

VINES

<i>Aristolochia californica</i> California Pipe Vine	P/F N W D
<i>Clematis lasiantha</i> Pipestem Clematis (8'-20')	S/A/P N B D X
<i>Lonicera hispidula</i> Western or California Honeysuckle (3'-20')	S/A/P/F N W B C X
<i>Rosa 'Cécile Brünner'</i> Climbing Rose (10'-20')	S/A/P
<i>Vitis californica</i> x 'Roger's Red' Roger's Red Grape (25'-40')	S/A/P N W

SUCCULENTS

<i>Aeonium canariense</i> Canary Island Aeonium	S/A/P E T X
<i>Agave 'Blue Flame'</i> Blue Agave	S E D C T X
<i>Agave parryi</i> Parry's Agave/Century Plant	S E D C T X
<i>Agave attenuata</i> Foxtail Agave	S E D C T X
<i>Agave filifera</i> Thread Agave	S E D C T X
<i>Aloe vera</i> Aloe	S/A/P E T X
<i>Aloe aborescens</i> Candelabra Aloe	S/A/P E T X
<i>Calandrinia spectabilis</i> (syn. <i>Cistanthe grandiflora</i>) Rock Purslane	S/A/P E B T
<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> Pig's Ear	S/A/P E D T
<i>Dasyliirion</i> spp. Desert Spoon	S/A/P N E D
<i>Dudleya</i> spp. Cliff Lettuce, Live Forever (some native)	A/P N E T
<i>Echeveria agavoides</i> Wax Agave	A/P E T
<i>Echeveria elegans</i> Mexican Snowball	A/P E T
★ <i>Sedum</i> spp. Stonecrop (some are native)	S/A/P N B T
<i>Sempervivum</i> spp. Houseleek	S/A/P B D
<i>Senecio mandraliscae</i> Blue Chalk Fingers	S/A/P T X
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Color Guard' Color Guard Yucca	S E D

GRASSES & GRASS-LIKE PLANTS

<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Blond Ambition' Blue Grama Grass	S/A/P N W B D
<i>Carex tumulicola</i> Foothill Sedge	A/P/F N B E D C
<i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i> Cape Reed	S/A/P W E D
<i>Festuca glauca</i> Blue Fescue	A/P D
★ <i>Festuca rubra</i> Red Fescue	A/P N B E D
<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> Idaho Fescue (some native)	S/A/P N B E D
★ <i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i> Blue Oat Grass	S/A/P E D
★ <i>Juncus patens</i> California Grey Rush	S/A/P N E D C
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> Platinum Beauty™, 'Breeze' Dwarf Mat Rush	S/A/P E D
★ <i>Muhlenbergia</i> spp. Muhly Grass	S W E D C
★ <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> Deer Grass	S N W E D C

Plant Guide Key

★ = Garden Sense Superstars	D = Deer Resistant
S = Full Sun	C = Erosion Control
A = Afternoon Shade	T = Frost Tender
P = Part Shade	X = Poisonous
F = Full Shade	

N = California Native	Abbreviations
W = Wildlife Habitat	spp. = Species
B = Beneficial Insects	syn. = Synonym
E = Evergreen	var. = Variety

PLANTS WITH A SENSE OF PLACE

Our area enjoys a Mediterranean climate characterized by wet winters and long, dry summers with little rainfall. Plants that are suited or adapted to local conditions not only use less water but generally grow more successfully and robustly, with fewer insect and disease problems. They ultimately create a healthier, more beautiful and more sustainable landscape. Some of the plants in this guide are California natives, while others are native to Mediterranean climates around the world.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership

<https://www.savingwaterpartnership.org>

Regional water use efficiency programs including:

- Regional rebate programs
- Landscape Design Templates
- Eco-Friendly Garden Tour
- Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL)
- Water Smart Plant Cards
- Water Smart Plant Label at local nurseries

UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County and Garden Sense

<https://ucanr.edu/site/mg-sonoma/garden-sense>

FREE consultations with UC Master Gardeners of Sonoma County Garden Sense volunteers.

<https://ucanr.edu/site/mg-sonoma/recommended-landscape-plants-sonoma-county>

Plant lists to help you find the right plants for each place in your garden.

sonomamg.ucanr.edu
(707) 565-2880



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Garden Sense is a cooperative program between the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County and the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership

Version 8, 2026



Water Smart Plant Guide

UC Master Gardener Program
of Sonoma County



Achillea filipendulina 'Coronation Gold'



Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens*



Iris douglasiana

TREES

LARGE (Over 35' Tall)

<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> Coast Live Oak	S N W B E D X
<i>Quercus lobata</i> Valley Oak	S N W B D X
★ <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Drake' Chinese Elm	S

MEDIUM (20' to 40' Tall)

