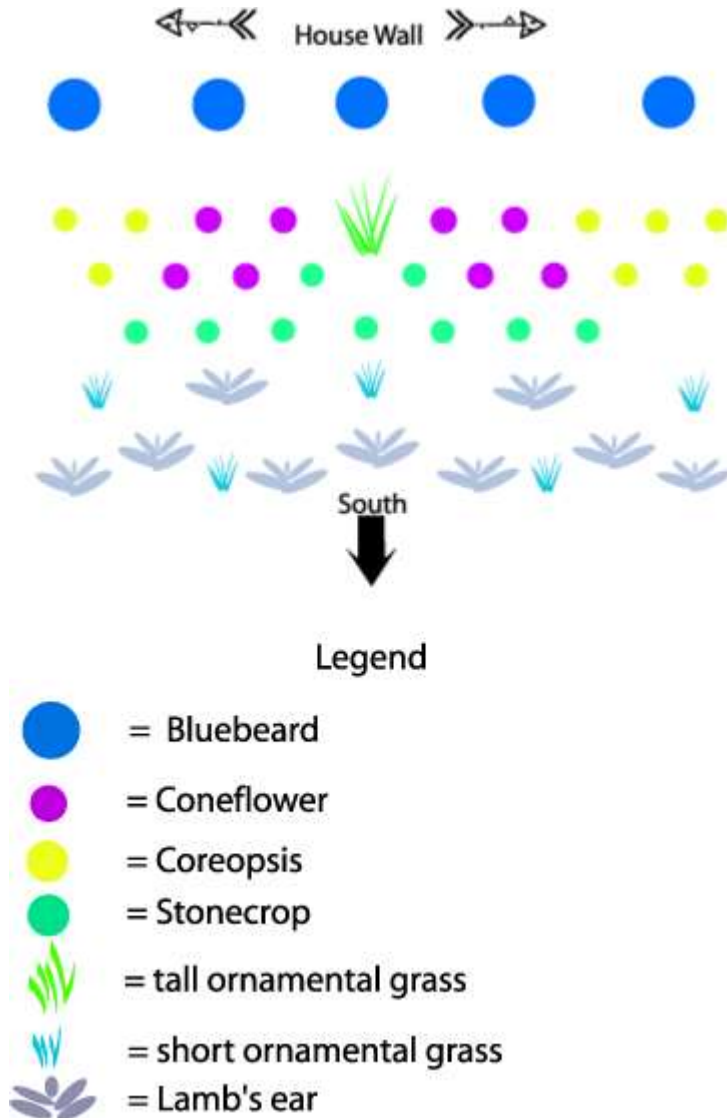


## Drought-Resistant Plants for Water-Wise Landscaping

Please scroll down to the bottom of the page to view the drought-resistant or "drought-tolerant" landscape plan. The plan calls for 3 loose rows of perennials. Bluebeard, a tall plant, will dominate the back row, where it won't obscure shorter plants. The middle row is staggered with drought-resistant perennials of intermediate heights: moonbeam coreopsis, purple coneflowers and "Autumn Joy" stonecrop. At its back, and punctuating the whole ensemble as a focal point, is a tall ornamental grass. Finally, mounds of a shorter, drought-resistant ornamental grass variety are staggered with lamb's ears to comprise the front row.



PHOTOS BELOW:

## Desert Plant Pictures

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These are pictures of **lantana**, a common evergreen shrub found in the Phoenix area. **Lantana** is one of seven plants that you can use in your desert landscape yard that is easy to grow, easy to care for, and looks good all year long. Photo

1 of 7



**Lantana** is a ground cover.  
The yellow variety of **lantana** is pictured here.

Below are pictures of the **Red Bird of Paradise**, a common evergreen plant found in the Phoenix area. The **Red Bird of Paradise** is one of seven plants that you can use in your desert landscape yard that is easy to grow, easy to care for, and looks good all year long. The Red Bird of Paradise is often mistakenly called the Mexican Bird of Paradise.



The flower of the **Red Bird of Paradise**.

Below are pictures of **purple sage** bushes, a common evergreen bush found in the Phoenix area. The **purple sage** is one of seven plants that you can use in your desert landscape yard that is easy to grow, easy to care for, and looks good all year long.



