
Eschscholzia

Annual flowers

californica

California poppy

Plant seed in fall or winter for best results. Don't cover the seed. You can also plant out seedlings in early spring. Blooms into early summer. Reseeds and can be perennial.

Anemopsis

Aquatics

californica

Yerba mansa

Local native that runs rampantly around wet soil areas near streams and vernal pools. Pretty white floewrs.

Artemisia

Aquatics

douglasiana

Mugwort

Bog or marginal. Spreads very readily. Fragrant foliage.

Equisetum

Aquatics

arvense

Scouring Horsetail rush

Bog or marginal plant. Native horsetail. Can run all over your yard. Variegatus stays smaller.

hymale

Horsetail rush

Bog or marginal plant. Native horsetail. Invasive. Variegatus stays smaller.

Juncus

Aquatics

patens

Rush--Spike rush

Marginal or bog. Spiny dark green foliage.

Phyla

Aquatics

nodiflora

Lippia

Also sold as *Lippia repens*. Very tough, vigorous ground cover. Pretty flowers, but weedy and invasive.

Ranunculus

Aquatics

flammula

Creeping buttercup

Marginal. Very pretty yellow flowers on a low running plant.

A sampling of California native plants.

Sagittaria

Aquatics

latifolia

Broadleaf arrowhead

Bog or marginal. Big dramatic leaves. Edible tubers.

montevidensis

Giant arrowhead

Bog or marginal. Big dramatic leaves. Very pretty flowers.

Saururus

Aquatics

cernuus

Lizard's tail

Bog or marginal. Can be submerged several inches deep.

Tellima

Aquatics

grandiflora

Fringe cups

Bog plant or marginal. Delicate looking spikes of white flowers.

Typha

Aquatics

latifolia

common cattail

Bog or marginal. Can be invasive, not for small yards. Our native species.

Blechnum

Ferns

spicant

Deer fern

North coast native fern. Can grow in deep shade.

Polystichum

Ferns

munitum

Western sword fern

Our native Western sword fern. Can get quite large, but usually about 3 to 4' across here. Can take some drought. Cold hardy.

Woodwardia

Ferns

fimbriata

x

Giant chain fern

Attractive upright grower to 3 - 4'. Will tolerate sun, somewhat dry conditions. One of the toughest ferns for our area.

A sampling of California native plants.

Muhlenbergia

Grasses

rigens

Deer grass

Big, evergreen native grass with shiny foliage. Give it room!

Armeria

Ground covers,
perennial

maritima

Sea Pink

Makes little mounds of dark shiny green needle-like leaves. Pink flowers are very showy in spring. Easy to grow, but wants to be on the dry side.

Epilobium

Ground covers,
perennial

species

California fuchsia

Several species and varieties, ranging from 6" to 2'+. Bright orange-red flowers in late summer through fall attract hummingbirds. Tolerate drought or infrequent watering. Will grow in very light shade or full sun. Cut back when they look rough in the winter.

Baccharis

Ground covers,
shrubby

pilularis

'Twin Peaks'

dwarf Coyote bush

Very tough, drought-tolerant native. Great for attracting beneficial insects. Gets a borer that causes branches to die out. Cut back severely when infested.

Ceanothus

Ground covers,
shrubby

griseus

horizontalis

Carmel Creeper

2' tall by 5'+ wide. Attractive large, shiny leaves; light blue flowers in April.

griseus

'Yankee Point'

To 3-4' tall, spreading widely. Easily kept lower by pruning. Attractive large, shiny leaves. Medium blue flowers in April.

x

'Centennial'

Centennial wild lilac

Lowest-growing ceanothus, just a few inches tall. Small leaves, vivid blue flowers

Ribes

Ground covers,
shrubby

A sampling of California native plants.

viburnifolium

Catalina Perfume

Will grow in considerable shade, spreads steadily to make an attractive ground cover. Fragrant foliage. Light pink flowers in winter, red berries. Evergreen.

Achillea

Perennials

millefolium

Yarrow

Ferny foliage, pale pink flowers on the species. Many varieties available with lighter or darker flowers. Flowers in early summer. Spreads steadily, can be a little invasive. Drought tolerant.

Aquilegia

Perennials

eximia

Serpentine columbine

Native columbine.

formosa

Western columbine

Native columbine. Red/orange flowers are smaller than hybrids, on longer stems. Big plant.

