

A vibrant garden scene featuring a gravel path that curves through a variety of plants. In the foreground, there are large clumps of yellow flowers with silvery-blue foliage. To the right, tall purple flowers stand prominently. In the background, a dark brown deer sculpture is positioned near several large, smooth, light-colored boulders. A dense green hedge runs across the top of the image. The overall atmosphere is bright and colorful.

# Water Wise Plants for Santa Barbara



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**W**ould you like to have a beautiful lush landscape but use less water? In our semi-arid climate, the water requirements of a plant are an important consideration. This list is designed to give the homeowner suggestions for reliable, water wise plants that can be used to create a beautiful landscape. These plants are adapted to our climate, reasonably drought tolerant, locally available, fairly resistant to pests and diseases, grow well in varying conditions and long-lived. We hope this gives you a good starting place for ideas for your landscape.



*Cercis occidentalis* in the background along with *Eriogonum giganteum* and *Artemisia* 'David's Choice' in the foreground make for a striking border along the pathway winding throughout this garden.



# Trees

## *Arbutus 'Marina'*

**Description:** Usually a single-trunked evergreen tree to 40 ft. tall and wide, often smaller. Oblong leathery deep green leaves, handsome reddish-brown shredded bark. Pink flowers in fall. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, large screening plant.

**Cultural conditions:** Plant in full sun. Can take regular watering or very little once established. No fertilizer. Tolerates a wide range of soils. No pests or diseases.



*Arbutus 'Marina'*

## *Brahea armata* (Mexican Blue Palm)

**Description:** Single-trunked fan palm to 40 ft. tall with a crown 6-8 ft. wide. Leaves are large, pale bluish silver. Flower stalks are pendulous, very showy, creamy white. Slow growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen palm tree. Plant several for a grove effect. Good near swimming pools.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water or fertilizer for established plants. Tolerates most soils, heat, wind. No significant pests.

## *Cercis occidentalis* (Western Redbud)

California Native Plant

**Description:** Deciduous multi-trunked tree to 15-18 ft. tall, equally wide. Leaves are blue-green, rounded, to 3 in. in diameter. Flowers are magenta and occur on bare branches in early spring. Brownish seed pods accompany foliage in spring and summer. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, hillside plant, native garden plant.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun best. No water or fertilizer once established. Tolerates most soils. Resistant to oak root fungus. Best planted in fall. Flowers best inland or in low spots where winter temperatures are cool.

## *Dodonaea viscosa* (Hopseed Bush)

**Description:** Multi-trunked evergreen tree-like shrub to 15 ft. tall and wide. Foliage is willow-like, green (popular cultivar D.v. 'Purpurea' has bronze-colored leaves). Small flowers are followed in summer by attractive clusters of papery winged seeds. Trunks are twisted, shaggy-barked and interesting. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, mass planting, tall screening shrub. Can also be pruned as a hedge or espalier. Not for high fire hazard areas.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun or part shade. No water or fertilizer needed; will tolerate regular watering. Grows in almost any soil, as well as adapting well to wind, heat, seaside conditions.

## *Eucalyptus ficifolia* (Red-Flowering Gum)

**Description:** Evergreen, single-trunked tree to 40 ft. tall, with rounded crown. Leaves are oblong, leathery, 3-7 in. long, deep green. Flowers in big clusters nearly all year, with peak of bloom in July and August. Most bloom light red, but other colors occur in some trees, including salmon, orange, cream, or light pink. One-inch seed pods follow flowering. Medium fast growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, massing, color accent.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No watering needed once established. Tolerant of a wide range of soils. May be susceptible to Eucalyptus longhorn borer. Prune to control growth. Remove clusters of seed pods from trees for the first few years to avoid damage from their weight. Do not plant in lawns. Best performance is on coast, less successful inland.

## *Eucalyptus torquata* (Coral Gum)

**Description:** Evergreen, erect, usually single-trunked tree to 20 ft. tall, with a narrow crown, drooping branches. Leaves are light green, either long and narrow or roundish. Flowers are coral and yellow, very showy, occur on and off all year long. Seed pods are also attractive. Bark is rough, peeling. Medium fast grower.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree or grove. Good flowering tree for small area. Good cut flowers.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No watering needed. Tolerant of a wide range of soils. May be susceptible to Eucalyptus longhorn borer. Prune to control growth. Staking and pruning of young trees is advised to develop good form.

## *Geijera parviflora* (Australian Willow)

**Description:** Evergreen, usually single-trunked tree 25-30 ft. tall, 20 ft. wide. Leaves are narrow, fine-textured, medium green, pendulous. Flowers and fruit are insignificant. Overall effect is reminiscent of weeping willow, but without its disadvantages. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen or background tree, mass planting. Good patio tree. Non-invasive roots make it a good candidate for paved areas.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Tolerates considerable drought or regular watering. No fertilizer needed. Likes well-drained soil; otherwise tolerant of wide range of soils. No pests.

## *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda)

**Description:** Single-trunked deciduous or semi-evergreen tree 25-40 ft. tall, 15-30 ft. wide. Foliage is very fine-textured, light green, deciduous from February – March through May – June. Canopy is tall, open, casting very light shade. Flowers are lavender, very showy, usually in June, but occurring any time from April to September. Large circular brown seed pods can be a nuisance when they drop.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, massing.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Water infrequently in summer. No fertilizer needed. Tolerates many soils, best in a sandy loam. No pest problems. Resistant to oak root fungus. Best away from immediate coast and out of very cold spots. Stake and prune young trees to develop good form.

**Special remarks:** One of our showiest and best loved trees.



*Brahea armata*

## *Leptospermum laevigatum* (Australian Tea Tree)

**Description:** Single- or multi-trunked evergreen tree or large shrub to 30 ft. tall, sometimes wider in age. Leaves are small, oval, olive-green. Canopy is dense, often weeping. Flowers are white, single, 1/2 in. wide, occur in spring. Trunk is picturesquely twisted, with great character. Bark is shaggy and brown. Medium-fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Best as a specimen tree, but can also be planted in groups or used as a screening plant. The remarkable form of its trunk and branches make it the star of the garden when used as a focal point.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water or fertilizer. Likes well-drained soils; is chlorotic in alkaline soils. Subject to root rot in poorly-drained soils; otherwise pest-free. Grows well along seashore.



*Leptospermum laevigatum*

### **Melaleuca nesophila** (Pink Melaleuca)

**Description:** Single- or multi-trunked evergreen tree or large shrub to 20 or eventually even to 30 ft. and equally wide. Leaves are roundish, 1 in. diameter, gray-green. Forms a natural canopy and twisted, interesting branches. Flowers are mauve, fading to white, occur nearly year-round. Bark is thick and spongy, fun to poke at. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, mass planting, screening, sheared hedge. Good near the ocean.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no watering or fertilizing. Tolerates poor soils as well as wind, heat, salt spray.

### **Melaleuca quinquinervia** (Cajeput Tree)

**Description:** Usually a single-trunked evergreen tree 20-40 ft. tall, upright habit. Leaves are oval, leathery, glossy, light green. Flowers are usually yellowish, sometimes purple or pink, and occur in summer and fall. Bark is white or tan, spongy, and peels off in layers. Fast growing. Often sold as *M. leucadendra*.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree or plant 8-10 ft. apart to make a grove. Good along coast.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no watering or fertilizing. Tolerates poor soils as well as wind, heat, salt spray.

### **Metrosideros excelsus**

(New Zealand Christmas Tree)

**Description:** Single-trunked evergreen tree to 30 ft., equally wide. Foliage is oval, leathery, dark green with woolly white undersides, dense. Flowers are deep red, in terminal clusters; blooms from May to July. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Tolerates watering,

but doesn't need it. No fertilizer. Takes most soils. No significant pests. Best along coast; tolerates seashore conditions. Stake and prune young trees to develop good form.

### **Olea 'Swan Hill'** (Fruitless Olive)

**Description:** Single- or multi-trunked evergreen tree to 30 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are like those of any other olive, narrow and leathery, but these are a deeper green. Flowers develop little or no pollen, tree bears little or no fruit. Trunks are smooth, gray, gnarled in age. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, massing.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water or fertilizer. Tolerates most any soil. No pests. Thin foliage to show off attractive branch structure.