The **purple sage** is a popular evergreen plant in desert gardens. In the background you can see a Mexican Bird of Paradise, and on the right, a young bougainvillea on a trellis.

## Great informational links for waterwise landscaping:

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/PUBS/GARDEN/07229.html>

[http://www.waterawareness.org/resources\\_nurseries.php](http://www.waterawareness.org/resources_nurseries.php)

<http://www.xeriscape.org/demogardens.html>

## Low-Water/Drought-Resistant Plants from: [www.calwater.com](http://www.calwater.com)

This list is a good representation of low-water consuming plants that are easily available. Please check with your local nursery for their suggestions about what is best suited to your area.

### Flowering Plants

- Achillea (yarrow)
- Aloe
- Callistemon citrinus (lemon bottlebrush)
- Cassia artemisioides (feathery cassia)
- Centranthus Tuber (red valerian)
- Cistus (rockrose)
- Convolvulus cneorum (bush morning glory)
- Cortaderia selloana (pampas grass)
- Coreopsis verticillata
- Cotinus coggygria (smoke tree)
- Cytisus and spartium (broom)
- Echium fastuosum (pride of Madeira)
- Escallonia
- Eriogonum (buckwheat)
- Fremontodendrom (fremontia)
- Garrya elliptica
- Kniphofia uvaria (red-hot poker)
- Lantana
- Lavandula (lavender)
- Lemonium perezii (sea lavender)
- Nerium oleander (oleander)
- Ochna serrulata (Mickey Mouse plant)
- Pennisetum setaceum (fountain grass)
- Plumbago auriculata (cape plumbago)
- Poinciana gilliesii (bird of paradise bush)
- Romneya coulteri (Matilija poppy)

- *Satureja montana* (winter savory)
- *Teucrium fruticans* (bush germander)

### **Foliage Plants**

- Agave
- *Arbutus unedo* (strawberry tree)
- *Artemisia* (wormwood)
- *Atriplex* (saltbush)
- *Centaurea gymnocarpa*
- *Dodonaea viscosa* (hopseed bush)
- *Elaeagnus*
- *Pittosporum* (some species)
- *Portulacaria afra* (elephant's food)
- *Prunus lyoni*, *P. ilicifolia*, *P. caroliniana*
- *Rhamnus alaternus*, *R. crocea ilicifolia*
- *Rhus ovata* (sugar bush)
- *Senecio cineraria* (dusty miller)
- *Xylosma congestum*
- *Yucca*

### **Trees**

- *Acacia* (certain species)
- *Casaurina* (Beefwood)
- *Cedrus deodara*
- *Certonia siliqua* (carob)
- *Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud)
- *Cercidium* (palo verde)
- *Cupressus glabra* (Arizona cypress)
- *Eriobotrya japonica* (loquat)
- *Eucalyptus*
- *Geijera parvifolia*
- *Hakea* (tree types)
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon)
- *Juglans hindsii* (California black walnut)
- *Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius* (Catalina ironwood)
- *Melaleuca linarifolia*, *M. styphelioides*
- *Olea europaea* (olive)
- Palms
- *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Mexican palo verde)
- *Pinus* (pines)
- *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese pistache)
- *Quercus* (oaks)
- *Rhusiancea*
- *Robinia* (locust)

- Schinus molle (California pepper)
- Sequoiadendron giganteum (big tree)
- Tamarix aphylla (salt cedar)

### **Vines**

- Bougainvillea
- Campsis (trumpet creeper)
- Solanum hartwegii (cup-of-gold vine)
- Solanum jasminoides (potato vine)
- Tecomaria capensis (cape honeysuckle)
- Vitis vinifera (wine grape)
- Wisteria

### **Ground Cover**

- Baccharis pilularis (dwarf coyote brush)
- Gazania
- Hypericum calycinum (creeping St. Johnswort)
- Rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary)
- Santolina chamaecyparissus

### **Many Forms**

- Ceanothus
- Cotoneaster
- Grevillea
- Juniperus (juniper)

## **MORE RESOURCES:**

### **Water-Wise Gardening for California**

Published by *Sunset* magazine, the "magazine for western living."

To determine the best flora for your region, check out the Plant Hardiness Zone Map published by the U.S. National Arboretum at [www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone](http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone).

For an online directory of native-plant societies, seed suppliers, and landscapers across the country, consult the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at [www.wildflower.org/npin](http://www.wildflower.org/npin).