Asclepias

Perennials

fascicularis

Narrowleaf milkweed

Thin leaves, pale lavender flowers. Deciduous native that is “is probably the single most important host plant for Monarch butterflies in California.” [CalScape.org].

Asclepias

Perennials

speciosa

Showy milkweed

Big greyish leaves, dusty-pink flowers make this one of the more attractive native milkweeds. Slow to get going, but can get quite large over time. Larval food source for monarch butterflies. Flowers attract many types of butterflies.

Dudleya

Perennials

pulverulenta

Chalk dudleya

Cute little succulent with silvery foliage. CA native that's easy to grow. There are several other native dudleyas that do well here as well.

Heuchera

Perennials

maxima

Island alumroot

Native heuchera with bigger, bolder leaves than most. Gets to about 2 feet. Flower spikes of pale pink flowers stand up another foot above the foliage. Good drought tolerance.

A sampling of California native plants.

Coral bells

Series of hybrids that included native species, from Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Showy flowers like *Heuchera sanguinea* range from light to dark pink. Canyon Duet makes a low mat and has especially showy flowers.

Iris

Perennials

*douglasiana**Pacific Coast iris*

Numerous varieties in a range of colors. Best in light shade. Prone to crown and root rot; water carefully.

Mimulus

Perennials

*aurantiacus**Sticky monkeyflower*

Shrubby perennial with narrow, glossy dark green leaves, orange flowers from May - July. Prone to crown and root rot.

Monardella

Perennials

*odoratissima**Coyote Mint*

Western native, with heavy mint scented leaves, heads of small beebalm like flowers. Prefers dry conditions.

Penstemon

Perennials

*heterophyllus**purdyi**Summer snapdragon*

'Blue Bedder' is the best known form of this native penstemon. Great hummingbird native.

Romneya

Perennials

*coulteri**Matilija poppy*

Tall to 5 feet or more, spreading steadily by rhizomes. Flowers look like fried eggs. Needs room.

Salvia

Perennials

species/varieties

Many species and varieties available.

Sages

Hundreds of species and cultivars. Important for low-water landscapes. Attract hummingbirds and pollinators. Native species are mostly woody shrubs that bloom in late spring. Southwestern species bloom summer and fall, some nearly all the time.

A sampling of California native plants.

Salvia

Perennials

spathacea

Hummingbird sage

Forms clumps with 6-8" leaves; large clusters of magenta flrs, changing to orange-red. Very aromatic. Tolerates shade. 5° - 10°.

Satureja

Perennials

douglasii

Yerba Buena

Pungent foliage, smells somewhat like spearmint, on low coastal native. Now named Clinopodium, but usually still labeled Satureja in nurseries. Not widely planted in the interior, perhaps not tolerant of dry heat.

Trichostema

Perennials

lanatum

Woolly blue curls

Native perennial with pretty blue flowers. Plant grows to about 4 feet tall in bloom.

Brodiaea

Perennials
(bulb)

species

Brodiaea

CA native bulbs, mostly blue flowers in late spring. Tolerates poor soil. Easy to grow, multiply readily.

Camassia

Perennials
(bulb)

species

Camass, Quamash

Includes CA natives. C. quamash is edible and nutritious.

Lilium

Perennials
(bulb)

pardalinum

Leopard lily

CA native sometimes available from specialists.

Oxalis

Perennials
(bulb)

oregona

Oxalis

There are oxalis that are well-behaved garden plants, and others that are highly invasive weeds. This species has pink flowers and spreads moderately. O. purpurea has purple leaves, white flowers. A native one for shady areas is O. oregona. The weed that blooms in spring, called sourgrass, is O. pes-caprae

A sampling of California native plants.

Triteleia

Perennials
(bulb)

species

Triteleia

Like Brodiaea, which they used to be called. Grassy foliage, trumpet-shaped meadow flowers. CA natives.

