

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN'S

TOP 40 NATIVE PLANTS

TREES

***Cercis occidentalis* - Western Redbud -**

Deciduous large shrub to small tree 15' to 20' high and wide. Pea-shaped clusters of rose pink to magenta flowers appear in spring, before leaf buds break. Shiny apple green heart-shaped leaves. Naturally multi-trunked, can be pruned to single trunk, or pruned up to form a higher canopy. Wide distribution in Northern and Southern California, usually in woodland and chaparral communities. Accepts many soil and moisture conditions. Full sun to part shade.

***Chilopsis linearis* - Desert Willow -** Deciduous large shrub to medium tree 15' to 40'. Trumpet-shaped purple-throated pink flowers occur from mid-spring to early summer. Linear, willow like leaves. Juvenile plant may be pruned to improve structure. Native to high and low desert areas, most commonly in deep sandy soils along washes. Accepts many soil and moisture conditions, lush growth with periodic watering. Full sun. Can become deciduous in response to drought. Many cultivars available, color forms from white to deep burgundy.

***Chitalpa tashkentensis* and cultivars - Chitalpa**

- Fast growing deciduous small to medium tree 20' to 30'. Large clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers occur over long season, late spring through summer. Long, medium green, linear leaves. Inter-generic cross between *Catalpa* and *Chilopsis*. Can be selectively pruned for shape and canopy, and to remove water sprouts. Prefers well drained soils, but tolerates most soil types. Occasional summer deep watering, and supplemental watering in the winter if rainfall is below normal. Full sun. Several cultivars, with white to pink flowers variously marked with deeper colors.

***Pinus quadrifolia* - Four Leaf Pinyon Pine -**

Needled evergreen tree to 45' tall. Produces many small cones, seeds are edible. Native to Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands. Needs good drainage. Little supplemental water needed. Full sun.

***Quercus agrifolia* - Coast Live Oak -** Broadly spreading evergreen tree 30' to 60' high. Cupped dark green leaves. Acorns rather narrow, 1" to 2" long. Wide distribution in coastal foothills and inland valleys, usually associated with Southern Oak and Foothill Woodlands. Needs deep, fairly well drained soil, and periodic soakings. Full sun.

SHRUBS

***Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Howard McMinn' - Sonoma Manzanita -** Evergreen spreading shrub 5' high and as wide. White to light pink flower clusters, late winter to early spring. Medium green leaves, very handsome deep red bark. Limited distribution to an area in the coastal foothills of Sonoma County. Prefers good drainage, occasional supplemental watering. Full sun, benefits from light shade inland.

***Arctostaphylos* 'John Dourley' - John Dourley Manzanita -** Evergreen low shrub to 4' high and as wide. Good pink flower display late winter-early spring. Attractive grey green foliage, with red tinged new growth. Hybrid of unknown parentage. Prefers good drainage, supplemental summer and winter irrigation. Full sun to light shade.

***Arctostaphylos edmundsii* ssp. *parvifolium* 'Bert Johnson' - Bronzemat Manzanita -** Evergreen shrub 1' to 2', spreading to 5'. Liberally sprinkled with pink flowers in winter. Densely clad fuzzy grey-green foliage. Prefers good drainage. Tolerates heat and drought well, performs best with light shade and occasional deep watering.

***Baccharis pilularis* cultivars - Prostrate Coyote Brush -** Evergreen low spreading shrub, 2' to 3' high, 4' to 6' wide. Inconspicuous cream flowers in the summer. Bright green leaves, mounding habit, very good for large scale ground cover. Should be pruned severely every 3 or 4 years during the late winter. Native to coastal bluffs in Central California, from Monterey to Marin counties. Tolerant of many soil conditions, maintains a fresher appearance with supplemental watering. Full sun to light shade.

***Berberis* 'Golden Abundance' - Golden Abundance Mahonia -** Evergreen medium shrub to 6' high and 4' to 6' wide. Large clusters of yellow, scented flowers occur in the spring, followed by clusters of dusky blue fruit. Medium green sharply toothed leaves, often having attractive red coloring in the cooler months. Good screen or accent plant. Seedling origin, cross between *B. aquilifolium*, *B. piperiana*, and *B. amplexans*. Prefers good drainage. Occasional deep watering needed. Full sun to light shade.

***Berberis repens* - Creeping Mahonia -** Evergreen low shrub 12" to 20" high, spreading to 3'. Early spring

blooming with clusters of yellow flowers, followed by clusters of dusky blue berries. Dull green lightly toothed foliage. Native to northern conifer woodlands where it grows as an understory plant. Good ground cover under trees or on shaded slopes. Needs regular watering and soils fairly high in organic content. Partial to full shade.

California Lilac cultivars

Ceanothus 'Blue Cascade' - Evergreen medium shrub 6' to 8' high and as wide. Large clusters of sky blue flowers in early spring, almost hiding the foliage. Densely foliated with bright green leaves. Can take light pruning in early summer, but rarely needs it. Hybrid of unknown parentage. Winner of an Honorable Mention award from the American Horticultural Society. Prefers well drained soil, needs low amount of supplemental deep watering.

