forces a defensible space in which to take action. Fuel modification zones are strategically placed as a buffer to open space, or areas of natural vegetation and generally would occur surrounding the perimeter of a subdivision, commercial development, or isolated development of a single-family dwelling.

Zone Definitions:

ZONE A – Setback Zone

- Moderate to high water use plants can be used in this area which encompasses the first 20' around the structure.
- No trees should be planted within the first 10' of this zone.
- Trees in this zone should not be planted where branches encroach within 10' of a chimney or roof.
- Vegetation should be low growing, 2' tall or less, except for specimen plantings.
- This zone should be free of any wooden structures such as decks and patios.

ZONE B – Irrigated Zone

- Extends outward from Zone A for 80' or more.
- The first 20-30' of this zone can include plants in Zone A, but low to moderate water use plants are more desirable.
- Shrubs should be spaced at least three times the height of the plant away from each other (edge to edge) or groups of shrubs to a maximum of 15'.
- Any turf used in Zone B should be placed to act as a buffer between a structure and a potential fire hazard.
- Irrigation should be used primarily to maintain plant health and moisture during periods of fire danger.

ZONE C – Thinning Zone

- Extends outward from Zone B for up to 100'.
- This zone will not normally be irrigated except to establish supplemental plantings.
- This zone contains mostly thinned native vegetation, but may include vegetation planted for erosion control and slope stability.

ZONE D – Interface Thinning Zone

- This zone extends outward from Zone C for up to 100'.
- Modification in this zone is usually limited to thinning of existing vegetation to reduce fuel load.

ALL ZONES

- Tree spacing should be 30' between canopies.
- Zone A + B + C + D will be less than or equal to a distance of 200' measured horizontally from the structure.

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- [Xeriscape Handbook](#), American Water Works Association, Fulcrum Publishing, 1999.
- [Xeriscaping: Planning and Planting Low-Water Gardens](#), Mark Rumary, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. 2001.

Resources

- BeWaterWise ~ www.bewaterwise.com
- Matilija Nursery ~ www.matilijanursery.com/
- Los Angeles County Fire Department ~ www.fire.lacounty.gov/
- Fuel Modification Plan (download) ~ www.fire.lacounty.gov/Forestry/FuelModificationPlan.asp
- California Native Plant Society ~ www.cnps.org
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ~ www.mwdh2o.com/
- Cal Photos: Plants ~ calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/
- California Invasive Plant Council ~ www.cal-ipc.org/
- University of California ~ The University and Jepson Herbaria ~ ucjeps.berkeley.edu/
- The California Chaparral Institute ~ www.californiachaparral.com

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NOTES

Scale: 1/4" = 1'