### **Parkinsonia aculeata** (Jerusalem Thorn, Mexican Palo Verde)

**Description:** Usually a single-trunked deciduous tree to 30 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are tiny and sparsely arrayed along spiny green stems; open effect. Flowers are yellow and abundant in spring and also occur intermittently throughout the year. Fast growing when young, slower in maturing trees.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, especially well-suited to Spanish, Mexican or desert gardens. Branches are attractive in flower arrangements.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Do not water established plants in summer. No fertilizer required. Tolerant of many soils; prefers an alkaline soil. Stake young trees.



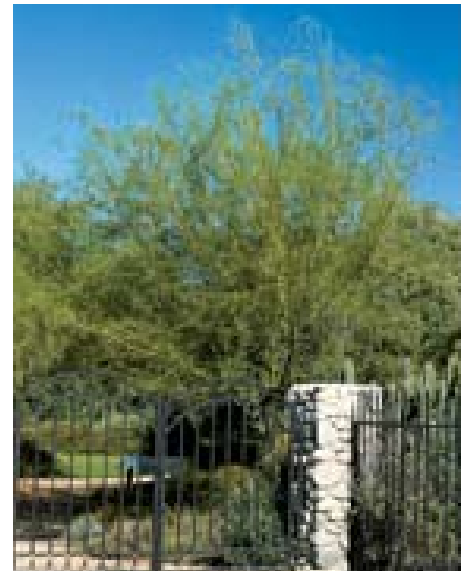
*Melaleuca nesophila*

### **Quercus agrifolia** (Coast Live Oak) California Native Plant

**Description:** Single- or multi-trunked evergreen tree 20-70 ft. tall, often spreading wider. Leaves are oval, 1-3 in. long, dark green, with spiny margins. Flowers are tiny, in clusters; acorns ripen in fall. Trunk and branches are muscular and heavy, with dark gray bark. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, grove, sheared hedge.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Do not water existing mature trees except in dry winters; trees are especially sensitive to watering around trunks. Water newly-planted trees to establish



*Parkinsonia aculeata*

them, then taper off. No fertilizer. Tolerates a wide range of soils, preferring well-drained sandy loam. Subject to usually non-lethal infestations of oak leaf caterpillar. Susceptible to oak root fungus, especially when watered in summer.

### **Schinus molle** (California Pepper)

**Description:** Usually a single-trunked evergreen tree 25-40 ft. tall and equally wide. Foliage is feathery, bright green, fine-textured, weeping. Tiny flowers in summer develop into pendulous clusters of peppercorn-like fruits (they are not edible). Trunk becomes massive, gnarled and fascinating in older trees. Bark is rough, brown. Fast-growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree for large areas.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water for established trees. No fertilizer. Tolerates many soils; poor drainage is OK. Susceptible to root rot, especially if over-watered. Sometimes subject to scale infestations. Can be messy, so consider planting away from paved areas.

### **Washingtonia robusta** (Mexican Fan Palm)

**Description:** Single-trunked evergreen fan palm to 100 ft. tall in age, canopy 6-8 ft. wide. Leaves fan-like, to 3 ft. wide. Trunk narrow; old leaves remain on tree covering trunk unless removed. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen tree, or in groups. Good near swimming pools. Skyline tree.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Best with some watering, but tolerates very arid conditions. No fertilizer. Tolerates many soils; best in a good loam. No pest problems.



# Large Shrubs (4–12 feet tall)

## *Arctostaphylos bakeri* 'Louis Edmunds'

(Manzanita) California Native Plant

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed shrub to 5-6 ft. tall. Leaves are small, somewhat leathery, gray-green. Flowers are pink, in clusters in winter. Interesting branching and red, very smooth bark. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Needs little or no supplemental watering, but is more tolerant of regular watering than other manzanitas. No fertilizer. Plant in a loose or rocky, fast-draining soil. Susceptible to branch dieback and other fungus diseases, as are all manzanitas, but less so than most.

## *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn'

(McMinn Manzanita)

California Native Plant

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub 5-6 ft. tall and up to 7 ft. wide. Leaves are small, oval, pointed, dark olive green. Stems are an attractive dark reddish brown. Flowers are pale pink and occur mostly in winter, though some can be found at any time of the year. The fruit is a small berry, hence the common name, which means "little apple" in Spanish. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Good massed on a slope or in the background.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to very light shade. Occasional summer watering; deep soak once a month (can tolerate much drought, especially along the coast). Be careful not to overwater in heavy soils. Does not like overhead watering; drip is best. No fertilizer. Tolerates a wide range of soils, but prefers a well-drained soil. Occasionally susceptible to branch dieback fungus, disfiguring but harmless reddish leaf galls, and root rot if overwatered in heavy soils.

## *Bauhinia galpinii* (Red Bauhinia)

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed evergreen or partially deciduous shrub that grows to 15 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are medium-sized, roundish, lobed like a butterfly. Flowers are orange or orange-red, very showy, occurring in summer, with some flowers all year. Habit is often loose and sprawling, sometimes almost vine-like. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen plant, or espalier against a wall or fence.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Occasional watering in summer. Fertilize annually when growing in poor soils. Tolerates most soils; prefers good drainage. No pests or diseases. Prune to control growth.

## *Bougainvillea* varieties (Bougainvillea)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrubs or woody vines, growing to 20 ft. tall and



*Cassia*

wide, or even more, depending on the variety. Leaves are roundish, to 3 in., bright green (a few varieties are variegated). At each leaf base is a large, wicked thorn. The flowers are very showy, in a wide range of colors including white, pink, red, purple, orange, yellow, gold, apricot, bronze. The flowers themselves are tiny; it is the papery bracts that attract attention. The growth habit of bougainvilleas varies from erect and shrubby to sprawling and viney; some kinds can be used as ground covers for very large areas. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Background shrubs, climbing vines, slope cover. Give these plants plenty of room, as they are very large, fast growing and not easy to prune. Plant away from traffic areas due to thorns.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no water (overwatered plants don't bloom well). No fertilizer. Thrives in most soils. No pests or diseases. Can take heavy pruning if necessary. Not for areas that get frost in winter. Can become a fire hazard if dead material is allowed to build up. Plant in warm season.

## *Camellia japonica* (Camellia)

**Description:** Usually a single-trunked evergreen shrub 6-12 ft. tall and wide (old plants to 20 ft. or even more). Leaves are oblong, leathery, glossy. Flowers are large (3-5 in.) and showy, in colors ranging from pure white through pink to very dark red, blooming from October through May, depending on the variety. Flowers come in many forms, including single, semidouble, double, and others. Habit is usually upright, somewhat formal, tidy-looking. Medium-slow growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen shrub, massing, background planting. Good container plant.

**Cultural conditions:** Prefers morning sun, so

best planted on the east side of a building or otherwise protected from afternoon sun. Plant in an area that is sheltered from strong winds. Young plants require regular watering, but established ones will do fine with little or no supplemental water. Fertilize after bloom with an acid fertilizer. Plant in a well-drained loam; avoid planting in alkaline or saline soils. Subject to camellia petal blight, which causes flowers to fall off before they open; remove all fallen flowers and dispose of in trash, not on the compost pile. A 4-5 in. thick organic mulch, replaced annually, will help prevent this disease. Prune lightly after bloom to control growth, remove weak or crossing branches.

## *Cassia* species (Senna)

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed evergreen and deciduous shrubs from 3-30 ft. tall. Flowers are very showy, in many shades of yellow and gold, and bloom over much of the year. Fast growing. Try *C. artemisioides*, *C. leptophylla*, *C. splendida*, *C. surattensis* or *C. tomentosa*.

**Landscape use:** Specimen shrub, background plant.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Water deeply and infrequently, or not at all, depending on the species (*C. excelsa* needs regular watering). No fertilizer required. Not picky as to soil, but would prefer good drainage. No pests or diseases. Some varieties need little or no pruning, but most need a hard pruning after the main flowering season.

## *Coleonema* species (Breath of Heaven)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 5 ft. or more tall and as wide. Foliage is finely-textured, needle-like and very fragrant.



*Coleonema* adds privacy to the front of this house.

Flowers are small, white (*C. album*) or pink (*C. pulchrum*), with peak of bloom occurring in winter and spring and some flowers throughout the year. Habit is rounded and graceful. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Plant along a path where the fragrance can be appreciated, or use on slopes or as a medium-height hedge.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to light shade. Water regularly (every 10-15 days in loam). Light fertilizing OK; will tolerate no fertilizing. Plant in humusy or sandy, fast-draining soil. No pests or diseases. Shear lightly after main blooming period to encourage compactness.