**FROM: [www.VALLEYWATER.ORG](http://www.VALLEYWATER.ORG)**

**Key**

- \* Native to California
- \*\* Native to Santa Clara County
- \*\*\* Some California native varieties are available

Flowering Shrubs

Botanical name	Common name
Abelia species	Pink Abelia, White Abelia
Agapanthus species	Lily-of-the-Nile
Alyogyne	Blue Hibiscus
Anisodonteia	Cape Mallow
Arbutus species	Arbutus
Banksia species	Banksia
Buddleia	Butterfly Bush
Callistemon	Bottlebrush
Carpenteria species ***	Bush Anemone
Caryopteris species	Bluebeard
Chamelaucium species	Flowering Quince
Chilopsis species ***	Desert Willow
Choisia ternata	Mexican Mock Orange
Cistus species	Rockrose
Coleonema species	Breath of Heaven
Convolvulus cneorum	Bush Morning Glory
Correa	Australian Fuchsia
Continus species	Smoke Tree
Dasyliion species	Desert Spoon
Dendromecon species	Bush Poppy
Dietes vegeta	Fortnight Lily
Echium species	Echium
Eriobotria species	Loquat/Nispero
Escallonia fradesii	Pink Escallonia
Euryops	Euryops Daisy
Euryops species	Euryops
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava
Garrya species	Silk Tassel
Helianthemum scoparium*	Sun Rose

Heteromeles arbutifolia**	Toyon
Hibiscus syriacus	Hardy Hibiscus, Rose of Sharon
Isomeris arborea globosa	Isomeris arborea globosa
Holodiscus species**	Holodiscus
Lanata species	Lanata
Lavatera bicolor	Tree Mallow
Lavendula	Lavender
Lepechinia***	Pitcher Sage
Leptospermum	Tea Tree
Leucophyllum	Texas Ranger
Malacothomnus***	Bush Mallow
Melaleuca	Melaleuca
Moraea bicolor	African Lily
Nerium	Oleander
Osmanthus fragrans	Sweet Olive
Philadelphus	Wild Mock Orange
Photinia fraserii	Frasers Photinia
Pittosporum species	Mock Orange
Plumbago	Cape Plumbago
Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf Cherry
Prunus laurocerasus	Laurel Cherry
Raphiolepis	Indian Hawthorn
Rhamnus***	Rhamnus
Rhus***	Sumac
Ribes***	Currants/Gooseberries
Romneya	Matilijah Poppy
Rosa***	Rose
Salvia clevelandii*	Cleveland Sage
Salvia leucantha	Mexican Sage
Salvia leucophylla*	Purple Sage
Salvia sonomensis*	Creeping Sage
Santolina	Santolina
Sarcococca	Sweet Box
Senna	Cassia
Solanum***	Nightshade
Sollya heterophylla	Australian Bluebell
Styrax***	Snowdrop Bush
Symphoricarpos***	Wax Berry/Snow Berry



Syringa	Fragrant Lilac
Tecomaria capensis	Cape Honeysuckle
Teucrium***	Germander
Tibouchina	Princess Flower
Trichostema*	Woolly Blue Curls
Vitex agnus-castus	Chaste Tree
Westringia fruticosa	Australian Rosemary
Yucca*	Yucca

#### Leafy Shrubs

Botanical name	Common name
Berberis	Barberry
Dodonaea species	Hop Bush
Elaeagnus species	Elaeagnus
Laurus	Sweet Bay
Leucodendron	Leucodendron
Luma	Chilean Myrtle
Mahonia (Berberis) aquifolium*	Oregon Grape
Melianthus	Honey Bush
Myrica	Wax Myrtle
Myrsine	African Boxwood
Myrtus	Myrtle
Nandina	Heavenly Bamboo
Sambucus mexicana*	Blue Elderberry
Xylosma congestum	Xylosma

#### Groundcover

Botanical name	Common name
Arctostaphylos***	Manzanita
Artemisia species***	Artemisia
Baccharis piliularis**	Coyote Bush
Ceanothus***	California Lilac
Cerastium	Snow-in-Summer
Convolvulus mauritanicus	Ground Morning Glory
Corprosma species	Corprosma
Euonymus species	Euonymus
Grevellia species	Grevellia
Juniperus species***	Juniper
Lantana montevidensis	Trailing Lantana
Osteospermum	African Daisy

