

Getting Started with CA Native Plants for Bay Area Gardens

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Width	Exposure	Water	Flower	Bloom time	Good for	Notes
Trees									
Toyon	Heteromeles arbutifolia	6-30'	10-15'	Full Sun, Part Shade	low, summer 2x / month	White flowers/Red berries	Apr-May/Fall-Winter	Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens	Can be planted near the house, is fire retardant when given enough moisture
Holly-leaved Cherry	Prunus ilicifolia	30-50'	10'	Sun/part shade	Very Low, Summer 1x / month	White	Apr-May	Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Fruit is edible and sweet with not much flesh, loved by birds
Blue Elderberry	Sambucus nigra spp. caerulea	20'	20'	Full Shade, Part Shade, Full Sun	low, summer 1x / month	Cream, Yellow, Purple	Apr-May	Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Winter deciduous. Tolerates moist conditions. Accepts pruning readily
Coast Live Oak	Quercus agrifolia	25-80'	15-35'	Full Sun, Part Shade	Low, Summer 1x / month	Yellow, Cream, Green	Nov-May	Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens	Evergreen.
Valley Oak	Quercus lobata	60-100'	50'	Full Sun	low, summer 2x / month	Yellow, Cream, Green	Nov-May	Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens	Deciduous. Plant near water source
Shrubs									
Bees Bliss Sage	Salvia x 'Bee's Bliss'	2'	6-8'	Full Sun, Part Shade	Very Low, Summer 1x / month	Lavender	Mar-May	Bank Stabilization, Bee Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Deer Resistant, Groundcovers, Hummingbird Gardens	Evergreen, mounding form. Pinch back as needed
Coffeeferry	Franqula californica	6-15'	5'	Full Sun, Part Shade	Very Low, Low	Red/purple/black berries	Sep-Dec	Bank Stabilization, Hedges, Groundcovers, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Evergreen, spreading. Takes pruning well.
Pink-flowering Currant	Ribes sanguineum var glutinosum	13'	7'	Full sun to part shade	Very Low, Low, Summer 3x / month	Pink, Purple	Feb-April	Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Hummingbird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Winter deciduous
Sticky Monkey Flower	Mimulus aurantiacus	3'	3'	Part Shade, Full Sun	Low, Summer 2x / month	Orange, Yellow	Nov-Jun	Deer Resistant, Hummingbird Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Evergreen. Deadhead to increase flower production
California Buckwheat	Eriogonum fasciculatum	2'	4'	Sun	Very Low, Summer 1x / month	Yellow, Cream, Pink, White	Jun-Nov	Bank Stabilization, Bee Gardens, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Deer Resistant, Groundcovers	Prefers loamy soil
Coyote Brush	Baccharis pilularis	2-6'	4-6'	Full Sun, Part Shade	Very low, Summer Max 1x / week	Yellow, Cream, White	All year	Bank Stabilization, Groundcovers, Hedges, Butterfly Gardens, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Bee Gardens	Evergreen, fast cover. Said to be fire resistant
Perennials									
Harvest Brodiaea	Brodiaea elegans	1.5'	0.5'	Sun, part shade	low	Purple, lilac, white	April-May	Butterfly	Corms are edible, dig up every few years and divide gently
One Leaf Onion	Allium unifolium	1-2.5'	1"	Full Shade, Part Shade	low	Lavender, Pink, Yellow, White, Purple	April-May	Butterflies, moths, bees, Deer Resistant	
Common Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	1-3'	0.5-1.5'	Sun	low	White, Yellow	Apr-May	Bird Gardens, Deer Resistant, Bee Gardens, Butterfly Gardens	Divide ever other year
Douglas Iris	Iris douglasiana	1-2'	2-4'	Full Sun, Part Shade, Full Shade	low	Purple, white	Apr-May	Deer Resistant, evergreen	Clumps widen in a circle, can dig up and divide in late fall
California Aster	Symphyotrichum chilense	1-3'	3'	Sun	low, summer 2x / month	Blue, Lavender, Yellow	Jul-Aug	Deer resistant, butterfly	sheer flowers after first bloom for another
California Fuchsia	Epilobium canum ssp. latifolium	3'	2'	Full Sun	Very Low, Low	Red	Aug-Nov	Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Hummingbird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens	prefers sandy soil, prune back in the late fall
Wildflowers									
California Poppy	Eschscholzia californica	0.15-2'	1-2'	Full Sun	Very Low, Low, Summer 2x / month	Orange, Yellow	Feb-Apr	Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	
Blue Field Gilia	Gilia capitata	0.33-3'	6"	Sun	Low, Summer 2x / month	Blue, Lavender, Pink, White	Mar-May	Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Tolerates clay but does best in well-drained soil
Ruby Chalice Clarkia	Clarkia rubicunda	2.5'	2.5'	Sun	Very Low, Summer 1x / month	Pink, Red, Purple	Apr-Jun	Deer Resistant, Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Generally snail and slug resistant
Meadowfoam	Limnanthes douglasii	1.6'	6"	Full Sun, Part Shade	Low, Moderate, High, Summer keep moist	Cream, Yellow, White	Apr-May	Bee Gardens	Must have poorly drained clay soil
Elegant Clarkia	Clarkia unguiculata	3.3'	3'	Full Sun, Part Shade	summer never	Pink, Red	Jun-Oct	Butterfly Gardens, Bee Gardens	Works for oak understorey
Sources									
Ask for native plants at your local nursery using the scientific name. If the plants are not in stock, ask the nursery to order them from Surcrest, the wholesale nursery in Watsonville. Or visit one of the nurseries below.									
GNPS/SCV chapter plant sales	Hard to find natives, check newsletter or website for dates				www.gnps-scv.org			Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Rd, Los Altos Hills	
Summerwinds Nursery	Decent native section				(650) 493-5136			725 San Antonio Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94303	
Lamer Seeds	www.lamerseeds.com	(mainly seeds)			(415) 868-9407			P.O. Box 407, Bolinas, CA 94924	
Yerba Buena Nursery	www.yerbabuenanursery.com				(650) 851-1668			12511 San Mateo Road (Hwy 92) Half Moon Bay, CA	