### ***Cordyline stricta***

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen yucca-like shrub. Gracefully arching slender stems to 15 ft. tall bear 1-2 ft. long strap-shaped dark green leaves. Clusters of attractive small lavender flowers in spring. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Good for a tropical look without a lot of water or care. Shade garden. Containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Plant in sun on coast or in shade anywhere. Needs little water in cool coastal locations, but would appreciate more frequent watering inland. No fertilizer. Tolerant of many kinds of soils, but prefers a rich, well-drained loam. Occasionally subject to scale infestations; control ants to reduce severity. Lower leaves are easily stripped off to reveal handsome slender canes.

### ***Eriogonum giganteum***

(St. Catherine's Lace) California Native Plant

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 5 ft. tall, somewhat wider. Foliage is grayish white, fuzzy, rounded, to 2-1/2 in. long. Flowers are off-white to pinkish, tiny but borne in huge, flat-topped umbels in spring. Flowers will dry on the plant to a deep chocolate brown. Bark is brown, shaggy. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, slopes, native gardens.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water. No fertilizer. Prefers a fast-draining, gravelly or sandy soil. No pests or diseases. Replace when plants are leggy. Will naturalize freely.

### ***Feijoa sellowiana*** (Pineapple Guava)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub or small tree to 18-25 ft. tall and wide; size easily controlled by infrequent pruning. Leaves are oval, 2-3 in., green and shiny on top, silvery white on the bottom. Flowers are white with pale lavender tint and a large puff of showy red stamens. Blooms in May and June. Fruit is 1-4 in. long, oval, edible with creamy pineapple-flavored flesh. Fruit ripens in October and November on coast. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, natural hedge, screen planting, small tree.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Tolerates regular watering and even grows near lawns, but will do fine with little or no irrigation. No fertilizer needed. Takes most soils. No diseases. Prune in early spring to shape or control growth.

### ***Grewia occidentalis*** (*G. caffra*) (Lavender Starflower)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 10 ft. tall and wide, sometimes larger. Leaves are oval, bright green, glossy. Flowers are lavender with yellow centers, star-shaped, 1 in. wide. Peak of bloom is late spring, but flowers are usually present at any time of year. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Sheared or natural hedge, screen planting, slope planting, espalier against a warm wall.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Occasional watering during summer. No special fertilizer needs, but can become chlorotic. Plant in any good soil; good drainage best. No pest or disease problems. Prune after peak of bloom to encourage density and control shape if

desired. Can be cut back hard if necessary to renew an old plant.

**Special remarks:** Versatile and underused. Always looks good.

### ***Leonotis leonurus*** (Lion's Tail)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 6 ft. tall and wide. Foliage is linear and toothed, deep green. Flowers are tubular, rich orange, arranged in stacked whorls at ends of stems, very showy. Blooms in summer and fall. Medium fast growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, mass planting.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no watering. No special fertilizer needs. Plant in almost any soil, preferably with good drainage. No pest or disease problems. Cut back after peak bloom to renew plant.

### ***Ligustrum species & cultivars*** (Privet)

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed deciduous or evergreen shrubs or small trees 4-40 ft. tall and wide. Leaves 2-4 in. long, smooth, leathery (most species), deep green. Flowers white, in clusters at ends of branches in spring and summer. Flowers are fragrant (though not everyone likes their smell), attract bees. Medium growth rate. Leaves and berries are mildly poisonous. Most commonly planted variety here is *L. japonicum* 'Texanum.'

**Landscape use:** Most commonly used as clipped hedge, though it can also easily be trained as a small patio tree. Will grow in containers. Windbreak.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to part shade. Occasional watering on coast, more inland. No special fertilizing requirements. Tolerant of a wide variety of soils. No pest or disease problems.



*Leonotis leonurus*

### ***Nandina domestica*** (Heavenly Bamboo)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen or partially deciduous shrub to 8 ft. tall and 4 ft. wide. Branches are slender and cane-like. Leaves are small, green turning red in winter; new growth is red. Flowers are white, tiny, in clusters near the tops of the branches, in spring and summer (but some flowers occur nearly all year). Clusters of bright red berries follow the flowers and will hang on the plant for several weeks. Medium fast growing. There are many cultivars of *Nandina*, including a number of dwarf and compact forms.





*Eriogonum giganteum*

**Landscape use:** Hedge or screen plantings, focal point or accent plant, massing. Not a bamboo; not invasive though occasionally plants will develop some runners that are easily removed.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or shade (foliage color is more intense in sun). Takes regular watering or dry conditions. No special fertilizer needs. Plant in most soils; best in rich loam. Tolerates oak root fungus and competition from tree roots. No pests or diseases. Prune out old canes to renew plant or to control height.

#### *Olea europaea* 'Little Ollie' (Dwarf Olive)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 12 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are long and narrow, gray-green, leathery. Flowers are insignificant. Bears very little fruit. Bark is smooth, gray, attractive. Slow growing.

**Landscape use:** Screen planting, hedge, background, massing. Can be kept to 3-4 ft. with occasional pruning.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water. No fertilizer. Plant in almost any soil, including saline, alkaline or rocky soils. Tolerates heat. No diseases. Tolerates heavy pruning.

#### *Pittosporum crassifolium*

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed evergreen shrub or small tree to 25 ft., can be kept much smaller with occasional pruning. Foliage is rounded, 1-2 in., gray-green. Flowers are small, maroon, clustered, in spring. Medium growth rate. P.c. 'Compactum' grows to 3 ft. tall and wide.

**Landscape use:** Hedge, screen planting, small tree.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to light shade. Best with occasional summer watering; withstands drought. Fertilize in spring in meager soils. Plant in any decent soil. Tolerates wind, seashore conditions. Occasionally subject to aphids and scale.

#### *Rhamnus alaternus* (Italian Buckthorn)

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed evergreen shrub or small tree to 20 ft. tall and wide; easily kept smaller. Leaves are oval, glossy green, to 2 in. long. Flowers are tiny, yellow-green, in spring. Fruit is a 1/4 in. black berry. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Screen, sheared or natural hedge or small tree.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun or light shade. Tolerates dry conditions or regular watering. No fertilizer. Plant in almost any soil. Tolerates heat. No pests or diseases. No need for regular pruning, but will tolerate heavy pruning or shearing if desired.

#### *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade Berry) California Native Plant

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 10 ft. tall and wide, sometimes to 30 ft. in great age. Leaves are oval, leathery, to 2-1/2 in. long. Flowers are creamy white to pale pink, in clusters at the ends of branches in late winter and early spring. Fruits are clusters of reddish pulpy berries that were used by Chumash to make a beverage. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Screening plant, hillsides and erosion control, clipped hedge. Good at seashore.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water. No fertilizer. Plant in well-drained soil; otherwise not particular. Tolerates rocky and alkaline soils. Tolerates seashore conditions. Susceptible to verticillium wilt. Plant in fall.

#### *Tagetes lemmonii* (Mexican Bush Marigold)



*Tagetes lemmonii*

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 6 ft. tall and as wide or wider. Leaves are finely-dissected, dark green, very aromatic with a complex citrus/mint/marigold fragrance. Flowers are bright yellow-orange, occurring in great quantities in winter, with light bloom throughout the year. Habit of the plant is loose and sprawly. Fast-growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing. Good for winter bloom.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Dry conditions. No fertilizer. Takes any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases. Cut back hard every few years to renew plant and remove buildup of dead material. May be damaged by frost.

#### *Teucrium fruticans* (Bush Germander)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrub 4-8 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are 1-1/4 in., gray-green on top and silver on the bottom. Flowers are lavender, at ends of branches, occurring almost all year long. Branches are silver. Medium-fast growth. Variety T.f. 'Azurea' has deep indigo flowers. T.f. 'Compactum' grows 3 ft. tall and wide, has darker flowers.



*Westringia fruticosa*

**Landscape use:** Screening, massing, natural hedge. Combine with red-foliage plants for good contrast.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No watering. No fertilizer. Tolerates poor soils. No pests or diseases. Prune in early spring if needed.

#### *Westringia species & cultivars* (Coast Rosemary)

**Description:** Multi-stemmed evergreen shrubs 4-8 ft. tall, equally wide or wider. Foliage is small, narrow like rosemary, green or gray-green with whitish undersides. Flowers are tubular, to 1/2 inch, white or lavender, abundant most of the year. Fast growing. W. fruticosa grows 3-4 ft. tall, somewhat wider, fairly compact habit, white flowers. W. 'Wynabbie Gem' is larger, looser, has lavender flowers.