Rosmarinus	Rosemary
Sedum	Stonecrop
Sphaeralcea	Globe Mallow
Stachys***	Hedge Nettle
Thymus	Thyme
Verbena	Verbena

#### Bulbs

Botanical name	Common name
Allium***	Wild Onion
Amaryllis	Belladonna Lily
Anemone	Windflower
Babiana	Baboon Flower
Brodaia***	Brodaia
Bulbinella	Bulbinella
Calochortus***	Calochortus
Colchicum	Autumn Crocus
Crocsmia	Crocsmia
Crocus	Crocus
Cyclamen	Cyclamen
Iris douglasii	Douglas Iris
Iris macrosiphon	Bowl tube Iris
Leucojum	Snowflake
Muscari	Grape Hyacinth
Narcisus	Daffodil
Nerrine	Nerine
Scilla	Scilla
Sparaxis	Harlequin Flower
Tritileia***	Tritileia
Tulipia	Tulipia
Watsonia	Watsonia

#### Perennials

Botanical name	Common name
Acanthus	Bear's Breech
Achillea	Yarrow
Aeonium	Aeonium

Aethionema	Stone Cress
Agapanthus	Lily-of-the-Nile
Agastache	Agastache
Agavae***	Agave
Aloe	Aloe
Alstromeria	Peruvian Lily
Anchusa	Bugloss
Anigozanthos	Kangaroo Paw
Arctotis	African Daisy
Armeria***	Thrift
Artemisia species***	Several varieties
Asclepias species***	Milkweed
Aster***	Aster
Asteriscus	Gold Coin
Ballota psedodictamnus	False Dittany
Bergenia	Bergenia
Beshorneria	Mexican Lily
Brachyscome	Cut Leaf Daisy
Calaminta	Calamint
Callirhoe	Poppy Mallow
Calylophus	Sundrops
Ceratostigma	Hardy Plumbago
Clivia	Clivia
Coreopsis	Coreopsis
Crassula	Crassula
Cynoglossum species**	Hound's Tongue
Delphinium californicum***	California Larkspur
Dianthus	Pink
Dimorphotheca	African Daisy
Dodecathen*	Shooting Star
Epilobium canum** (Zauschneria californica)	California Fuchsia
Eryngium	Sea Holly
Erysimum franciscanum**	San Francisco Wallflower
Erysimum concinnum	Pt. Reyes Wallflower
Eriogonum species***	Buckwheat
Heuchera elegans	Alumroot
Heuchera hirsutissima	Idyllwild Rock Flower

Gaura lindheimeri	Whirling Butterfly
Gaillardia grandiflora	Gaillardia grandiflora
Kniphofia	Red-Hot Poker
Lessengia species***	California Aster
Liatis	Blazing Star
Limonium perezii	Sea Lavender
Linum species***	Flax
Lupinus albifrons**	Bush Lupine
Lychnis	Rose Champion
Matricaria	Chamomile
Mimulus aurantiacus	Monkey Flower
Monardella species*	Coyote Mint
Nepeta	Catmint
Oenothera	Evening Primrose
Omphalodes	Omphalodes
Origanum	Oregano
Papaveraceae***	Poppy
Penstemon species***	Bearded Tongue
Perovskia	Russian Sage
Phlomis	Jerusalem Sage
Phormium	New Zealand Flax
Ratibida	Coneflower
Rudbeckia***	Rudbeckia
Ruta	Rue
Salvia species***	Sage
Sempervivum	Houseleek
Senecio	Dusty Miller
Sidalcea***	Checkerbloom
Sisyrinchium bellum**	Blue-eyed Grass
Tagetes	Bush Marigold
Tanacetum	Tansey
Teucrium	Germander
Tulbaghia	Tulbaghia
Verbascum	Mullein

#### **Annuals/ Semi-Annuals**

Botanical name	Common name
Alyssum maritimum	Sweet Alyssum
Ammi majus	Bishop's Flower