Salvia

Shrubby
perennials

apiana

White sage

3' tall and wide; white flowers, fragrant foliage. Hardy to 20° or lower. Subject to crown and root rot.

clevelandii

'Allen Chickering'

Selected for especially showy lavender-blue fls

clevelandii

'Allen Chickering'

Allen Chickering Cleveland sage

Stiffly upright evergreen shrub to 4-5' tall. Whorls of lavender blue flowers.

clevelandii

'Aromas'

Aromas Cleveland sage

Larger growing. 'Whirly Blue' is similar.

sonomensis

'Dara's Choice'

Dara's Choice Sonoma sage

Low, spreading with grey-green lvs., purple flowers. 10°. This is probably a hybrid.

sonomensis

Sonoma sage

Prostrate grey chaparral native with deep purple flowers. 15°.

Arctostaphylos

Shrubs

bakeri

'Louis Edmunds'

Louis Edmunds manzanita

Upright manzanita that is tolerant of garden conditions. Shrub to about 6' tall Grey-green leaves, pink flowers.

Calycanthus

Shrubs

occidentalis

Spice bush

Riparian native plant to 4 to 8 feet tall. Spreads by suckers. Fragrant, interesting flowers. Needs some shade.

Carpenteria

Shrubs

A sampling of California native plants.

californica

Elizabeth

Bush anemone

Shiny leaves, compact growth habit. White anemone-like flowers in late spring.

Ceanothus

Shrubs

maritimus

'Valley Violet'

Wild lilac

Arboretum All-Star with a compact growth habit and lighter violet flowers than other wild lilacs. Grows to 3 to 4 feet tall. Coastal native species that has been very prone to crown and root rot for me. Perhaps better with some shade.

x

'Concha'

Wild lilac

6'+ tall, 6'+ wide. Dark green leaves, dark blue flowers. One of the most garden tolerant Ceanothus.

x

'Dark Star' 'Julia Phelps'

Wild lilac

These two varieties are nearly identical. Both have heavy bloom, intense cobalt blue flowers, small crinkly dark green leaves. Very prone to crown and root rot.

Ceanothus

Shrubs

griseus

horizontalis

Carmel Creeper

2' tall by 5'+ wide. Attractive large, shiny leaves; light blue flowers in April.

griseus

'Yankee Pt.'

Yankee Point Carmel creeper

To 3-4' tall, spreading widely. Easily kept lower by pruning. Attractive large, shiny leaves. Medium blue flowers in April. Very reliable variety.

Eriogonum

Shrubs

giganteum

St. Catherine's Lace

Very large native buckwheat for the back of the border.

grande

rubescens

Red buckwheat

Low-growing native buckwheat with attractive burnt-red flowers.

umbellatum

'Shasta Sulfur'

Sulfur flower

Green leaves with white felt underneath. Bright yellow tiny flowers age to a distinctive rust color. Very drought tolerant.

Fremontodendron

Shrubs

A sampling of California native plants.

X

'California Glory'

Flannel bush (hybrids)

Very high failure rate due to crown rot. Needs perfect drainage. Don't irrigate once established. Other varieties include Pacific Sunset, San Gabriel, and Ken Taylor. All equally sensitive to rot. Showy flowers and fuzzy leaves make this a very striking plant. Fuzz on leaves and flowers is very irritating to skin and eyes.

Garrya

Shrubs

elliptica

'James Roof'

Coast silktassel

Hard to find, but this native shrub has clean, dense foliage and interesting flower tassels in spring.

Heteromeles

Shrubs

arbutifolia

Toyon

One of the most adaptable California native shrubs. Moderate growth rate, 2 to 3 feet a year. Flowers are very attractive to beneficial insects. Beautiful shiny red fruit hangs on into winter, attracts birds. Can get fireblight disease and lace bugs.

arbutifolia

'Putah Gold'

Putah gold Toyon

This variety has yellow berries. Looks especially nice mixed in with the red form.

Mahonia

Shrubs

aquifolium

Oregon grape

'Compacta' is a denser, shorter variety; 'John Muir' is a selection with denser foliage, spinier leaves.

nevinii

Nevin mahonia

Endangered California native species with gangly growth habit.

pinnata

'Ken Hartman'

CA Holly grape

Looks like Oregon grape, but crinklier and spinier leaves. New growth showy. 6 feet or so. Great for birds, including hummingbirds.

Myrica

Shrubs

californica

Pacific Wax myrtle

Needs good drainage, infrequent watering. I have not seen this do well in Davis. Dies out from root or crown rot. Not recommended.