**Landscape use:** Screening, mass planting, slopes.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to light shade. Little or no watering. No fertilizer (especially avoid fertilizers containing phosphorous). Prefers sandy or loamy soils with good drainage. No pests or diseases. Tolerates coastal conditions and wind.

#### *Xylosma congestum*

**Description:** Single- or multi-stemmed evergreen shrub or small tree to 10-15 ft. tall and at least as wide. Leaves are oblong, pointed at the tip, glossy yellow-green. Flowers are tiny, well-concealed. Plant grows quickly into a graceful, loosely-rounded shrub if left alone; can be trained as a tree with modest effort. X.c. 'Compacta' grows to 4-5 ft. tall and wide.

**Landscape use:** Screening, slopes, mass planting, background, small tree.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun or light shade. Give an occasional good soaking during summer months; will tolerate no irrigation. Apply a complete fertilizer once a year for best performance. Grows well in most soils. Heat tolerant. Scale and spider mites sometimes a problem. Can become chlorotic in heavy soils; treat with iron supplement.



# Small Shrubs (2-4 feet tall)

## *Artemisia 'Powis Castle'*

**Description:** Mounding evergreen shrub to 3 ft. tall, 6 ft. wide (wider in loose soils where it will often ground-layer). Leaves are finely dissected and lacy, silver, aromatic when brushed against. Flowers are insignificant; rarely blooms in Santa Barbara. Very fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Tall ground cover, slopes, low backdrop to perennial border. Give it room to spread.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Best with occasional watering; will tolerate much drought. No fertilizer. Performs best in loose, well-drained soil but tolerates many soil types. No pests or diseases. Can be left unpruned, but many gardeners cut it back in spring to refresh the plant and stimulate new growth.



*Artemisia 'Powis Castle'*

## *Baccharis pilularis cultivars* (Dwarf Coyote Brush) California Native Plant

**Description:** Mounding evergreen shrub to 4 ft. tall and 6-8 ft. wide. Foliage is small, toothed, bright green, forms a dense canopy. Flowers are tiny, white. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, slopes, erosion control.

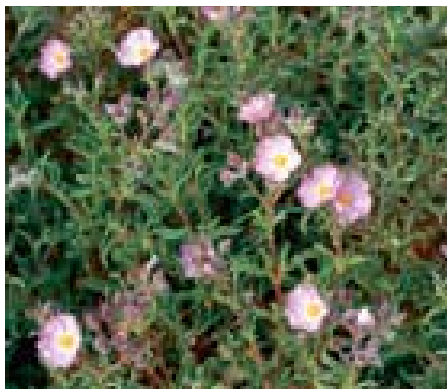
**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water. No fertilizer. Best in loose, well-drained soils, but does well in almost any soil. Occasional beetle infestation can defoliate the plant. Cut back when plants become leggy.

## *Callistemon viminalis 'Little John'* (Bottlebrush)

**Description:** Dwarf evergreen shrub to 3 ft. tall and wide. Foliage is long and narrow, bright green, somewhat leathery. Flowers are clusters of bright red stamens; blooms from fall through spring. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Low background plant or small hedge, mass planting.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Best with regular watering. No fertilizer. Tolerates many soils, including saline and alkaline soils. Sometimes chlorotic in poor soils. Not tolerant of wind.



*Cistus skanbergii*

## *Cistus species & cultivars* (Rockrose)

**Description:** Mounding evergreen shrubs 2-5 ft. tall and as wide or wider. Leaves are small to medium sized, usually dark green, often fuzzy or hairy, often fragrant. Flowers are showy, white, pink, or purple depending on the variety. Most bloom strongly in spring with consistent bloom year-round in many varieties. Fast-growing. Of the many excellent varieties, try *C. hybridus* (flowers white, 2-5 ft.), *C. ladanifer* & varieties (flowers white, 3-5 ft.), *C. skanbergii* (flowers pink, 3 ft. x 8 ft. wide), *C. 'Sunset'* (flowers dark pink, 2 ft. x 6-8 ft. wide)

**Landscape use:** Slopes, massing, erosion control, background.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Any well-drained soil; tolerates poor soils. No pests or diseases. Little or no pruning if given room. Tolerates wind, salt spray. Can be used in high fire hazard areas if kept away from house. Some kinds are short-lived to 5-8 years.

## *Jasminum ligustrifolium* (Shinyleaf Jasmine)

**Description:** Viney evergreen shrub to 15 ft. if supported on a trellis; more often used as a low shrub to 2-3 ft. Leaves glossy green, smooth, oval with pointed tips. Flowers white, tiny, mildly fragrant. Medium fast growing. Sometimes sold as *J. leratii*.

**Landscape use:** Massing, slope cover, shade garden, vine.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to shade (not deepest shade). Moderate to regular garden watering. Fertilize once or twice a year with a complete fertilizer. Prefers a rich, well-drained loam. No pests or diseases. Prune out viney growth to keep compact, or train on a trellis or wire.

## *Lavandula species & cultivars* (Lavender)

**Description:** Evergreen shrubs or subshrubs usually 2-3 ft. tall and wide. Foliage is tiny, gray or gray-green, most kinds are fragrant. Flowers are tiny, tubular, in spikes, lavender, also often very fragrant, with some bloom almost all year. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Small hedge or edging, massing, rock gardens, mixed Mediterranean plantings.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no water. Little or no fertilizer. Likes any loose soil with good drainage. Can rot in wet situations; otherwise no particular pests or diseases. Shear or prune lightly after main flowering period; most do not like heavy pruning.

## *Maireana sedifolia* (Pearl Bluebush)

**Description:** Evergreen shrub to 4 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are tiny, rounded, white. Flowers are tiny, white. Medium growth rate.



*Lavandula 'Provence'* with *Achillea* species in the foreground lend color and contrast in this landscape border.



**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, low background plant, gray garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no water. Little or no fertilizer. Tolerates alkaline or heavy soils, as long as they are not kept wet. No pests or diseases.



*Phlomis fruticosa*

### ***Phlomis species*** (Jerusalem Sage)

**Description:** Evergreen shrubby perennials to 4 ft. tall and wide. Foliage is furry or woolly, green or gray-green, to 4 in.. Flowers are yellow or lavender, tubular, in whorls, very showy. Most varieties produce blooms nearly all year, sometimes in flushes. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, mixed Mediterranean planting.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun (*P. fruticosa* will take some shade). Occasional watering if necessary in summer. Little or no fertilizer. Any well-drained soil is OK. No pests or diseases. Remove dead flowers and prune plant after bloom to encourage compactness.

### ***Rhamnus californica*** (California Coffeeberry) California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen shrub 4-15 ft. tall and wide, depending on variety and growing conditions. Foliage is glossy dark green, 1-3 in. long, with lighter undersides. Flowers are small, white, followed by attractive shiny red to black berries. Medium growth rate. R. 'Eve Case' is smaller and more compact than the species, growing 4-8 ft. tall and wide, with larger leaves. R. 'Seaview' is lower and wider, spreading to 6-8 ft.

**Landscape use:** Massing, background, unclipped hedge, native garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Tolerates summer drought, but selected varieties will do best with an occasional deep soaking. No fertilizer. Any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning needed.

### ***Raphiolepis cultivars*** (India Hawthorn)

**Description:** Evergreen shrubs 2-6 ft. tall and wide, depending on the species. Leaves are dark green, leathery, to 3 in.; new growth is often reddish. Flowers are pink, fall through spring, with some bloom nearly all year. Attractive dark blue berries. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Background planting, low hedge, massing, foundation planting.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or light shade. Tolerates drought or regular watering. Little or no fertilizer. Any soil. Fungal leaf spot occasionally a problem; plants usually outgrow it. Let plants grow naturally or prune to encourage compactness.

### ***Salvia leucophylla*** (Purple Sage)

California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen shrub to 3-4 ft. tall, 6-8 ft. wide. Leaves are white, furry, aromatic. Flowers are lavender-pink, tubular, in whorls on stems held above the plant, in summer. Fast growing. Somewhat short-lived to 5-10 years depending on conditions.

**Landscape use:** Native garden, erosion control, slopes. S. 'Point Sal' is a lower-growing plant good as a large-area ground cover.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No watering. No fertilizing. Any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.