Ceanothus 'Concha' - Evergreen mounding, medium sized shrub, 5' to 7' high, spreading slightly wider. Spring blooming, very attractive deep blue flower clusters. Can be pruned lightly in early summer if needed. Seedling origin, probably a cross between *C. impressus* and *C. papillosus* var. *roweanus*. Probably the most garden tolerant *Ceanothus*, accepting a wide variety of soil types, and a greater diversity of irrigation practices. Full sun to light shade.

Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter' - Evergreen mounding, low to medium sized shrub 3' to 5', spreading 8' to 10'. Blooms in spring with many mid-sized medium blue flower clusters. Deep green and densely foliated, this cultivar makes a wonderful high ground cover, well suited for slight slopes. Hybrid origin, cross between *C. papillosus* var. *roweanus* and *C. thyrsiflorus*. This is a very adaptable *Ceanothus*, tolerant of a wide variety of soil types and irrigation practices, but it prefers well drained soil and occasional supplemental watering. Full sun, prefers light shade in inland areas.

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' - Evergreen large shrub 15 to 18' high and up to 15' wide. Very large medium blue flower clusters appear in spring. Fast growing with large dark green, glossy leaves. Good background shrub or as a focal point trained into a small tree. Hybrid origin, cross between *C. arboreus* and *C. griseus*. Pruning for tree proportions should begin with juvenile plant. Prune in early summer taking care to remove only branches under 3/4" diameter. Tolerates heavy soils but prefers good drainage. Occasional deep watering in the summer. Full sun, or light summer shade in inland areas.

Ceanothus maritimus and its cultivars -

Maritime Ceanothus - Low evergreen shrub, 1' to 3' high, spreading to 6' across. Dense flower panicles occur winter to early spring, one of the earliest blooming *Ceanothus*. Small deep green foliage, with white cast to the undersides. Wonderful ground, bank, or rock garden plant. Native to coastal areas in San Luis Obispo County. Prefers good drainage, supplemental watering. Will take full sun, longer lived with light shade inland.

Cultivars available: **'Frosty Dam'** - extremely low growing with silver lavender flowers; **'Popcorn'** - dense mound with bright white flowers; **'Dr. Leiser's Dark Blue'** and **'Roger's Dark Blue'** are dense mounding with deep blue inflorescences; **'Point Sierra'** is very low growing with strong horizontal branching habit, good mid-blue flower color.

Comarostaphylis diversifolia - Summer Holly - Evergreen medium shrub 6' to 10' high, 6' to 8' wide. Creamy white urn-shaped flowers appear in clusters in mid spring, followed by very showy red berries which last from summer into fall. Rich deep green leathery, leaves, grey/brown bark which sheds to reveal attractive red. Native to San Diego County on coastal foothills. Good background, accent, or slope plant, can be pruned into small tree form. *C.d.* var. *planifolia* has a wider distribution, and is a larger species up to 18', may be better suited for training into tree form. Prefers good drainage, occasional deep watering. Full sun, will tolerate light shade.

Fallugia paradoxa - Apache Plume - Deciduous medium shrub 3' to 8', spreading 6' to 10'. White flowers in spring, followed by seeds which have very showy feathery pink tails. Twiggy branches with small dark green leaves. Overall appearance of plant is light and airy. Wide distribution through high deserts of western states where it occurs in gravelly and sandy soils. Very heat and drought tolerant, although will become deciduous during extended periods of drought. Needs good drainage. Full sun.

Heteromeles arbutifolia - Toyon - Evergreen large shrub 18' to 23' high and as wide. White flowers in spring through early summer. Clusters of bright orange red berries mature in fall and winter. Handsome deep green foliage. Multi trunked, it can be pruned into tree form. Very wide distribution throughout chaparral areas of California and Baja. Accepts a wide variety of soil types and needs very little water once established. Full sun, can tolerate light shade.

Myrica californica - Pacific Wax Myrtle - Evergreen large shrub 15' to 25' high and 15' wide. Glossy dark green foliage. Flowers inconspicuous. Good for screen hedge or small tree, as it takes readily to pruning. Can be used for formal applications. Native to coastal dunes and scrub. Prefers good drainage. Needs some summer irrigation. Best with some shade inland. *M. c.* **'Buxifolia'** is a dwarf version to 6', suitable for smaller hedges.

Prunus ilicifolia ssp. ilicifolia - Hollyleaf Cherry - Evergreen large shrub to 25' high and spreading as wide. Large spikes of white flowers cloak plant in the spring, followed by deep red fruit. Glossy green leaves with toothed margins. Excellent for large screen or can be pruned for use as a large hedge or small tree. *Prunus* has a large distribution through California in many plant

- communities. Tolerates a wide variety of conditions. Takes full sun or light shade.

