

ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

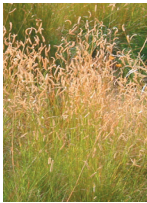
GREAT NATIVE PLANTS FOR CENTRAL VALLEY GARDENS



SERPENTINE COLUMBINE

Aquilegia eximia

This native perennial is a striking addition to a shady garden. Much larger than the common columbine, it may reach 4-5 feet tall. The large, boxy red and yellow flowers are attractive to hummingbirds.



BLUE GRAMA GRASS

Bouteloua gracilis

This warm season grass is a tidy accent plant for the perennial border. It has a neat, upright form and soft texture with unusual reddish flowers in summer that bleach to white over the season. It retains its attractive shape even when dormant.



BERKELEY SEDGE

Carex tumulicola

This evergreen sedge forms attractive puffs of shiny green foliage. Excellent for use in dry or moist shade under trees and shrubs. Dark green in shady gardens, it tolerates some sun with regular irrigation. A versatile and easy to grow plant that can be planted closely as a lawn substitute or spaced more widely to appreciate its graceful form.



WESTERN REDBUD

Cercis occidentalis

A multi-branched deciduous shrub or small tree to 20 ft. tall, the redbud is a spectacular spring bloomer. The characteristic purple-pink flowers emerge before the attractive round, bluish-green leaves. Best with afternoon shade and infrequent deep irrigation; will tolerate full sun if watered more frequently. Some forms have attractive purplish seed pods that become red-brown in winter.



TOYON

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Evergreen shrub or multi-trunk small tree to 20 ft. Tolerates sun or partial shade and infrequent irrigation. Shiny, deep green, leathery leaves with toothed edges, flat panicles of white flowers in summer, and bright red berries in winter. A local yellow-berried form is named 'Davis Gold.'



CORAL BELLS

Heuchera 'Rosada'

Mounding, evergreen perennial to 1 ft. tall x 1-2 ft. wide. Prefers partial to full shade and infrequent to average garden irrigation. Delicate wands of pink flowers float above the foliage on tall stems in spring. Good for dry shade, especially under native oaks.



CANYON SNOW PACIFIC IRIS

Iris 'Canyon Snow'

This is the toughest hybrid of the native Pacific coast iris--it grows with virtually no maintenance and thrives in sun or dry shade. Its beautiful white flowers with yellow markings are good for cutting. The narrow leaves form an attractive, evergreen, grass-like clump.



SILVER CARPET CALIFORNIA-ASTER

Lessingia filaginifolia var. *californica*

'Silver Carpet'

This California native is an excellent groundcover or container plant; it looks good spilling over low walls or down steps. It is covered with light purple flowers in summer and the flowers attract butterflies and beneficial insects.



DEER GRASS

Muhlenbergia rigens

Large evergreen grass 3 ft. tall x 6 ft. wide for full sun or partial shade. Needs only one irrigation mid-summer. Flowers on narrow 5 ft. tall stalks make a year-round display. Cut to the ground every three years to rejuvenate.



SANTA MARGARITA FOOTHILL PENSTEMON

Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita B.O.P.'

This semi-evergreen native perennial has showy flowers that start as yellow buds, bloom sky blue and age to purple-pink. It is easy to grow and thrives in a wide range of garden conditions.



VALLEY OAK

Quercus lobata

The signature tree of the Central Valley, this majestic oak tolerates high heat, drought, and alkaline soil. Beloved for the dramatic form of its bare branches in winter, its tender green new leaves in spring and dense shade in summer.



CALIFORNIA WHITE SAGE

Salvia apiana

This large evergreen native sage has bright white foliage with a pungent scent evoking the California chaparral. Flower stalks rise three feet above the foliage in spring. It is a striking accent plant for a low-water garden.



GIANT CHAIN FERN

Woodwardia fimbriata

This native fern has large, showy divided fronds, looks lush in shady gardens, and can tolerate neglect once established.

UC DAVIS
ARBORETUM

All Stars

WHY USE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS?

Gardening with plants that are native to California may use less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than with common garden plants.

Growing native plants can provide food and shelter for native insects and birds, and may help preserve genetic diversity of native species. And besides—they're beautiful!

DESIGN & INSTALL YOUR NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

- Choose plants native to the Valley or similar climate areas (see plant list on back)
- Place plants where they will get the right exposure (sun and shade).
- Group natives and other drought tolerant plants according to their water needs
- Work gypsum or organic matter into soil to improve drainage.
- Check for and break up soil compaction.
- Plant in the fall to reduce heat stress on new plants and the amount of irrigation needed during the first summer.
- Be sure that the plant's root crown is elevated slightly (one-half inch) above the level of the surrounding soil to prevent water from pooling.

KNOW WHEN TO WATER

The greatest problem with native plants in home gardens is that they are often over-watered. At the Arboretum, we have found that most of our native plants do best if watered no more often than every two weeks.

- Allow the soil to dry between irrigations to replenish the supply of oxygen to the roots.
- To judge if a plant needs water, dig down four to six inches to check for soil moisture. Roll or squeeze a small amount of soil into a ball. If it will not mold into a ball, it is too dry. A good soil, when moist, should mold into a ball which crumbles when rubbed.
- Use a drip or flood system rather than overhead irrigation to reduce the spread of disease.
- Deep irrigation of a plant in a clay loam is a long process—it can take 24 hours of irrigation time to wet the soil to a depth of three feet. To prevent runoff, run the water for a while, shut it off and allow it to be absorbed, then repeat the process.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Avoid nitrogen fertilizers. Excessive nitrogen may cause plants to overgrow their root systems and blow over in high winds.
- Prune California native plants only when the plant and the weather are dry, preferably in the summer. Make only the most minimal thinning and shaping cuts.
- Use mulch (a thick layer of bark, compost, or other organic material on the soil) to help slow runoff, reduce moisture loss by evaporation, discourage weeds, keep the soil and roots cool, and prevent soil compaction.

GROWING CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR CENTRAL VALLEY GARDEN

- REDUCE your use of water, energy, chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- SUPPORT native birds and insects by growing their food
- CREATE a garden with regional style, unique to the Central Valley