Anagallis	Blue Pimpernel
Anchusa	Bugloss
Calendula officinalis	Marigolds
Catharanthus roseus	Madagascar Periwinkle
Clarkia species***	Clarkia
Cleome hasslerana	Spider Flower
Collinsia species***	Chinese Houses
Cosmos	Cosmos
Cynoglossum species***	Hound's Tongue
Dyssodia tenuiloba	Golden Fleece
Layia***	Tidy Tips
Linanthus***	Linanthus
Linum***	Flax
Nemophila***	Nemophila
Nigella***	Love-in-a-Mist
Phacelia***	Phacelia
Portulaca	Moss Rose
Rudbeckia***	Rudbeckia

#### Trees

Botanical name	Common name
Acacia	Acacia
Aesculus californica**	California Buckeye
Arbutus	Strawberry Tree
Calocedrus*	Incense-cedar
Cedrus	Cedar
Celtis*	Hackberry
Cercis occidentalis*	Western Redbud
Chilopsis*	Desert Willow
Chitalpa	Chitalpa
Cotinus obovatus	American Smoke Tree
Crataegus	Hawthorn
Cupressus abramsiana	Santa Cruz Cypress
Drimys lanceolata	Pepper Tree
Eriobotrya	Loquat/Nispero
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo
Grevillea	Grevillea
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Jacaranda

Koelreuteria	Golden Rain Tree
Lagerstroemia	Crape Myrtle Tree
Laurus nobilis	Bay Tree
Leptospermum	Tea Tree
Leucodendron	Leucodendron
Lophostemon confertus	Brisbane box
Luma apiculata	Chilean Myrtle
Lyonothamnus floribundus*	Catalina ironwood
Melaleuca	Melaleuca
Metrosideros	New Zealand Christmas Tree
Myrica cerifera	Wax Myrtle
Pistacia	Pistache
Platanus raseposa**	Western Sycamore
Punica granatum	Pomegranate
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak
Quercus lobata	Valley Oak
Quercus douglasii	Blue Oak
Rhus lancea	African Sumac
Robinia 'Purple Robe'	Purple Robe Tree
Sophora japonica	Japanese Pagoda Tree
Tristania laurina	Elegant Tristania
Umbellularia californica	Bay Laurel

#### Vines

Botanical name	Common name
Antigonon leptopus	Coral Vine
Aristolochia californica	Pipe Vine
Bouganvillea	Bouganvillea
Calystegia sepium limnophila	Hedge false bindweed
Campsis radicans	Trumpet Creeper
Clytostoma	Violet Trumpet Vine
Distictus buccinatoria	Blood Red Trumpet Vine
Eccremocarpus scaber	Chilean Glory Flower
Euonymus	Euonymus
Hardenbergia	Lilac Vine
Jasminium polyanthum	Jasmine
Lonicera 'halliana'	Hall's Honeysuckle
Macfadyena	Cat's Claw
Pandorea jasminoides	Bower Vine

Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia Creeper
Rosa banksiae	Yellow Lady Banks Rose
Solanum jasminoides	White Potato Vine
Vitis	Grape
Wisteria	Wisteria

Clumping plants: grasses and grass-like plants

Botanical name	Common name
Agropyron magellanicum	Blue Wheat Grass
Aristida pupurea*	Purple Three-awn
Bouteloua gracilis*	Blue Gramma
Calamagrostis species***	Reed Grass
Carex tumulicola*	Berkeley Sedge
Deschampsia cespitosa*	Tufted Hairgrass
Elymus glaucus**	Blue Wild Rye
Eriogonum	Wild Buckwheat
Festuca californica**	California Fescue
Festuca idahoensis**	Idaho Fescue
Festuca rubra***	Red Fescue
Koeleria macrantha**	June Grass
Melica imperfecta**	Coast Range Melic
Miscanthus sinensis	Maiden Grass
Muhlenbergia rigens*	Deer Grass
Nassella (Stipa) tenuissima	Mexican Feather Grass
Nolina microcarpa	Bear Grass
Sporobolus species***	Sacaton
Xerophyllum tenax	Indian Basket Grass

## RESOURCES PROVIDED BY: The Santa Clara Valley Water District

Looking for plants that don't use a lot of water?

Many nurseries in the Bay Area carry a variety of water-efficient plants appropriate for our climate and have trained staff to help with your questions. Below is a starting list to help you seek out water-wise plants and materials.