*Salvia leucophylla*

# Perennials

### ***Achillea cultivars*** (Yarrow)

**Description:** Evergreen perennials to 1 ft. tall, some wide-spreading, others clumping. Leaves are fern-like, green or gray-green, often fragrant. Flowers are tiny, arranged in flat heads held above the foliage; many colors. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Perennial border, ground cover, slopes, meadows, lawn substitute (*A. millefolium*).

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to light shade.

Little or no water (varies with variety, growing conditions). Spring fertilizing OK but not necessary. Takes any soil. Aphids occasionally a problem; easily treated with beneficial insects. Most varieties will appreciate being cut to the ground once or twice a year to renew plant. *A. millefolium* can be mowed to 3-4 in. tall.



*Achillea 'Salmon Beauty'*

### ***Agapanthus cultivars*** (Lily-of-the-Nile)

**Description:** Evergreen clumping perennials to 3 ft. tall (taller in bloom). Leaves are strap-shaped, wide, bright green, shiny. Flowers are tubular, blue or white, in large very showy rounded clusters on long stems in summer. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, perennial border, containers, near swimming pool.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to moderate shade. Regular watering best but will tolerate drought. No fertilizer needed. Any soil OK; best in a rich loam. No pests or diseases. Deadhead after bloom. Divide plants every few years for best performance.

### ***Alstroemeria hybrids*** (Peruvian Lily)

**Description:** Deciduous or evergreen perennials 2-5 ft. tall, spreading but most kinds are not invasive. Leaves are long and narrow, along stems, bright green, glossy. Flowers are orchid-like, in many colors, extremely showy, in spring and summer. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Perennial border, cutting garden. Superb cut flower.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun best. Occasional summer watering. No fertilizer needed. Best in a good sandy loam. No pests or diseases. Cut back withered foliage at end of season.

### ***Amaryllis belladonna*** (Naked Lady)

**Description:** Deciduous perennial bulb. Foliage is strap-shaped, wide, to 2 ft. long, bright green, shiny. Leaves appear in winter and die back in spring. Flowers are pink, fragrant, in big clusters on stems to 3 ft. tall, appearing dramatically out of bare ground. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, mixed planting.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun best. No watering. No fertilizing. Any soil. No pests or diseases. No care other than removing spent blooms.





*Asparagus densiflorus* 'Myers'

***Anemone x hybrida*** (Japanese Anemone)

**Description:** Perennial 2-4 ft. tall. Foliage to 4 in., dark green, slightly hairy. Flowers are showy, white or pink, blooming spring through fall on erect stems held above the clump of basal leaves. A slow starter but spreading quickly once it is established. All parts of the plant are poisonous.

**Landscape use:** Shade garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Part shade. Regular watering is best; will take some drought. No pests or diseases.

***Asparagus densiflorus cultivars***  
(Asparagus Fern)

**Description:** Evergreen perennials to 2-4 ft. tall and sometimes wider, depending on variety. Foliage is medium green, ferny; stems are thorny on some kinds. Flowers are tiny, white, followed by attractive berries. Medium fast growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, massing, spill over walls (A.d. 'Sprenger'), containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or shade on coast, partial shade or shade in hot areas. Best with regular watering but will take some drought. No fertilizer needed. Will grow in almost any soil; loam is best. No pests or diseases. Needs no pruning but can be cut back hard if necessary. Indestructible.

***Aspidistra elatior*** (Cast Iron Plant)

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 2-1/2 ft. tall. Leaves are wide, shiny deep green, tropical looking. Flowers are tiny, hidden. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Shade garden, containers. Good for difficult situations.

**Cultural conditions:** Part shade to deep shade. Regular to low watering. Fertilize in spring for best color. Takes any soil, but prefers a good garden loam. No pests or diseases. Clean leaves off now and then for best appearance.

***Bergenia cultivars***

**Description:** Evergreen perennials to 1 ft. tall, spreading to 3-4 ft. but not invasive. Leaves are 8-12 in. long, oval, shiny, very attractive. Flowers are in clusters, white, pink, lilac, purple. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Foliage accent, massing, shade garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun along coast, some shade inland. Regular watering best, but can take occasional drought. Fertilize 1-3 times per year for best performance. Take poor soil but prefer a good loam. Control snails and slugs. Cut back wayward branches; divide clumps when overgrown.

***Campanula poscharskyana***  
(Serbian Bellflower)

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 6 in. tall (taller when in bloom), spreading but not invasive. Leaves are heart-shaped, dark green, delicate-looking. Flowers are lavender, star-shaped to 1 in., in summer. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Shade garden, ground cover.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun along coast, some shade inland. Takes drought conditions on coast, likes a little summer water inland. Fertilize in spring for best performance. Takes many soils but prefers a good loam. Protect from slugs and snails.

***Ceratostigma plumbaginoides***  
(Dwarf Plumbago)

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 1 ft. tall., spreading underground. Leaves are dark green, to 3 in. long, turning bronze in cold weather. Flowers are an intense deep blue, round, 1/2 in., in summer and fall. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Regular watering or some drought. Little or no fertilizer needed. Takes most soils. No pests or

diseases. Can be cut back hard when plants get shaggy.

***Clivia miniata*** (Clivia)

**Description:** Evergreen tuberous perennial to 1-1/2 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are strap-shaped, wide, thick and smooth, dark green. Flowers are funnel-shaped, in clusters on erect stems, usually orange, very showy, in winter and spring. Slow growing.

**Landscape use:** Shade garden, massing, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Shade, no direct sun. Regular watering or some drought. No fertilizer needed. Best in a good loam, but will tolerate a wide range of soils. No pests or diseases.

***Dietes cultivars*** (Fortnight Lily)

**Description:** Evergreen bulb-like perennials to 4 ft. tall. Leaves are sword-shaped, narrow, leathery, medium green. Flowers are white, yellow or orange depending on variety, iris-like, abundant spring through fall in flushes at 2-week intervals. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, accent, rock garden, pools.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Regular watering or drought. No fertilizer needed. Takes almost any soil. No pests or diseases. Remove dead leaves occasionally; this can be laborious especially on *D. vegeta*. Or divide plants every few years. Don't remove flowering stalks, as they live from year to year. Remove seed pods to prevent naturalizing.

***Erigeron glaucus cultivars*** (Seaside Daisy)  
California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 6 in. tall, spreading to 2 ft. wide. Foliage in basal clusters, medium green. Flowers are lavender, daisy-like, in spring and summer. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Bedding plant, small area ground cover, native garden, coastal garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Most any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning needed.



*Erigeron karvinskianus*

***Erigeron karvinskianus***  
(Santa Barbara Daisy)

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 2 ft. tall, often growing to 5 ft. wide. Foliage is fine-textured, medium green. Flowers are tiny daisies, white with pinkish tones, nearly all year. Fast



growing. E.k. 'Moerheimii' is more compact, with somewhat larger foliage and darker flowers.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, spiller, in containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Regular watering or some drought. No fertilizer needed. Takes almost any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning needed.

***Eriogonum grande rubescens***  
(Red Flowering Buckwheat)  
California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 1 ft. tall, spreading to 2 ft., not invasive. Foliage is small, dark gray-green. Flowers are dark rose color, tiny, in ball-shaped clusters in summer. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Native garden, small area ground cover, rock gardens.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No watering. No fertilizer. Takes almost any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases. Prune to keep dense or replace plants every few years.

***Iris douglasiana & cultivars*** (Douglas Iris)



*Nepeta x faassenii*

California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen bulb-like perennial to 2 ft. tall and wide, often smaller. Leaves are strap-shaped, leathery, dark green, to 1 1/2 ft. Flowers are very showy, in many colors including purple, blue, white, yellow, salmon, brown, in spring. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Perennial border, massing, native garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases, but susceptible to root rot in poorly-drained or heavy soils. No pruning.

***Lychnis coronaria***  
(Crown Pink, Mullein Pink)

**Description:** Evergreen, short-lived perennial to 2-1/2 ft. tall, spreading but not invasive. Foliage is coarse-textured, white, fuzzy, good-looking. Flowers are red or magenta, in clusters above the basal foliage, in spring and early summer. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, perennial border.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or partial shade.

Occasional watering in summer. Little or no fertilizer. Takes poor soils. No pests or diseases. Remove spent plants. Can allow to reseed.

