



EASY NATIVE PLANTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants

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Many California native plants are unfussy and likely to thrive in home gardens. We recommend these species and cultivars for their beauty and adaptability.

FOR EITHER COASTAL OR INLAND GARDENS

***Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn'** (Howard McMinn manzanita) – 4-6+' H x 6' W – This dependable free-flowering shrub with leathery foliage sports charming white, urn-shaped blossoms. Expect hummers, butterflies and bees.

Baccharis pilularis and cultivars, esp. 'Pigeon Point' (coyote brush) – 1-2' H x 6' W – A durable shrub with bright green year-round foliage; dwarf cultivars are long-lived ground covers.

Encelia californica (California bush sunflower) – 3' H x 5' W – This really tough shrub bears bright yellow daisies throughout the warm months. Attracts birds, bees and butterflies. A great cut flower.

Eriogonum fasciculatum and cultivars, esp. 'Bruce Dickinson' (California buckwheat) – Sizes vary – This very common California native plant is a white-flowering butterfly magnet and also great for erosion control.

Gambelia species and cultivars (bush snapdragon) – 4-5' h x 4-5' W – Hummingbirds flock to the lipstick-red flowers of these evergreen, small-leaved, trouble-free shrubs.

Salvia mellifera and cultivars, esp. 'Terra Seca' (black sage) – Sizes vary – A very adaptable sage with bright green leaves and white to pale blue flowers. Both upright and spreading forms provide excellent erosion control.

***Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina'** (De La Mina lilac verbena) – Want color, fragrance and wildlife? This mounding shrub offers clove-scented flowers that butterflies can't resist.

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FOR INLAND GARDENS

Calliandra californica (red fairy duster) – 5' h x 5' W – A rounded beauty with finely divided foliage and nearly non-stop bright red blossoms favored by butterflies and hummingbirds.

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' (Ray Hartman California lilac) – 12-20' H x 15' W – This dark-leaved fast-growing shrub can be trained as a small tree. Large clusters of small, fragrant blue flowers attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Heteromeles arbutifolia (toyon) – 8-15'+ H x 10-15' W – A big evergreen shrub or small tree with clusters of small, white summer flowers, followed by red winter berries for songbirds. This species and more than 400 other California native plants were introduced into cultivation by Theodore Payne.

Muhlenbergia rigens (deer grass) – 2-4' H x 4' W – This large, dense and beautiful bunchgrass makes a bold statement in summer with its display of tall graceful flower spikes.

Salvia apiana (white sage) – 3-5' H x 4-6' W (flower spikes to 6' H) – This well-known native is admired for its grayish white, distinctly aromatic foliage and soaring spikes of bright white flowers. A favorite of bumblebees and birds.

FOR COASTAL GARDENS

Erigeron glaucus and cultivars (seaside daisy) – 6 in.-1' H x 2-3' W – A low mounding perennial with generous masses of yellow-centered flowers of lavender or pink. An important food source for beneficial insects.

Heuchera maxima (Island alum root) – 2' H x 2' W – Wiry stems of tiny pink flowers complement the large scalloped foliage of this sturdy clumping perennial. It thrives in dry shade under trees and is a wonderful container plant.

Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius (Santa Cruz Island ironwood) – 30'+ H x 15-20' W – An elegant evergreen tree with evergreen fern-like foliage, decorative bark and spring masses of white flowers, aging to rust. Beautiful when planted in groves.

Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia (holly-leaf cherry) – 15' H x 15' W – A handsome shrub with shiny evergreen foliage, sprays of white flowers and sweet, red-to-black, bird-attracting fruit.

Rhus integrifolia (lemonade berry) – 10' H x 10-30' W – A large, dense and incredibly drought-resistant chaparral shrub with clusters of waxy white and pink flowers, tart red berries and deep, slope-holding roots.