*(The Santa Clara Valley Water District does not specifically endorse any nursery)*



**Almaden Valley Nursery**

15800 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95120  
(408) 997-1234

**Baylands Nursery**

1165 Weeks Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 323-1645

**Central Coast Wilds**

<http://www.centralcoastwilds.com/PAL/list.php>

114 Liberty St  
Santa Cruz , CA 95060  
(831) 459-0655

**Ciardella's Garden Supply**

2027 E. Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 321-5913

**Common Ground Organic Garden Supply**

2225 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
(650) 493-6072

**Cornflower Farms**

P.O. Box 896  
Elk Grove, CA 95759  
(916) 689-1015

**Elkhorn Native Plant Nursery** <http://www.elkhornnursery.com/>

P.O. Box 270  
Moss Landing, CA 95039

**Larner Seeds**

P.O. Box 407  
Bolinas, CA 94924  
(415) 868-9407

**Middlebrook Gardens**

76 Race Street  
San Jose, CA 95126  
(408) 292-9993

**Mostly Natives Nursery**

27235 Highway 1  
P.O. Box 258  
Tomales, CA 94971  
(707) 878-2009

**Native Revival Nursery**

2600 Mar Vistal Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003  
(831) 684-1811

**Saratoga Horticulture Foundation** <http://www.sierraazul.com/>

15185 Murphy Avenue  
San Martin, CA 95046  
(408) 779-3303

**Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens**

2660 East Lake Ave. (Highway 152)  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
(831) 763-0939

**Summer Winds Garden Centers**

725 San Antonio Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 493-5136

805 Yuba Drive  
Mountain View, CA 94041  
(650) 967-3154

1491 So. De Anza Boulevard  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
(408) 996-8355

861 E. El Camino Real  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
(408) 245-4532

2460 Winchester Boulevard  
Campbell, CA 95008  
(408) 866-0171

4606 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

(408) 266-4440

**Yamagami's Nursery**

1361 S. De Anza Blvd.  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
(408) 252-3347

**Yerba Buena Nursery**

19500 Skyline Blvd.  
Woodside, CA 94062  
(650) 851-1668

**East Bay Municipal Utility District's  
Plants for Summer Dry Climates**

The following list is culled by EBMUD staff from the recommendations made in the book *Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region*. It includes some California natives (several of which occur naturally in the Bay Area), as well as plants from other Mediterranean climates. A copy of this book can be purchased by visiting their website: [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com).



**Trees**

<i>Arbutus 'Marina', Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry tree
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	Western redbud
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow

**Shrubs**

<i>Arctostaphylos species and cultivars</i>	Manzanita
<i>Buddleja davidii and cultivars</i>	Butterfly bush
<i>Cistus species and cultivars</i>	Rockrose
<i>Ceanothus species and cultivars</i>	California lilac
<i>Correa species and cultivars</i>	Australian fuchsia
<i>Eriogonum species and cultivars</i>	Buckwheat

<i>Grevillea species and cultivars</i>	Grevillea
<i>Lavatera species and cultivars</i>	Tree mallow
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	New Zealand tea tree
<i>Westringia fruticosa</i>	Coast rosemary

### Perennials

<i>Artemisia species and cultivars</i>	Wormwood
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California fuchsia
<i>Lavandula species and cultivars</i>	Lavender
<i>Penstemon species and cultivars</i>	Beard tongue
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	Phlomis
<i>Salvia species and cultivars</i>	Sage

### Vines

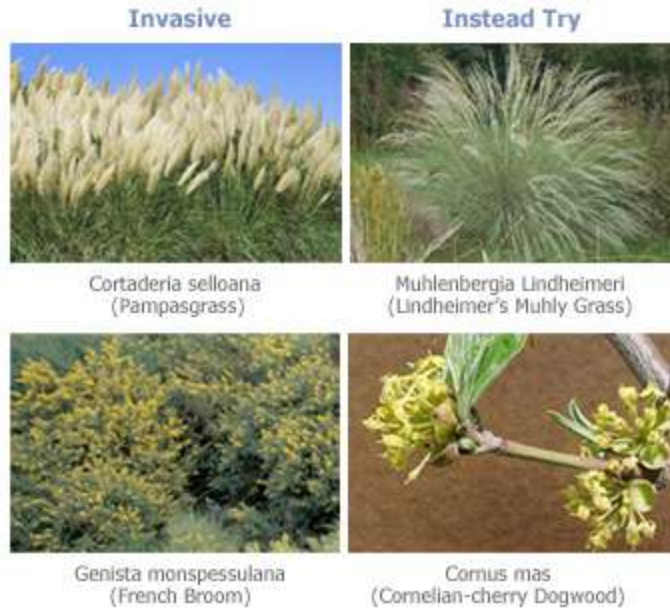
<i>Bougainvillea cultivars</i>	Bougainvillea
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Lilac vine
<i>Jasminum polyanthum</i>	Pink jasmine

### Invasive Plants of the San Francisco Bay Area



Invasive plants used in landscaping often escape into our natural areas, where they can spread rapidly and outcompete natives, degrade wildlife habitat and increase the fuel load.