***Neomarica caerulea*** (Fan Iris)

**Description:** Evergreen bulb-like perennial to 4 ft. tall. Foliage is sword-shaped, wide, dark green. Flowers are iris-like, to 4 in. across, blue or lilac with markings of brown, yellow, white, in spring, very showy. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, vertical accent, perennial border.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Regular watering. Occasional fertilizing. Any good garden soil. No pests or diseases.



*Romneya coulteri*

***Nepeta x faassenii*** (Catmint)

**Description:** Evergreen mounding perennial to 2 ft. tall, sprawling to 4 ft. wide. Foliage is small, gray-green. Flowers are lavender, mint-like, in small spikes in summer. Fast growing. Sometimes sold as *N. mussinii*.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, spiller, perennial border.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to very light shade. Gets by on little water; tolerates regular watering. Little or no fertilizer. Most any good soil. No pests or diseases. Cut back hard when plant is looking shaggy and new growth appears in center.

***Penstemon cultivars***

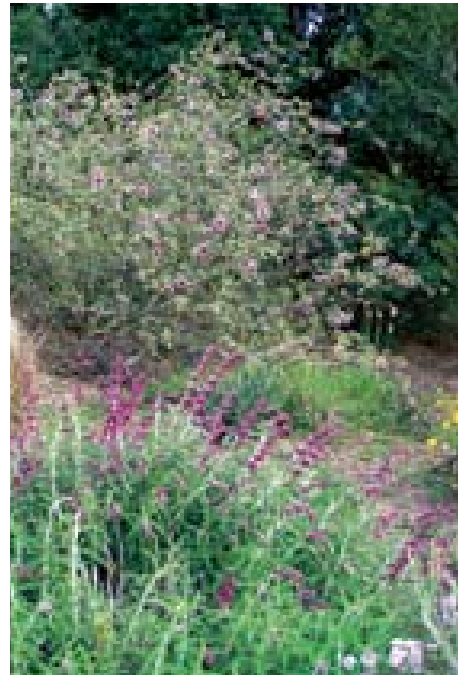
**Description:** Perennials to 4 ft., depending on species. Foliage varies, usually green, glossy, along erect stems. Flowers are tubular, in spikes, very showy, red, purple, other colors. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Perennial border, massing.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to light shade. Most kinds tolerate little watering. Little or no fertilizer (none for California natives). Soil requirements vary with species. Occasionally infested with whitefly; most are susceptible to root rot in heavy soils with overwatering. Deadhead old flowers, cut back plants to renew (varies with species).

***Romneya coulteri*** (Matilija Poppy)  
California Native Plant

**Description:** Perennial to 8 ft. tall or more, spreading (can be invasive, especially in sandy



*Salvia leucantha* (foreground) with *Lavatera bicolor*.

soils). Foliage is deeply cut, bluish gray-green, along tall stems. Flower petals are white, crinkly like crepe paper, with a large tuft of yellow stamens in the center; the effect is like a fried egg. Blooms in summer and early fall. Slow to establish, then fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Focal point plant, accent, native garden, erosion control.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. No water once established (will invade watered areas). No fertilizer. Takes almost any soil. No pests or diseases. Cut to ground in fall.

***Salvia leucantha*** (Mexican Bush Sage)

**Description:** Shrubby perennial to 3 ft., spreading to 5 ft. or more. Foliage is long, slender, fuzzy, medium green, along slender stems. Flowers are lavender to deep purple (depending on variety), velvety, in spikes, nearly all year. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Perennial border, massing, slopes.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun. Little or no water. No fertilizer. Most any soil. No pests or diseases. Cut old stems to the ground twice a year or as needed to renew plant and to encourage repeat bloom.

***Sedum telephium 'Autumn Joy'*** (Stonecrop)

**Description:** Deciduous perennial succulent to 2-1/2 ft. Leaves are 2 in., oval, fleshy, light green. Flowers are rosy pink, tiny, in clusters in late summer, fall, turning to dark purple seed clusters if not cut. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Perennial border, succulent garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Full sun to part shade. Little water. Little or no fertilizer. Plant in almost any soil. No pests or diseases. Cut to ground in late fall when plant looks shaggy.



# Ground Covers



*Lantana montevidensis* in the foreground.

## *Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum' (Bishop's Weed)

**Description:** Semi-deciduous creeping perennial to 6 in. tall, spreading (may be somewhat invasive in favorable situations). Leaves medium-textured, light green edged with creamy white. Flowers insignificant. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover for shade, under trees.

**Cultural conditions:** Partial to full shade. Occasional watering in summer. Occasional fertilizing spring or fall. Plant in most any soil. No pests or diseases. Cut to ground or mow whenever plant looks unkempt.

## *Coprosma pumila* 'Verde Vista'

**Description:** Evergreen low shrub to 2-3 ft. tall, spreading to 6-8 ft. wide, not invasive. Foliage small, glossy bright green, very attractive. Flowers insignificant. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, slopes, seashore gardens, high fire hazard areas.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Occasional watering or drought. Little or no fertilizer needed. Tolerates most soils, ocean winds, salt spray. No pests or diseases. Prune out upright branches to keep low to ground.

## *Cotoneaster cultivars*

**Description:** Evergreen, semi-deciduous or deciduous shrubs 1-3 ft. tall, 4-15 ft. wide (depending on variety). Foliage is generally small, deep green, not shiny. Flowers are small, white, followed by attractive red berries. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, slopes.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Little or no watering. Little or no fertilizer. Any soil, especially poor or infertile soils. No pests or diseases. Prune out erect branches to keep

plants low to ground, or allow to develop natural shape. Allow plants room to grow, to avoid constant pruning.

## *Dymondia margaretae*

**Description:** Evergreen perennial 2-3 in. tall, spreading but not invasive. Forms a tight, weed-resistant mat. Leaves are narrow, gray-green, with edges rolled up. Flowers are small yellow daisies tucked into foliage, in summer. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Low ground cover for small areas, good for planting between flagstones or pavers. Takes some foot traffic.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Drought or regular watering. No fertilizer. Almost any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

## *Lantana montevidensis*

(Trailing Lantana)

**Description:** Evergreen trailing shrub to 2-3 ft. tall, spreading to 6-8 ft. (there are also taller shrubby varieties). Foliage is medium-textured, dark green, slightly fuzzy, aromatic.



*Pelargonium tomentosum* with *P. 'Chocolate Mint'*.

Flowers are small, in rounded clusters, in many colors including purple, white, yellow and mixed colors, blooming year-round. Fast growing. Often sold as *L. sellowiana*.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, slopes, erosion control.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Occasional deep soaking in summer. Occasional or no fertilizer. Grows in most soils. No pests or diseases. Heavy pruning in spring stimulates growth, keeps plants compact.

## *Lessingia filaginifolia* 'Silver Carpet'

California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 1 ft. tall, 4-5 ft. wide. Leaves are fine-textured, white, woolly. Flowers are lavender-pink daisies to 1 in. wide. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, slopes, native garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Little or no water. No fertilizer. Grows in almost any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases.

## *Pelargonium tomentosum* (Peppermint-Scented Geranium)

**Description:** Evergreen trailing perennial to 1 ft. tall, spreading to 4 ft. but not invasive. Foliage is coarse-textured, velvety, strongly peppermint-scented. Flowers are small, white. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover for semi-shady situations, spiller over walls, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Partial shade. Regular to little watering. Little or no fertilizer. Takes most any well-drained soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning needed.

## *Rosmarinus officinalis cultivars* (Rosemary)

**Description:** Evergreen subshrub to 2 ft. tall (depending on variety), spreading but not invasive. Will sometimes ground-layer in loose soils. Leaves are small, needle-like, olive green, fragrant. Flowers are tubular, to 1/2 in., lavender or blue, most bloom is in winter and spring but some throughout year, attractive to bees, birds. Medium fast growing. Try R.o. 'Lockwood DeForest,' R.o. 'Prostratus,' (both to 2 x 8 ft.). For shrub variety (6 ft. high or more) try R.o. 'Tuscan Blue,' R.o. 'Majorica Pink.'

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, slopes, erosion control, spill over walls.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Little or no water. Light feeding in spring, or none. Takes any soil if well-drained; tolerant of poor soils. Tolerates heat. Occasionally subject to infestation of small caterpillars; treat with *Bacillus thuringiensis* or other spray. Subject to root-rot in heavy soils. Shear occasionally to keep low and compact and to stimulate new growth.