***Rhamnus californica* and cultivars -**

Coffeeberry - Evergreen medium shrub 8' to 10' and spreading as wide. Inconspicuous flowers followed by showy red/brown fruit in fall. Large dark green leaves. Good for background shrub or screen. Native to many plant communities. Tolerates a wide variety of soils, will survive with very little irrigation, but will have fresher appearance with periodic deep soakings. Takes full sun to quite a bit of shade. Some of its cultivars: '**Seaview Improved**' and '**Ed Holmes**' are good low selections up to 3'; '**Eve Case**' and '**Mount San Bruno**' are densely foliated to about 6'.

***Rhus ovata* - Sugarbush** - Large evergreen shrub 6' to 30' high and spreading as wide. Cream and rose flowers in dense clusters in spring, followed by clusters of small hairy red fruit. Good for a background shrub or trained as a small tree. Wide distribution, mainly inland chaparral. Prefers good drainage. Heat and drought tolerant. Full sun or light shade.

***Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* and cultivars** - Medium deciduous shrub 5' to 8' high and 4' to 6' wide. Blooms in spring with long (up to 8") pendant clusters. Flower color ranges from white to red in named cultivars. Maple-like leaves are light green. Very attractive flowering features make it a good choice for mixed plantings or as a background for a perennial bed. Wide distribution in Northern California. Prefers good drainage, supplemental watering. Needs light to moderate shade.

***Ribes viburnifolium* - Catalina Currant** - Low evergreen spreading shrub 2' to 3' high and up to 12' wide. Clusters of small rosy flowers in spring, followed by reddish fruit. Leaves are dark green, leathery, on arching red stems. Good easy care ground cover under oaks or other low water use trees. Can prune out upright branches. Occurs in Southern California and Santa Catalina Island. Prefers good drainage. Performs best in partial shade. Drought tolerant but responds well to occasional deep watering.

PERENNIALS

***Achillea millefolium* cultivars - Yarrow** - Low perennial to 3' high. Flat-topped pincushion-like flower heads, 2' to 3" across, bloom spring through late summer with colors ranging from creamy white to deep rose. Bright green ferny foliage. Cut back in late summer. Good for dried flowers. Can be used as a walk-on lawn substitute. Moderately drought tolerant. Full sun to light shade.

***Aquilegia formosa* - Western Columbine** - Herbaceous to almost evergreen perennial, grows to 3' high. Red and yellow pendant flowers occur in spring and summer. Green lacy attractive foliage. Native to stream

banks, seeps, and moist places in many plant communities. Needs periodic summer water. Performs best in part shade.

***Artemisia pycnocephala* 'David's Choice'** - **Coastal Sagewort** - Compact perennial grows 1' high and 2' to 3' wide. Silver flower stalks rise above foliage, flowers are creamy yellow; stalks are often cut off to maintain plant shape. Silver grey foliage is fern like, slightly aromatic. Native to beaches of Northern California. Prefers well drained soils, but is tolerant of many conditions. Drought tolerant, but appreciates supplemental water. Avoid overhead watering during periods of heat to prevent rot.

***Chrysopsis villosa* 'San Bruno Mtn.'** - **Golden Aster** - Ever-blooming perennial 1' high to 2' wide. Sterile yellow daisy flowers cover the dull green hairy foliage. Good for mixed border or for massing. Native to rocky areas in the Sierra and Cascade Ranges. Maintains better appearance if deadheaded monthly. Needs supplemental water for best performance. Full sun to very light shade.

***Epilobium* spp. and cultivars - California Fuchsia** - Easily grown perennial. Flaring-mouthed tubular flowers occur from late August to October or later. Flower color generally vibrant red to orange-red, but will include pink and white in some of the many cultivars. Wonderful choice for the informal sunny garden, where it will spread by underground runners and seeds. Unless otherwise noted plants should be cut to stubs in January or February to avoid an unkempt rangy appearance. Drought tolerant once established, but will accept regular irrigation in fast draining soils. Hummingbirds love this plant. Some of its cultivars: '**Catalina**' - Very vigorous form with narrow grey leaves. Rich orange-red flowers contrast wonderfully with the foliage. Upright habit to 3'. Cut back severely in winter. '**Everett's Choice**' - Bright orange-red flowers on a prostrate mounding plant which reaches a height of only 6", spreading to 2'. Larger felted grey green leaves. Does not appear to spread underground. Good for containers or draping down over walls. Cut back in winter. '**Hurricane Point**' - Thin dark grey leaves. Orange narrow flowers. Plant reaches 2', spreading to 3'. Cut back lightly in winter, will not withstand severe pruning.

***Erigeron glauca* and cultivars - Seaside Daisy** - Free blooming perennial grows to 10" high. Daisy flowers range in color from white to deep lavender. Blooms heaviest in spring with scattered bloom through much of the year. Spatulate foliage ranges from blue green to bright green. Native to coastal bluffs and sand dunes. Good for cut flowers, in mixed border or massed. Needs some supplemental irrigation, occasional deadheading. Full sun to part shade.

***Eriogonum umbellatum* var. *polyanthum* 'Shasta Sulfur'** - **Sulfur Flower** - Dome-shaped perennial grows 2' by 3'. Bright, clear canary yellow flower heads in summer, fading to typical buckwheat rusty