
Annual flowers

Antirrhinum

majus

Hot colors, dramatic spikes of blooms. Plant in fall or early spring for a long season of bloom. May live through summer. Attracts hummingbirds.

Snapdragon

Begonia

semperflorens

Compact flowers in pink, red, and white give lots of bloom in shade for many months. Red-leaf types can take full sun. Attracts hummingbirds.

Bedding or Fibrous Begonia

Dianthus

species

Nearly always in bloom. Actually short-lived perennials. Very easy to grow. Attracts hummingbirds.

Pinks

Ipomoea

species

Beautiful flowers on summer annual vines. *I. tricolor* and *I. nil* are the familiar summer morning glories. Both will reseed prolifically. *I. alba* is Moonflower, with fragrant flowers that open at night. *I. quamoclit* is Cardinal Climber, with feathery divided leaves and bright red tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. Easy to grow from seed.

Annual

Salvia

splendens

Vivid red flowers attract hummingbirds. There are also purplish forms and mixed strains available. Easy to grow.

Scarlet sage

Ground covers, perennial

Aptenia

cordifolia

Popular succulent with red flowers. Rampant! Blooms freely, smothers weeds. Bees love it. Frost turns leaves to mush sometimes, but it quickly resprouts in spring.

Evergreen

Red apples

Epilobium

species

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.

Deciduous

California fuchsia

Perennials

Asclepias

fascicularis

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

Narrowleaf milkweed

Asclepias

speciosa

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.

Showy milkweed

tuberosa

Milkweed native to eastern U.S. with very showy flowers over a long season. Attracts butterflies, including monarch, as well as hummingbirds and bees. Takes a couple of years to flower.

Butterfly weed

Canna

hybrids

Spread freely. Very dramatic colors. Will grow in regular soil, or partially submerged. Attracts hummingbirds.

Canna lily

Deciduous

Cuphea

Attract hummingbirds.

Dicliptera

Attracts hummingbirds.

Digiplexis

Attracts hummingbirds.

Digitalis

Attracts hummingbirds.

Epilobium

Attracts hummingbirds.

Fuchsia

hybrids

mixed trailing & upright. Attracts hummingbirds.

magellanica

Big, hardy fuchsia. Surprisingly sun-tolerant. 'Pumila' is a compact variety, 'Alba' has white flowers. There are forms with variegated and golden foliage. Attracts hummingbirds.

Semi-decid.

triphylla 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt'

Attracts hummingbirds.

Semi-decid.

Hesperaloe

parviflora

Yucca-like plant, pink flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.

Heuchera

sanguinea

Attracts hummingbirds.

Coral bells

Evergreen

x Canyon Quartet

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. Attracts hummingbirds.

Coral bells

Evergreen

Monardella

odoratissima

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

Coyote Mint

Penstemon

heterophyllus purdyi

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

Summer snapdragon

Evergreen

Salvia

species/varieties Many species and varieties

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.

Sages

varieties differ

Shrubby perennials

Lavandula

stoechas pedunculata hybrids

New! Mostly very compact plants with showy flowers in shades of purple, pink, and white. Profuse bloomers, attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. Grown for flowers, not fragrance. 'Barcelona', 'Chica' (very dwarf), 'Coco', 'Madrid' are some new strains, all in a range of colors.

Spanish lavender

Evergreen

Salvia

species/varieties Many species and varieties

There are dozens of species and varieties becoming available. Attracts hummingbirds.

Sages

varieties differ

Shrubs

Abelia

X 'Ed Goucher'

Medium shrub with light pink flowers, attracts hummingbirds. Very adaptable. Please don't shear them...they look best if allowed to grow naturally with only light trimming. Cut back hard every couple of years for size control if necessary.

Evergreen

Ed Goucher abelia

x 'Kaleidoscope'

Patented variety with pink and white variegated leaves.. Somewhat slower growing than the others, and seems to burn in full hot sun. Attractive to hummingbirds.

Evergreen

Kaleidoscope abelia

x *grandiflora*

Upright growing shrub with attractive, shiny foliage and a profusion of white flowers. Attractive to hummingbirds. Often pruned as a hedge, but looks great when left to grow naturally.

Evergreen

Glossy abelia

x *grandiflora* 'Sherwoodii'

Golden-leaf variety, new growth especially attractive. Attractive to hummingbirds. Often pruned as a hedge, but looks great when left to grow naturally.

Evergreen

Glossy abelia

Abutilon

hybrids

Many varieties available, with some large enough to qualify as large shrubs, but most aren't dense. Very shade tolerant. Hummingbirds love them. Easy to grow, sprawling plants that can be staked, pruned, or just allowed to spread.