<i>Laurus nobilis</i> Sweet Bay	S/A/P E
★ <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> 'Keith Davey' Chinese Pistache	S D

SMALL (up to 25' Tall)

★ <i>Arbutus unedo</i> Strawberry Tree	S/A/P W B E D
★ <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> Western Redbud	S/A/P N W D C
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> Desert Willow	S N W B D
<i>Diospyros kaki</i> Japanese Persimmon	S
★ <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> Crape Myrtle	S D
<i>Olea europaea</i> 'Swan Hill'/Swan Hills Olives™ or 'Wilsonii' Olive (Non-fruiting only)	S E D
<i>Parkinsonia microphylla</i> Little Leaf Palo Verde	S N B
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i> Carolina Laurel	S/A/P E C X
<i>Punica granatum</i> Pomegranate	S/A/P B

SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS

HEDGES/WINDBREAKS (Over 12' Tall)

★ <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Toyon	S/A/P N W B E D C X
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> 'Silver Sheen' Pittosporum	S/A/P B E X
★ <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> Mock Orange	S/A/P B E X
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i> Carolina Laurel Cherry	S/A/P E C X
★ <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> Hollyleaf Cherry	S/A/P N W B E D C X
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i> Lemonade Berry	S/A/P N W E D C X

LARGE SHRUBS (6'-12' Tall)

★ <i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Howard McMinn' Manzanita	S/A/P N W B E D C X
★ <i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Dr. Hurd' Manzanita	S/A/P N W B E D C X
★ <i>Ceanothus</i> 'Dark Star', 'Julia Phelps', 'Concha' California Lilac	S/A/P N W B E D C
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i> Evergreen Euonymus	S/A/P E X
★ <i>Frangula</i> (syn. <i>Rhamnus</i>) <i>californica</i> 'Eve Case', 'Leatherleaf', 'Mound San Bruno' California Coffeeberry	S/A/P N W B E D C
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Robyn Gordon' Grevillea	S/A/P W E D C
★ <i>Loropetalum chinense</i> Fringe Flower	S/A/P E
★ <i>Olea europaea</i> Little Ollie™ Dwarf Fruitless Olive	S/A/P E D
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> Pacific Ninebark	S/A/P N W D
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> 'Marjorie Channon' Kohuhu	S/A/P B E X
<i>Punica granatum</i> Pomegranate	S/A/P B
<i>Sambucus</i> spp. Elderberry (some are native)	S/A/P N W B D C X
<i>Sarcococca ruscifolia</i> Sweet Box	P F E D
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> Lilac	S W B D

MEDIUM SHRUBS (3'-6' Tall)

★ <i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Sunset', 'John Dourley' Manzanita	S/A/P N W B E D C X
★ <i>Ceanothus thrysiflorus</i> 'Skylark' California Lilac	S/A/P W B E D C

<i>Cistus x pulverulentus</i> 'Sunset' Rockrose	S E D
★ <i>Correa</i> spp. Australian Fuchsia	S/A/P W B E D
★ <i>Frangula</i> (syn. <i>Rhamnus</i>) <i>californica</i> 'Gumdrop', 'Seaview' California Coffeeberry	S/A/P N W B E D C
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Superb' Grevillea	S/A/P W E D C
★ <i>Leucadendron salignum</i> 'Summer Red' Cone Bush	S E D
★ <i>Loropetalum chinense</i> Ever Red™ Chinese Fringe Flower	S/A/P E
<i>Phormium hybrids</i> New Zealand Flax	S/A/P W E D
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> 'Golf Ball' Pittosporum	S/A/P B E X
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i> 'Pink Lady' Indian Hawthorn	S/A/P E
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i> Flowering Currant	S/A/P/F N W D C
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Tuscan Blue' Rosemary	S/A/P W B E D C
<i>Teucrium fruiticans</i> 'Azureum' Bush Germander	S B E D C
★ <i>Westringia</i> 'Wynyabbie Gem' Coast Rosemary	S E D

SMALL SHRUBS (Up to 2' Tall)

<i>Phormium tenax</i> 'Jack Spratt' Dwarf New Zealand Flax	S/A/P W E D
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> 'Elfin' Dwarf Pittosporum	S/A/P B E X
★ <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> 'Dwarf Variegata' Dwarf Variegated Pittosporum	S/A/P B E X
★ <i>Pittosporum tobira</i> 'Wheeler's Dwarf' Dwarf Pittosporum	S/A/P B E X
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i> 'Ballerina' Indian Hawthorn	S/A/P E
★ <i>Ribes viburnifolium</i> Evergreen Currant	A/P N B E D

SUB-SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS (2'-5' TALL)