Prunus

Shrubs

A sampling of California native plants.

ilicifolia

ilicifolia

Hollyleaf cherry

Used as a large shrub or moderate-sized tree. Shiny leaves, upright habit. Masses of white flowers in spring attract beneficial insects. Cherry-sized fruit are edible but bland; birds like them. Fruit litter and reseeding can be substantial. Very drought-tolerant.

Rhamnus

Shrubs

californica

Coffeeberry

CA native shrub that looks very much like Toyon (Heteromeles). Doesn't want summer irrigation. 'Leatherleaf' has larger, darker leaves. There are dwarf varieties that are more common in the nursery trade than the species.

crocea

ssp. ilicifolia

Redberry buckthorn

Slow-growing native to 3 - 10'. Doesn't want summer irrigation. Small red berries are pretty in winter. Looks like a little oak tree. Hard to find.

Ribes

Shrubs

aureum

Golden currant

Yellow flowers, yellow fruit, nice informal habit with light grey-green leaves. 4 - 6' tall, spreading steadily to make thickets.

malvaceum

'Dancing Tassels'

Chaparral currant

Blooms mid-winter with showy pink flowers that are very attractive to hummingbirds. Looks best with some shade and summer irrigation, but can sustain drought.

sanguineum

glutinosum

Pink winter currant

Very showy-flowered ornamental currant. 5' - 10'+, easily pruned for size control. Pink blossoms in spring, blue-black fruit. Deciduous. Great for hummingbirds and songbirds.

speciosum

Fuchsia-flowering gooseberry

Very spiny, interesting-looking shrub with attractive flowers. Nearly evergreen.

Ribes

Shrubs

viburnifolium

Catalina Perfume

Will grow in considerable shade, spreads steadily to make an attractive ground cover. Fragrant foliage. Light pink flowers in winter are tiny, but attract hummingbirds; followed by tiny red berries. Evergreen.

Romneya

Shrubs

coulteri

Matilija poppy

Actually an herbaceous perennial, not a shrub, but big enough to be used like a shrub. Gets 4 to 8 feet tall. Rhizomes spread steadily and persistently. Coarse looking plant, but very showy in bloom. "Fried egg flower" due to the large flowers with white petals and yellow centers.

A sampling of California native plants.

Rosa Shrubs

californica

California wild rose

Soft pink, delicate-looking single flowers on a plant that spreads freely by suckers.

Salvia Shrubs

species/varieties

Sages

Hundreds of species and cultivars. Important for low-water landscapes. Attract hummingbirds and pollinators. Native species include *S. apiana*, *clevelandii*, *sonomensis*; they bloom in late spring. Southwestern species bloom summer and fall.

Symphoricarpos Shrubs

albus

Snowberry

Informal, open shrub to 3 - 6'. grown for the large white berries in fall and winter. Easy, tough, attractive to birds. Spreads to form thickets.

Acer Trees

macrophyllum

Bigleaf maple

California native maple; grows near streams and in moist canyons. Huge tree, really much too large for most yards.

negundo

Boxelder

Native maple that doesn't look like a maple due to divided leaves. Riparian tree that can become drought tolerant with age. There is a variegated variety that has been planted at times (interesting specimen in El Macero). Subject to boxelder bug, which is a nuisance pest, so not recommended.

Aesculus Trees

californica

California buckeye

California native. Suitable for dry, native landscapes. Drops leaves in late summer, which makes it kind of odd-looking. But easy to grow in xeric landscapes.

Calocedrus Trees

decurrens

Incense cedar

Also sold as *Libocedrus*. Western native. Grows 2' a year, eventually very large. Tolerant of heat, sun, shade, poor soil. Grows as narrow column for first 10 years or so, then slowly spreads.

A sampling of California native plants.

Juglans

Trees

californica

var. hindsii

Northern California black walnut

Endangered native species of walnut, but hard to recommend for home gardens. Huge, hard to garden under.

Pinus

Trees

sabiniana

Gray, Foothill pine

Our native pine in the coast range and the lower foothills. Can grow 5' - 6' per year with an open, spreading habit. Very tolerant of heat, wind, drought. Not common in the nursery trade.