Semi-deciduous

Flowering maple

Arbutus

unedo 'Compacta'

Showy pale pink flowers and orange fuzzy fruit, beautiful bark like madrone. Heat and drought tolerant. Grows 1 - 2' a year. Easily kept at 6' with one annual pruning. Elfin King and Oktoberfest are other dwarf, shrubby varieties. Attracts hummingbirds.

Evergreen

Strawberry bush

Arctostaphylos

bakeri 'Louis Edmunds'

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

Louis Edmunds manzanita

densiflorus 'Howard McMinn'

Low growing manzanita that is very tolerant of garden conditions. Dense foliage, white flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.

Howard McMinn manzanita

Buddleia

dauidi

Butterfly bushes love sun, attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and bloom all spring and summer. Dwarf types stay 3 - 5 feet, others range from 6 to 15 feet. Prune for size control. They flower on new growth.

Semi-decid.

Butterfly bush

Callistemon

citrinus

Fast-growing, tough shrubs with showy red flowers that attract hummingbirds. Very drought-tolerant.

Evergreen

Bottlebrush

***viminalis* 'Little John'**

Showy red flowers attract hummingbirds. Somewhat prone to crown and root rot. Water carefully.

Evergreen

Dwarf weeping bottlebrush

Camellia

japonica

Sacramento Valley's trademark winter-flowering shrub. Considered acid-loving. Attracts hummingbirds.

Evergreen

Japanese Camellia

Cestrum

elegans

Vigorous willowy shrub with flowers, over a long season, which are lightly fragrant. Hummingbirds love them. Frost damages the tops, but they resprout.

Semi-decid.

Red cestrum

Correa

***x* 'Carmine Bells'**

Correas bloom in winter with tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. Low, spreading habit. Drought tolerant. Somewhat prone to crown and root rot. This is a pink-flowered form.

Australian Fuchsia

Daphne

***odora* 'Marginata'**

Incredibly fragrant flowers in winter make it very popular. Famous for dying from crown and root rot. Very fussy about drainage! Light shade seems best. Neglect it carefully and you may be rewarded. Attracts hummingbirds.

Evergreen

Winter daphne

Echium

candicans (fastuosum)

Big spikes of showy blue flowers that attract bees and hummingbirds. Very drought-tolerant. Usually dies after flowering (or looks so bad you decide to take it out), then seedlings may pop up. Sometimes gets damaged by cold, but recovers. Becoming very invasive in coastal areas, but not here. 'Renelde' is a pure white form.

Pride of Madeira

Escallonia

rubra

Big shrub with dark, glossy green leaves and dark red flowers. Leaves have a resinous odor. Flowers attract hummingbirds. Used to get iron chlorosis due to our water; probably does better here now.

Red escallonia

Evergreen

Grevillea

many var's available

A very diverse group of shrubs from Australia. Many are cold hardy, others are frost tender. Generally very drought tolerant. Sensitive to phosphates. Hummingbirds love them. There are many types we can grow; only a few are listed here.

Grevilleas

Evergreen

Isopogon

species

I. buxifolius, formosus are two species available. Marginally frost-hardy. Hummingbirds love them

Semi-decid.

Lantana

camara

Vigorous, colorful shrubs with flowers in a range of warm colors. Very attractive to skipper butterflies. Attracts hummingbirds. Easy to grow. These types freeze back partially or completely each winter, but nearly always resprout in spring. New types are more dwarf. Labels are confusing about hardiness because they are now being sold as annuals in cold-winter areas.

Lavatera

maritima

Also sold as L. bicolor. Fast grower. Gawky growth habit--shear it occasionally, or prune it back severely in the spring or fall. Flowers are light pink with dark rose veins. Blooms all summer. The big bees love the flowers.

Mallow

Evergreen

Leucophyllum

frutescens

Very drought tolerant shrub for full sun. Covered with magenta pink flowers for several days at a time, intermittently through the spring and summer. Bees love them.

Texas ranger

Evergreen

Lonicera

korolkowii 'Zabelii'

Arching growth to 12', bluish foliage, deep rose flowers in late spring, bright red fruit in fall. Attract hummingbirds and songbirds.

Deciduous

Mahonia

pinnata 'Ken Hartman'

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

Evergreen

CA Holly grape

Ribes

malvaceum 'Dancing Tassels'

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.

Deciduous

Chaparral currant

sanguineum glutinosum

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.

Deciduous

Pink winter currant

speciosum

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

Deciduous

Fuchsia-flowering gooseberry

viburnifolium

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.