*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Prostratus' cascading.





*Thymus*

***Teucrium chaemadrys* (Germander)**

**Description:** Evergreen subshrub to 1 ft. tall, spreading to 3 ft. wide. Leaves are small, toothed, dark green. Flowers are small, reddish-purple, in summer. Fast growing. T.c. 'Prostratum' grows 4-6 in. tall.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover for small areas.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Occasional watering. Little or no fertilizer. Most well-drained soils. No pests or diseases. Cut back 1-2 times a year to keep compact.

***Thymus cultivars* (Creeping Thyme)**

**Description:** Evergreen perennials or subshrubs to 12 in. tall, spreading but not invasive (size and habit vary with species). Foliage is very tiny, dark green most species, all are scented. Flowers are tiny, white or pinkish, bloom nearly all year. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, herb garden, between stepping stones, lawn substitute for low-traffic areas.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Little or no watering. Little or no fertilizing. Any well-drained, open-textured soil. No pests or diseases. Can be clipped or sheared, but will do fine with no pruning.

# Grasses

***Chondropetalum tectorum* (Cape Rush)**

**Description:** Evergreen rush-like perennial to 3-4 ft. tall, sometimes wider. Stems are long, slender, somewhat like a horse-tail plant, without leaves, olive green. Forms an arching mass of stems. Flowers are tiny, brown, on joints of stems. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, near swimming pools, ponds or streambeds, in containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Little water to constant watering. No fertilizer. Takes most soil conditions. No pests or diseases. No pruning.



*Chondropetalum tectorum*

***Juncus species & cultivars* (Rush)**

**Description:** Evergreen perennials 2-4 ft. tall, 1-3 ft. wide. Foliage is long, slender grass-like stems without true leaves, bright green to olive green depending on variety. Forms a stiff or arching clump. Flowers are small, brown, in clusters on stems. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Accent, specimen, massing, near pool or stream, in containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Constant watering to drought, depending on species and other growing conditions. Most will grow in standing water. No fertilizer. Almost any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

***Leymus 'Canyon Prince'* (Lyme Grass)**

California Native Plant

**Description:** Evergreen perennial grass to 2 ft. tall, often wider. Plant forms an attractive rounded clump. Leaves are wide, powdery blue-gray. Flowers are bluish, on stems to 3 ft. tall. Fast growing. Sometimes sold as Elymus 'C.P.'

**Landscape use:** Accent, massing, gray garden.

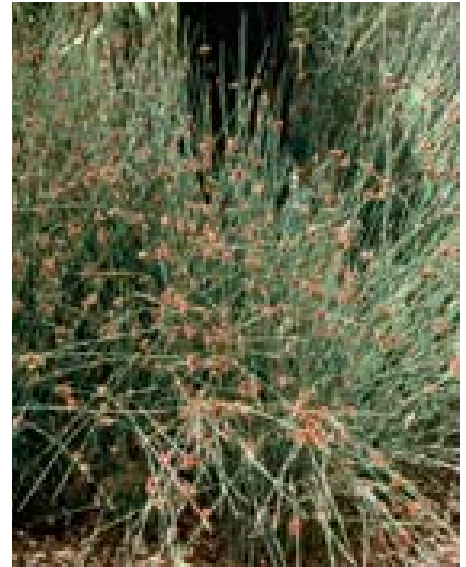
**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Tolerates most soils. No pests or diseases. Can be cut to ground if plants need rejuvenating.

***Lomandra longifolia***

**Description:** Evergreen perennial to 4-5 ft. tall and wide. Leaves are strap-shaped, 1 in. wide by 4 ft. long, olive green, leathery. Flowers are cream-colored, in spiny spikes held above the foliage, in spring, fragrant. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, specimen, difficult conditions.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or shade. Wet to completely dry. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. Deadhead old flowers if desired.



*Juncus patens*

***Muhlenbergia species***

**Description:** Evergreen perennial grasses (M. capillaris is winter-dormant), growing 2-6 ft. tall depending on species. Foliage is generally fine-textured, gray-green (M. dumosa is bright green). Flowers are pink, purple or gray, usually held high above the foliage, usually showy. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, grass garden, background (tall varieties). Versatile, interesting grasses with attractive flowers. Try M. capillaris (2-3 ft., pink flowers), M. dumosa (4-6 ft., looks like bamboo), M. lindheimeri (3-4 ft., purple flowers), M. pubescens (2 ft., velvety foliage), M. rigens (4-5 ft., California native).

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Most tolerate regular watering to none at all. Little or no fertilizer. Grow in a wide variety of soils. No pests or diseases. Cut back M. capillaris as it begins to go dormant; other species need little or no pruning.

***Otatea aztecorum***

(Mexican Weeping Bamboo)

**Description:** Evergreen clumping (non-invasive) bamboo 8-10 ft. (to 20 ft. in some conditions), not as wide. Foliage is very fine-textured, weeping, lacy, bright green. Fast growing. Sometimes sold as Yushania a.

**Landscape use:** Massing, background, unclipped hedge, specimen.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to medium shade. Regular to occasional watering. Little or no fertilizer. Tolerates most soils. No pests or diseases. Can be pruned to control height or left to grow naturally.

***Pennisetum orientale* (Fountain Grass)**

**Description:** Evergreen clumping perennial grass to 18 in. tall and wide. Foliage is medium green, fine-textured. Flowers are pink, spring through fall. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, grass garden, perennial border.



**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Regular to little watering. Little or no fertilizer. Any good soil. No pests or diseases. Little or no pruning.

***Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum'**  
(Red Fountain Grass)

**Description:** Semi-deciduous perennial grass 4-5 ft. tall. Foliage is burgundy red, very showy. Flowers are burgundy red, also very showy, in spring and summer, drying to tan in fall. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing. Seed is sterile; plant is not invasive.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Little or no watering. Little or no fertilizer. Tolerates almost any soil. No pests or diseases. Cut back all the way to the ground in fall or winter to expose new foliage.



*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum'

***Sesleria species***

**Description:** Evergreen perennial clumping grasses 1 to 1-1/2 ft. tall and wide (*S. caerulea* will spread slowly). Foliage is fine-textured, medium green (*S. autumnalis*) or blue-green (*S. caerulea*). Flowers are golden, in spring. Fast (*S. autumnalis*) or slow (*S. caerulea*) growing.

**Landscape use:** Meadow, massing, mixed border.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to shade (light shade for *S. caerulea*). Regular watering or drought (*S. caerulea* prefers regular watering). Occasional fertilizer. Most any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

***Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue-Eyed Grass)**  
California Native Plant

**Description:** Deciduous or semi-deciduous perennial to 1 ft. tall. Leaves strap-shaped, somewhat arching, medium green, look like little irises, to which they are related. Flowers are blue, to 1/2 in., star-shaped, in spring with a few blooms on and off much of the year if plants are watered. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Meadows, perennial borders, in wildflower seed mixes.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Needs no water; stays green later in season with occasional summer watering. No fertilizer. Most any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

# Cacti & Succulents



*Aeonium arboreum*

***Aeonium arboreum* & cultivars**

**Description:** Evergreen succulent to 3 ft. tall. Foliage in distinctive flat-topped rosettes 6-8 in. wide, light green (A.a. 'Atropurpureum' is deep purple, A.a. 'Zwartkop' is almost black). Flowers are yellow, tiny, in elongated clusters in spring. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Accent plant, massing, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Infrequent watering. Little or no fertilizer. Most soils. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

***Agave attenuata***

**Description:** Evergreen succulent; individual rosettes to 3 ft. tall and wide, clumps to 5-6 ft. or more. Leaves are broad, yellow-green (blue-green in A.a. 'Nova'), pointed, without spines. Older rosettes form a short trunk to 5 ft. Flowers are greenish yellow, small, along huge arching stalks 12-14 ft. long which grow from the center of the oldest rosettes; rosette dies after flowering and pups at base take over.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, near swimming pool, containers. Spanish patio plant.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Regular watering or drought. No fertilizer. Takes most any soil, prefers a rich loam. Takes seashore conditions. Not frost tolerant. No pests or diseases. Remove dead rosettes at base of plant after bloom.

***Aloe species***

**Description:** Evergreen succulents, size varying from dwarfs less than 1 ft. to tree-like varieties to 20 ft. Leaves are thick, often somewhat spiny, in various colors. Flowers are orange, red, pink, sometimes yellow, many occurring in cool season but some will bloom throughout the year. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Massing, succulent garden, edging, background, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Infrequent watering or drought. No fertilizer.