Populus

Trees

fremontii

Fremont cottonwood

Huge, fast-growing native cottonwood. Roots spread far and wide. Branches break and fall. Suitable for rural properties as a great perch for raptors. Otherwise not recommended.

species

Cottonwoods and poplars

Very fast-growing trees that have roots that spread far beyond the canopy and sucker profusely. Subject to borers. May be suitable for farms or rural properties. Not recommended.

Quercus

Trees

agrifolia

Coast Live oak

One of our native live oaks. Grows 2' - 3' per year, with dense, hollylike foliage and a round habit. Attractive dark gray bark. Drawbacks include heavy leaf drop in spring and heavy network of fine surface roots, which make them hard to garden under. Very drought tolerant.

chrysolepis

Canyon Live oak

One of our native live oaks. Grows 2' - 3' per year with shiny oval leaves and a round habit. Smooth, white bark. Drought tolerant.

dumosa

California scrub oak

Grows 1' - 2' per year with a shrubby growth habit. Not really attractive enough for use except in a native landscape.

kelloggi

Ca Black oak

Grows 3' - 4' per year with large, shiny green, classic oak leaves and attractive dark bark. New growth soft pink.

lobata

Valley oak

Also called California White oak. Our big native oak. Grows 3' per year, initially upright, then massively spreading. This is a huge tree. Very tolerant of drought, heat, wind. Young trees can be irrigated; don't water mature trees. Oak galls are a curiosity but harmless; some do litter. Acorns preferred for high oil, low tannins. Native American staple crop.

A sampling of California native plants.

wislizenii

Interior live oak

One of our native live oaks. Grows 3' per year, eventually broader than tall. Glossy leaves. Gawky when young, but ultimately dense and attractive.

Quercus

Trees

chrysolepis

Canyon live oak

Grows well here as a slow-growing evergreen tree. Acorns preferred for high oil, low tannins. Native American staple crop.

douglasii

Blue oak

Deciduous foothill species that can get very large, but quite slow growing.

Salix

Trees

species

native willows

Several species of willows are native to our riparian areas: *S. exigua*, *S. goodingii*, *S. lasiandra*, *S. melanopsis*. These are suckering large shrubs of varying heights. They live along streams and tend to require water. Great for wildlife and used in restoration projects, but not really garden plants.

Sambucus

Trees

nigra

Elderberry

Multitrunk large shrub or small tree. Very fast-growing, rank; not for small gardens. Can be pruned for size control. Fruit attracts birds. "Unripe fruits may be toxic to people, but ripe fruits are reportedly edible, probably best when cooked." [Calscape.org] 'Laciniata' has divided leaves, 'Purpurea' has purple-tinged leaves. 'Aurea' has golden-green leaves.

Arctostaphylos

Trees or large shrubs

manzanita

'Dr. Hurd'

Dr. Hurd manzanita

Upright manzanita that is tolerant of garden conditions. Large, dark green leaves, nice growth habit like a small tree. White fls

Ceanothus

Trees or Large Shrubs

x

Ray Hartman

Wild lilac

Hybrid of Southern California parentage that grows to 10 - 15' or more. The most tree-like wild lilac in the nursery trade. Attractive, large shiny leaves. Pretty medium blue flowers in large clusters in spring. Water deeply and very infrequently in summer.

A sampling of California native plants.

Cercis

**Trees or Large
Shrubs**

occidentalis

Western redbud

Grows to 8 - 10'+, as large shrub or small multi-trunked tree. Beautiful magenta flowers in March, and distinctive grey-green foliage. Nice plantings in the UC Davis Arboretum. Very drought-tolerant and requires that summer irrigation be infrequent. Susceptible to verticillium wilt. Hybrid 'Oklahoma' is more tolerant of garden watering than *C. occidentalis*, more tolerant of heat than *C. canadensis*.

Aristoloch Grown for bizarre flowers. *A. macrophylla* (*durior*) and the native species *A. californica* are rare in the trade. *A. littoralis* (*elegans*) is very tender. **Vines**

californica

California Dutchman's Pipe

Found in Coast Range and Sierra foothills, growing on shrubs or trees in shade or North exposure. Difficult to propagate, so hard to find, but a tough plant once established. Important larval food source for the pipevine swallowtail.

Vitis

Vines

californica

Grapes

Our native grapes have seedy but very sweet, edible fruit that attracts wildlife. Some selected varieties in the trade have showy fall color.