

EASY TO GROW, MOSTLY DROUGHT TOLERANT CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS

Gardening with Natives Committee
California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Botanical Name (COMMON NAME)	Height x width ¹	Exposure ²	Comments ³
ANNUALS *			
<i>Clarkia rubicunda</i> (RUBY CHALICE CLARKIA)	2'x3'	Sun	Vivid pink flowers that may bloom from spring through summer. They're blooming locally now, 6/25/17!
<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i> (ELEGANT CLARKIA)	4' x 2'	Sun, part shade	Long-lasting cut flower. Reseeds prolifically. Use for back of the wildflower garden.
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i> (CALIFORNIA POPPY)	1.5' x 1.5'	Sun	California state flower. Good cut flower. Several colors available from seed sources.
<i>Gilia capitata</i> (GLOBE GILIA)	Variable, up to 3' high	Sun to part shade	Reseeds prolifically. A good alternative is <i>Gilia achilleifolia</i> which is slightly shorter.
<i>Limnanthes douglasii</i> (MEADOWFOAM)	6" x 1'	Sun to part shade	Plant in masses or use for edging. Do best in moist settings such as swales and seeps.
PERENNIALS			
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> (YARROW)	Variable, up to 3' high	Sun to part shade	Good lawn alternative. It's rhizomatous; give it room to spread. Many colored cultivars.
<i>Eriogonum nudum</i> (WILD NAKED BUCKWHEAT)	1' high in bloom	Sun	Most have white flowers. 'Ella Nelson' is a yellow selection from Humboldt Co.
<i>Epilobium</i> species (CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA)	6" to several feet h x w	Sun	Orange-red flowers in summer; winter dormant. <i>Epilobium</i> 'Schieffelin's Choice' and <i>E. canum</i> 'Everett's Choice' are low-growing, well-behaved choices for small gardens.
<i>Iris douglasiana</i> (DOUGLAS IRIS)	1'-2' high, spreads by rhizomes	Part shade to shade	<i>Iris douglasiana</i> , 'Canyon Snow', has very showy, white flowers. Other Pacific Coast hybrids (PCH) are available in many colors. Divide in November.

<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> (FOOTHILL PENSTEMON)	1'-3' high in bloom	Sun	Popular selections are 'Marguerita BOP' and 'Blue Springs'. Good garden tolerance. Pretty, blue-purple flowers.
SHRUBS			
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> (COYOTE BUSH)	2-3' x 8'	Sun	'Pigeon Point', 'Twin Peaks II', and 'Al's Blue' are cultivars suitable for the garden. Great habitat value. Coppice every 3-4 years.
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> (FLAT-TOP BUCKWHEAT)	Up to 4' x 4'	Sun	Dramatic, white flower clusters in summer. Needle-like leaves.
<i>Frangula (Rhamnus) californica</i> (COFFEEBERRY)	6'-10' x 6'-10'	Sun to shade	Elegant and reliable foundation plant. 'Eve Case', 'Mount San Bruno', and 'Leatherleaf' are readily available cultivars.
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> (STICKY MONKEYFLOWER)	2'-3' x 2'-4'	Sun to part sun	Best with light shade inland. Lots of brightly colored cultivars available.
<i>Ribes sanguineum var glutinosum</i> (PINK- or WHITE- FLOWERING CURRANT)	5'-12' high	Sun to shade	Full sun on the coast. Best with part shade and some summer water inland.
TREES I *			
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Dr. Hurd' (DR. HURD MANZANITA)	15' x 15'	Sun	Deep mahogany bark and lots of white flowers. Good garden tolerance.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Ray Hartman' (RAY HARTMAN CEANOTHUS)	15' x 15'	Sun to part shade	Grows quickly to a large open shrub. Can be pruned as a tree. Lilac blue flowers.
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> (MOUNTAIN MAHOGONY)	Up to 20'	Sun/ pt shade	Accepts pruning well; can be pruned to a graceful tree that fits into narrow space.
<i>Garrya elliptica</i> (SILK TASSEL)	12' x 12'	Sun to part shade	Showy tassels of white flowers in winter. Common cultivars are 'James Roof' and 'Evie'. Best with some summer water inland.
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> (TOYON)	12' x 10'	Sun to part shade	Beautiful red berries adored by birds. White flowers. Evergreen large shrub to small tree. Tolerates pruning.
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i> (HOLLYLEAF CHERRY)	20' x 10'	Sun to part shade	Classy-looking, evergreen shrub, tree, hedge or dense screen. White fringed flowers and beautiful, edible red berries. This subspecies

			is locally native. Subspecies 'lyonii' is native to southern California.
TREES II*			
<i>Aesculus californica</i> (CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE)	15'-45' high and wide	Sun	Deciduous; summer dormant. Striking white bark. Showy white flowers and large round seed pods that decorate the bare branches in fall and winter.
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i> (WESTERN REDBUD)	6'-20' high	Sun to part shade	Deciduous. The magenta flowers bloom before the leaves appear. Showy, reddish seed pods that can be easily removed when they turn dry and brown.
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> (COAST LIVE OAK)	20'-60' high and wide	Sun to shade	Evergreen. Broad, dense, shapely and majestic.
<i>Quercus lobata</i> (VALLEY OAK)	Up to 100' with age	Sun	Deciduous. Wonderful shade tree. "Giants of the earth...." ⁴
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> var. <i>caerulea</i> (BLUE ELDERBERRY)	8'-25' high and wide	Sun to part shade	Deciduous. Large, lacy flowers followed by lots of blue berries. Good wildlife value.

¹ Sizes can vary depending on the local environment, source of the plant, and other factors. Allow space for the size of the expected *mature* plant, not for the size when you buy it.

² "Sun" means at least 6 hrs per day of full sun exposure. "Part sun" means 3 to 6 hrs of full sun. "Sun/part sun" suggests that the plant can handle full sun on the coast but performs better with part sun inland, ideally with morning sun and afternoon shade.

³ With the exception of *Cercis occidentalis*, these plants are native to the Central Western region (CW) of the California Floristic Province based on data from *The Jepson Manual*, 2012 edition. The CW region includes both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

⁴ Quoted from p. 162, Bornstein, Fross, and O'Brien, *California Native Plants for the Garden*.

*** The trees were separated into two groups in an attempt to distinguish between trees that may fit in a small urban garden and can easily be pruned, (TREES I) from those that tend to grow taller and wider, >20' (TREES II). Some specimen may fit into both categories depending on locale, sun exposure, and other factors.**