Most any soil. Occasionally attacked by a disfiguring fungus disease. Little or no pruning.

***Cereus peruvianus***

**Description:** Evergreen tree-like cactus to 30-50 ft. in age. Stems are ribbed, spiny, without true leaves, blue-green. Flowers are night-blooming, white, to 5 in. across, in June. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, silhouette, large containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Drought or occasional watering. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

***Cordyline australis* & cultivars**

**Description:** Evergreen shrubby or tree-like plant to 25-30 ft. tall. Foliage is sword-shaped, in rounded clusters at the ends of tall branches, in many colors depending on variety. Flowers are small, white, in clusters in spring, fragrant. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, skyline plant, near swimming pool.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Occasional watering or drought. No fertilizer. Tolerates most soils. Takes seashore conditions. No pests or diseases. No pruning.



*Cordyline australis* 'Atropurpurea'

***Crassula species* & cultivars**

**Description:** Evergreen succulents, from tiny plants 4 in. tall to the familiar jade plant (*C. argentea*) which grows to 5 ft. or more. Foliage is succulent, often rounded, but many forms are available. Flowers are tiny, in many colors. Often blooms in winter. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimens, massing, potted plants.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to shade; flowers best in sun. Drought. No fertilizer. Almost any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.





*Echeveria*

### ***Dasyliiron species***

**Description:** Evergreen spiny shrubs to 10 ft. Foliage is long, narrow, often spiny, forming a huge gray-green ball. Flowers are small, white, in long spikes. Slow growing.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, desert garden.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. No water. No fertilizer. Almost any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Doryanthes palmeri* (Spear Lily)**

**Description:** Succulent-like shrub to 10 ft. Leaves to 4 in. wide, 6 ft. long, deep green, growing from base to form a giant rosette. Flowers are red, on 3 ft. long stalk. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Dramatic specimen plant. Tropical effect.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or shade. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Most decent soils. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Echeveria spp. & cultivars* (Hens & Chickens)**

**Description:** Evergreen succulents, mostly forming small, low-growing rosettes. Foliage grows in clusters of handsome rosettes, in many colors of green. Flowers are tiny, often yellow or red, on stalks. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Massing, rock gardens, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Little or no watering. Little or no fertilizer. Most any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Hesperaloe parviflora* (Red Yucca)**

**Description:** Evergreen succulent perennial to 4 ft. tall. Leaves are sword-like, to 4 ft. long, olive green. Makes an open, arching fountain effect. Flowers are pink or red, 1-1/4 in. long, on spikes to 4 ft. tall, in summer.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, desert garden, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. No water. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Kalanchoe species & cultivars***

**Description:** Succulents in many forms and shapes. Foliage varies considerably, often unusually shaped or colored. Flowers are often showy, tubular, on stalked inflorescences. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimens, massing, containers. Not for cold spots.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to shade. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Most soils. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Opuntia species* (Prickly Pear)**

**Description:** Cactus to 15 ft. tall and wide (*O. ficus-indica*), others smaller. Stems are flattened into pads, usually covered with spines or clusters of small spiny bristles. Flowers are large, showy, often yellow. Fruit is oval, red or yellow, to 4 inches, edible (peel carefully before eating, taking care not to touch unpeeled fruit). Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, massing, background, silhouette, barrier.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Drought. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Sempervivum species & cultivars* (Houseleek)**

**Description:** Rosette-forming succulents to 1 ft. tall and wide. Foliage is succulent, often pointed, sometimes hairy. Flowers are tiny, star-shaped, in many colors. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Rock garden, nooks and crannies, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Very little or no watering. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Senecio mandraliscae***

**Description:** Succulent subshrub to 1 ft. tall, spreading but not invasive. Leaves are like green beans to 4 in. long, blue-gray. Flowers are tiny, white. Medium fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Ground cover, spiller, in containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Drought or occasional watering. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

### ***Yucca recurvifolia***

**Description:** Evergreen succulent shrub to 6-10 ft. tall. Forms a single trunk in all but oldest plants. Leaves are 2 in. wide, to 3 ft. long, curve downward, blue-green, with soft spine tip. Flowers are large, white, in long clusters in June. Medium growth rate.

**Landscape use:** Specimen, silhouette, massing, containers.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Occasional watering or drought. No fertilizer. Any decent soil. No pests or diseases. No pruning.

## Vines

### ***Distictis species & cultivars* (Trumpet Vine)**

**Description:** Evergreen tendril-bearing vines climbing to 30 ft. Leaves are large, usually dark green, tropical-looking. Flowers are tubular, to 4 in. long, red/yellow, purple, violet, mostly in warm season but some flowers all year on most kinds. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** On trellises, pergolas, walls, fences. Needs some support.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or part shade. Best with regular watering. Fertilize young plants. Prefer a rich loam soil. No pests or diseases. Prune annually to control growth.



*Distictis*

### ***Ficus pumila* (Creeping Fig)**

**Description:** Evergreen clinging vine, attaching itself to any solid surface and growing up to 40 ft. or more. Stems and roots can be invasive. Foliage is leathery, dark green, interestingly veined on back, to 3 in. Mature plants occasionally bear inedible figs. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** Grow on walls, fences. OK to use on house with regular pruning. Do not grow on shingles or siding.





*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or shade. No water needed but tolerates regular watering. No fertilizer. Any soil. No pests or diseases. Needs at least annual shearing to control size and spread. Can be cut to the ground every few years. Milky sap can be an irritant. Leaves hard-to-remove suckers on surfaces.

***Hardenbergia violacea* ‘Happy Wanderer’**

**Description:** Clambering evergreen vine to 15 ft. or more. Leaves are olive-green, leathery, oval to 5 in. long. Flowers are tiny, purple, in small pendulous clusters in winter; like tiny version of Wisteria. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** On walls, fences, pergolas, trellises, spilling over walls. Needs some support.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to part shade. Little or no watering. No fertilizer. Any light, well-drained soil. Occasionally attacked by spider mites; will rot in heavy wet soils. Cut back after flowering.

***Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Boston Ivy)**

**Description:** Deciduous clinging vine that grows to 50 ft. or more. Leaves are shiny, 3-lobed, to 8 in. wide, bright green turning many colors in fall. Winter tracery of branches is attractive. Flowers are tiny. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** On walls, fences. Do not grow on shingles or siding.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun or shade. Best with regular watering. Fertilize occasionally. Not picky as to soil, but prefers a rich loam. No pests or diseases. Give it room to grow.

***Rosa banksiae* (Lady Banks’ Rose)**

**Description:** Evergreen climbing vine to 20 ft. or more. Foliage is bright green, shiny, somewhat leathery. Stems are nearly thornless, attractive green. Flowers are small, double, white or yellow, in spring. Fast growing. For a deciduous rose vine, try Rosa ‘Cecile Brunner’ which has pink flowers.

**Landscape use:** Fences, walls, slopes, arbors. Needs support.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun. Best with regular watering but will take some drought. Fertilize occasionally. Takes most soils. No significant pests or diseases (unlike most roses). Prune to shape, control growth.

***Vitis ‘Roger’s Red’* (California Grape) California Native Plant**

**Description:** Deciduous clambering vine to 30 ft. Leaves large, lobed, green in spring/summer, turning deep red in autumn. Flowers small. Fruit not edible. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** On walls, fences, trellises, pergolas. Needs support.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to light shade. Little or no summer watering. No fertilizer. Tolerant of a wide range of soils. No pests or diseases. Prune to control growth, habit.

***Wisteria sinensis* (Chinese Wisteria)**

**Description:** Deciduous twining vine to 50 ft. or more. Leaves are compound, light green. Flowers are violet blue, in pendulous clusters to 1 ft. long, in spring when plant is leafless. Fast growing.

**Landscape use:** On walls, fences, pergolas, arbors. Needs support.

**Cultural conditions:** Sun to shade. Water young plants; established plants can withstand considerable drought. No fertilizer. Any well drained soil is OK; can become chlorotic in alkaline soils. No pests or diseases. See Sunset Western Gardening Book for excellent information on pruning.

# For more information

There are many more water wise plants available. For more information on water wise plants and sustainable landscaping, contact the City of Santa Barbara at 564-5460.

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*Wisteria sinensis*