



AROMATIC NATIVE PLANTS

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants

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PLANTS WITH FRAGRANT FOLIAGE

SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS

Achillea millefolium and cultivars (common yarrow) – 18 in. H x 2-3+’ W, spreading – Excellent lawn substitute; tolerates light foot traffic and occasional mowing. Evergreen.

Artemisia species and cultivars (CA sagebrush) – Sizes vary – All are fragrant; some are evergreen, others semi-deciduous.

Asarum caudatum (wild ginger) – 6 in. H x 2-3’ W – Water-loving shade plant. Large leathery leaves are fragrant when crushed. Evergreen.

Calycanthus occidentalis (spice bush) – 9’ H x 9’ W – Beautiful, fragrant dark red flowers in spring. Full sun on coast; shade inland. Winter deciduous.

Clinopodium (Satureja) douglasii (yerba buena) – 6 in. H x spreading – Prefers some shade and moderate water. Minty aroma; makes a great tea. Evergreen. Good container subject.

Hypis emoryi (desert lavender) – 4-6’ H x 5’ W – Drought-tolerant desert shrub with grey-green leaves and lavender flowers. Evergreen.

Lepechinia fragrans (pitcher sage) – 4-6’ H x 4-6’ W – Large, very fragrant evergreen foliage and pink/purple flowers; tolerates heavy soils, and sun or light shade.

Monardella species and cultivars (coyote mint) – 2’ H x 2-3’ W – Strong minty fragrance and large, lavender to purple, butterfly-attracting summer flowers. Evergreen.

Pseudognaphalium (Gnaphalium) californicum (CA everlasting) – 2--3’ H x 1’ W – Sticky bright green leaves smell like maple syrup; scent fills the air on warm spring days. Pretty white flowers are long-lasting when cut. Evergreen.

Pycnanthemum californicum (CA mint) – 6 in. H x spreading – Likes shade and water. Can be used to flavor foods and drinks. Evergreen.

Ribes viburnifolium (Catalina perfume, evergreen currant) – 2’ H x 5’ W – Attractive drought-tolerant groundcover for shade. Evergreen leaves are fragrant when crushed.

Salvia species and cultivars (sages) – Sizes vary – All are strongly fragrant. Some are evergreen, others semi-deciduous. White, blue, purple or magenta flowers.

Trichostema lanatum (woolly blue curls, romero) – 3-4’ H x 3-4’ W – Foliage smells like Juicy Fruit gum and can be used to make tea. No summer water, once established. Evergreen.

TREES

Calocedrus decurrens (incense cedar) – 70-90’ H x 20’ W – Large, adaptable evergreen conifer.

Hesperocyparis (Cupressus) species (cypress) – Sizes vary – Evergreen conifers.

Pinus species (pine) – Sizes vary – Evergreen conifers.

Umbellularia californica (CA bay laurel) – 75’ H x 60’ W – Beautiful evergreen tree; sweetly pungent leaves can be used in cooking.

(over)

PLANTS WITH FRAGRANT FLOWERS

SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS

Berberis (Mahonia) species and cultivars (barberry) – Sizes vary – Clusters of bright yellow flowers in spring; orange, red or blue-black berries are enjoyed by wild birds. Evergreen.

Calycanthus occidentalis (spice bush) – 9' H x 9' W – Beautiful, fragrant dark red flowers in spring. Full sun on coast; shade inland. Winter deciduous.

Carpenteria californica (bush anemone) – 3-8' H x 6-8' W – Good for shady spots, but large white, yellow-centered flowers are more plentiful with partial sun. Evergreen.

Ceanothus species and cultivars (CA lilac) – Sizes vary – Generous clusters of honey-scented blue (or sometimes white) flowers in spring. Evergreen.

Lupinus species and cultivars (lupine) – Sizes vary – Annuals, perennials and evergreen shrubs. Gorgeous foliage and spring clusters of purple, pink, white or yellow flowers. All parts are toxic.

Hyptis emoryi (desert lavender) – 4-6' H x 5' W – Drought-tolerant desert native with aromatic, grey green leaves and lavender flowers. Evergreen.

Keckiella antirrhinoides (yellow bush snapdragon) – 4' H x 3' W – Sweetly scented yellow flowers in late spring and early summer. This seasonal plant goes dormant in summer.

Oenothera species (evening primrose) – Sizes vary – Tolerate a wide range of conditions and will spread or reseed freely. Pink, white or yellow flowers open in late afternoon.

Penstemon palmeri (Palmer's penstemon) – 3' H x 2' W – Large, pale lavender to white spring flowers on tall upright stems. Evergreen.

Philadelphus lewisii (mock orange) – 6-10' H x 6-10' W – Upright shrub with white citrus-scented flowers in spring. Winter deciduous.

Romneya coulteri (Matilija poppy) – 8' H x spreading – Often called the “fried egg plant” for its spectacular white and yellow flowers. Needs plenty of room; can be invasive. Semi-deciduous.

Rosa californica (CA wild rose) – 5' H x spreading – Forms a prickly thicket in sun or shade; best with moderate to regular water. Pink flowers in spring. Winter deciduous.

Verbena lilacina and cultivars (lilac verbena) – 2-3' H x 2-3' W – Clove-scented lavender (or pale pink) flowers. Evergreen with summer water; drought-deciduous without. Attracts butterflies!

TREES

Aesculus californica (CA buckeye) – 30' H x 18' W – Interesting specimen tree with silver bark, clusters of white flowers in spring and (highly toxic) ornamental seed pods. Summer dormant.

Ceanothus arboreus (felt-leaf or Catalina ceanothus) – 15-25' h x 12' W – The largest of all California lilacs. Small evergreen tree with pale blue to white winter/spring flowers. Drought tolerant to moderate irrigation.

Chilopsis linearis ssp. arcuata (desert willow) – 20' H x 15' W – Drought-tolerant tree with showy pink summer blossoms. Winter deciduous.

Parkinsonia (Cercidium) floridum (blue palo verde) – 20-30' H x 20' W – Showy desert tree with green bark and masses of yellow flowers in spring. Drought tolerant. Evergreen.

Senegalia (Acacia) greggii (catclaw acacia) – 10-15' H x 10-15' W – A tough desert native with sweetly scented yellow flowers. Winter deciduous.