Catalina Perfume

Salvia

species/varieties

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.

varieties differ

Sages

Trees

Chilopsis

linearis

Lavender pink blossoms with darker outer petals over a long season. Very attractive to hummingbirds. Very drought tolerant. Foliage resembles willow, but it's not related. Light, open shade.

Deciduous

Desert Willow

Chitalpa

tashkentensis

Catalpa/Chilopsis hybrid. Drought-tolerant trees with showy flowers that attract hummingbirds (and bees). Subject to a blight disease in spring, mildew in summer, so leaves can be unattractive up close.

Deciduous

Catalpa/Desert Willow hybrid

Tilia

cordata 'Greenspire'

Grows 3 - 4' a year, with a formal pyramidal growth habit, rich green foliage. Very tidy. Pretty yellow flowers in June (bees like the flowers); nice yellow fall color.

Deciduous

Linden, Littleleaf

Trees or Large Shrubs

Arbutus

X 'Marina'

Showy pink-red flowers and fruit, beautiful bark like madrone. Heat and drought tolerant. Grows 2 - 3' a year. Gets quite large with age, but can be pruned. Attracts hummingbirds.

Strawberry tree

Evergreen

Arctostaphylos

manzanita 'Dr. Hurd'

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

Dr. Hurd manzanita

Erythrina

s\

species

Showy red flowers attract hummingbirds. Widely planted in mild-winter parts of California. Most are tender. *E. crista-galli* or *E. x bidwillii* may grow here as multi-trunk shrubs or even develop trunks, but not reliably. Not recommended as trees. Ok to try as perennials.

Coral Trees

Vitex

agnus-castus

Deciduous flowering shrub or tree to 10 feet or more tall and wide. Light blue flowers in summer are very attractive to the larger bees. White and dwarf forms also available. Fast-growing with light green palmate leaves. Tolerates heat, drought; will grow in partial shade.

Chaste tree

Deciduous

Vines

Campsis

Rampant, growing to 30' or more. Suckers sprout from root system, often many feet from the main plant.

radicans

Rampant vine with orange flowers, very attractive to hummingbirds. Sends up root suckers all over the yard. Twines.

Deciduous

Trumpet creeper

Clytostoma

callistegioides

Beautiful soft-lavender flowers in late spring. Attract hummingbirds. Well-mannered vine. Subject to iron chlorosis in heavy soils and where irrigated too frequently. Tendrils.

Evergreen

Lavender trumpet vine

Distictis

Only *D. buccinatoria* is hardy here. A well-mannered trumpet vine with spectacular flowers which attract hummingbirds. Tops were killed in '90 and '98. Best in full sun.

buccinatoria

Fast grower with showy red flowers that attract hummingbirds. Damaged by frost, and usually spends a year recovering without blooms. Also sold as **Phaedranthus**.

Evergreen

Blood-red trumpet vine

Humulus

lupulus

Extremely fast-growing to 30'+. Once grown commercially in the Sacramento area, the female flowers are used to flavor beer. Dies to the ground in winter; resprouts from roots. Likes plenty of water.

Deciduous

Hop vine

Lonicera

Honeysuckles. *L. japonica* is a rampant, invasive vine. The deciduous vining species are more manageable but have less fragrant flowers. *L. hildebrandiana* is fragrant, vigorous, but not invasive, but is rare in the trade.

heckrotii 'Gold Flame'

Moderate grower to 10' with gold and yellow flowers that attract hummingbirds. Easily confined to a trellis by pruning. Twines.

Deciduous

Gold Flame honeysuckle

japonica 'Halliana'

Rampant vine with fragrant white flowers (darkening yellow as they age) throughout the summer. Attracts hummingbirds. Can be pruned severely. Twines.

Evergreen

Hall's Japanese honeysuckle

sempervirens 'John Clayton'

Orange-yellow to scarlet flowers, scarlet fruit. Attracts hummingbirds and songbirds. Not rampant.

Evergreen

Trumpet honeysuckle

***x brownii* 'Dropmore Scarlet'**

Moderate grower to 10' with red and yellow flowers that attract hummingbirds. Twines.

Scarlet trumpet honeysuckle

Deciduous

Tecoma

capensis

Formerly Tecomaria. Shrubby vine with bright orange-red flowers (a yellow form is available) in fall and early winter. Hummingbirds love flowers. Recovers even from hard freezes. Tie up or grow as a shrub.

Semi-decid.

Cape honeysuckle

stans

New hybrids with much shrubbier growth habit. Blooms profusely summer through fall, so far in red, orange, and yellow varieties. Very attractive to hummingbirds.

Semi-decid.

Cape honeysuckle