

Water-wise Color Plant Palette

Tips for creating your own drought-tolerant garden

Flower color

- Classic color wheel combinations – analogous and complementary
- Bloom season
- Bloom length
- Bloom color is for only a short time of year

When there IS no bloom, consider bark, fruit and leaves. Look for colors, textures and contrasts.

- Year-round structure of hardscape (paths, arbors, furniture, boulders, etc.)
- Massing (grouping of similar plants) creates impact
- Layering of different height plants
- Repetition adds to harmony

Recommended small water-wise trees

- Crape Myrtle *Lagerstroemia* (choose mildew resistant Indian Tribes)
- Chitalpa *x Chitalpa tashkentensis* 'White Cloud'
- California Lilac *Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman' can be pruned as a standard
- Western Redbud *Cercis occidentalis* usually multi-trunk
- California Buckeye *Aesculus californica*
- Persimmon *Diospyros kaki*
- Elderberry *Sambucus Mexicana* usually multi-trunk
- Toyon *Heteromeles arbutifolia* usually multi-trunk

Recommended CA Native Shrubs and Perennials

- Foothill Penstemon *Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita BOP'
- Beach Aster *Eriogonum glaucus* 'Wayne Roderick'
- Cedros Island Verbena *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina'
- Cleveland Sage *Salvia clevelandii*
- Flowering Currant *Ribes sanguineum*
- Hummingbird Sage *Salvia spathacea*
- Rosy Buckwheat *Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*
- Sea Thrift *Armeria maritime*
- Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*
- Matilija Poppy *Romneya coulteri*
- Douglas Iris *Iris douglasii* and Pacific Coast Hybrids
- Golden Aster *Heterotheca villosa* 'San Bruno Mountain'
- Monkeyflower *Mimulus aurantiacus*
- California Fuchsia *Epilobium septrionale* cultivars

Non-native perennials (from the Mediterranean)

- Lantana *Lantana montevidensis*
- Rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis*
- Lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*
- Jerusalem Sage *Phlomis fruticosa*
- Burn Jelly Plant *Bulbine frutescens*

View sites to see the plants (labeled)

- Master Gardeners Waterwise Demonstration Garden
Eleanor Pardee Park - Center & Channing, Palo Alto
- Going Native Garden Tour – every April
Sign up online: goingnativegardentour.org
- Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters
5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose 95118
- San Jose Water Pumping Station
Corner Bascom Ave. and San Carlos St., San Jose

Resource Plant Lists

- Santa Clara Valley Water District
Landscape Rebate Program Qualifying Plant List
pdf online at www.valleywater.org
- WUCOLS III
Water Use Classification of Landscape Species
We are region 1 (North Central Coastal)
waterwonk.us