<i>Achillea filipendulina</i> 'Coronation Gold' Fernleaf Yarrow	S B D X
<i>Agastache rupestris</i> Licorice Mint	S/A/P W B D
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i> Narrowleaf Milkweed	S N B D X
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i> Showy Milkweed	S N B D X
★ <i>Diplacus</i> (syn. <i>Mimulus</i>) <i>aurantiacus</i> & hybrids Monkeyflower	S/A/P N B E D C
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i> St. Catherine's Lace	S N W B E D C T
<i>Erysimum</i> 'Bowles's Mauve' Wallflower	S/A/P B E D
<i>Lavandula x intermedia</i> 'Grosso', 'Provence' Lavender	S B E D
<i>Leonotis leonurus</i> Lion's Tail	S W B E D
<i>Phlomis russeliana</i> Phlomis	S/A/P E D
★ <i>Salvia greggii</i> and hybrids Autumn Sage	S/A/P W B D T
<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i> Germander Sage	S/A/P W B E D
★ <i>Salvia clevelandii</i> 'Winnifred Gilman', 'Poza Blue' Cleveland Sage	S/A/P W B E D C

SUB-SHRUBS AND PERENNIALS (UNDER 2' TALL)

★ <i>Achillea millefolium</i> 'Island Pink', 'Sonoma Coast' California Yarrow	S/A/P N B D C
<i>Aquilegia</i> spp. Columbine (some are native)	S/A/P N W B D X
★ <i>Coreopsis</i> spp. Coreopsis	S B
<i>Corethrogyne</i> (syn. <i>Lessingia</i>) <i>filanginifolia</i> California Aster	S/A/P N B D
★ <i>Epilobium canum</i> (formerly <i>Zauschneria</i>) 'Everett's Choice', 'Calistoga' California Fuchsia	S N W B D C
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i> 'Cape Sebastian', 'WR' Seaside Daisy	S/A/P N B E D T

<i>Eriogonum grande</i> var. <i>rubescens</i> Red Flowered Buckwheat	S N W B E D C
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> 'Shasta Sulphur' Sulphur Buckwheat	S N W B E D C
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i> 'Siskiyou' Woolly Sunflower	S/A/P N W B E D C
<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i> Blanket Flower	S E
<i>Helleborus</i> spp. Hellebore/Lenten Rose	A/P/F E D X
★ <i>Heuchera maxima</i> Island Alum Root	S/A/P W B E
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i> Crevice Alum Root	A/P N W B E
<i>Iris douglasiana</i> Douglas Iris Hybrids	S/A/P N E D X
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> 'Hidcote' Lavender	S B E D
★ <i>Monardella villosa</i> Coyote Mint	S/A/P N B D
<i>Nepeta</i> spp. Catmint or Catnip	S/A/P B D
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> 'Margarita BOP', 'Blue Springs' Foothill Penstemon	S/A/P N B
★ <i>Salvia</i> 'Bee's Bliss' Bee's Bliss Salvia	S/A/P W B E D C
<i>Salvia spathacea</i> Hummingbird Sage	A/P/F N W B E D
<i>Santolina</i> spp. Lavender Cotton	S/A/P E D
★ <i>Stachys byzantina</i> Lamb's Ears	S/A/P E D
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> Germander	S B E D
<i>Tulbaghia violacea</i> Society Garlic	S B E D X

GROUNDCOVERS

WALKABLE

<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i> Chamomile	S/A/P W E D
★ <i>Dymondia margaretae</i> Dymondia	S/A/P/F E D
<i>Festuca rubra</i> Red Fescue	A/P B E D
★ <i>Thymus praecox</i> Creeping Thyme	S B E D

NON-WALKABLE (Up to 2' Tall, Up to 12' Wide)

★ <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> 'Point Reyes', 'Radiant' Trailing Manzanita	S/A/P N W B E D C X
★ <i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> 'Carmel Sur' Trailing Manzanita	S/A/P N W E D C X
★ <i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Pigeon Point' Dwarf Coyote Brush	S/A/P N W B E D C
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> var. <i>repens</i> (syn. <i>Mahonia repens</i>) Creeping/Dwarf Oregon Grape	S/A/P N W E D C X
★ <i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i> 'Anchor Bay' California Lilac	S/A/P N W B E D C
★ <i>Ceanothus griseus</i> var. <i>horizontalis</i> 'Yankee Point' California Lilac	S/A/P N W B E D C
★ <i>Ceanothus maritimus</i> 'Valley Violet' California Lilac	S/A/P W B E D C
<i>Clinopodium</i> (syn. <i>Satureja</i>) <i>douglasii</i> Yerba Buena	P/F N W B E D C
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Warriner Lytle' Buckwheat	S N W B E D C
<i>Grevillea lanigera</i> 'Coastal Gem' Grevillea	S/A/P W E D
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> Sunrose	S B E D C
★ <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> Prostrate Myoporum	S E D C T
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Prostratus', 'Huntington Carpet' Prostrate Rosemary	S/A/P W B E D C