Invasive plants are by nature a regional problem. The problem plants listed here have escaped from gardens throughout the greater Bay Area. The California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) has listed problem plants along with suggested alternatives.



<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Iceplant or Hottentot fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>
<b>Instead Try:</b>	
Hardy iceplant Freeway daisy Wall germander Showy dewflower	<i>Delosperma cooperi</i> <i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i> and hybrids <i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i> or <i>T. x lucidrys</i> <i>Drosanthemum floribundum</i>
<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Periwinkle English ivy Algerian ivy	<i>Vinca major</i> <i>Hedera helix</i> <i>Hedera canariensis</i>
<b>Instead Try:</b>	
Pachysandra Serbian bellflower Ivory star jasmine or asian jasmine Taiwan raspberry Giant alumroot Wild ginger Bear's foot hellebore Winter saxifrage	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> <i>Campanula poscharskyana</i> <i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i> <i>Rubus pentalobu</i> <i>Heuchera maxima</i> and hybrids <i>Asarum caudatum</i> <i>Helleborus foetidus</i> <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> and hybrids

<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Licorice plant	<i>Helichrysum petiolare</i>
<b>Instead try:</b>	
Coast purple sage Bush germander Jerusalem sage 'Powis Castle' Artemisia St. Catherine's lace	<i>Salvia leucophylla</i> <i>Teucrium fruticans</i> and cultivars <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> <i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>
<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Scarlet wisteria	<i>Sesbania punicea</i>
<b>Instead try:</b>	
Brazilian flame bush Crape myrtle Gold medallion tree Showy island snapdragon	<i>Calliandra tweedii</i> <i>Lagerstroemia species</i> <i>Cassia leptophylla</i> <i>Glavezia speciosa</i>
<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Broom (Scotch, French, Spanish, Portuguese)	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> , <i>Genista monspessulana</i> , <i>Spartium junceum</i> , <i>Cytisus striatus</i>
<b>Instead try:</b>	
Forsythia Winter jasmine Cornelian-cherry dogwood Japanese kerria Golden currant Jerusalem sage Shrub hypericum	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i> <i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i> <i>Cornus mas</i> <i>Kerria japonica</i> <i>Ribes aureum</i> <i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> <i>Hypericum 'Rowallane'</i>

<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Pampasgrass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
<b>Instead try:</b>	
Cape thatching reed Lindheimer's muhly grass San Diego sedge Bigelow's bear grass	<i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i> <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i> <i>Carex spissa</i> <i>Nolina bigelovii</i>

<b>Don't Plant:</b>	
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster lacteus, C. pannosus</i>
<b>Instead try:</b>	
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia and cultivars</i>
Pineapple guava	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>
Strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Sandankwa viburnum	<i>Viburnum suspensum</i>
Calamondin orange	<i>Citrus mitis or x Citrofortunella microcarpa</i>

For more information about invasive plants visit [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org) or call 510-525-1502.

**Landscaping for birds information:** <http://www.prbo.org/cms/183>

## Four Southern Californian Water-Wise Plants to Consider

*By: David Tarrant*

The California sages, of which there are at least 17, make fantastic water-wise plants for the home garden. In addition to smelling great, they draw in hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Long-lived, attractive and amongst the most drought resistant of plants, Sage makes an excellent addition to a home garden or landscaping scheme.

California lilacs are drought resistant shrubs which will add splashes of color to your garden. They are extraordinarily fragrant and evergreen, making them an ideal addition to your water-wise garden.

Various lavenders, such as the French Lavender, are not indigenous, but they are drought-resistant, fire-safe and beautiful during the spring and summer months when they flower prolifically.



California fuchsia, a woody stemmed perennial with bursts of red-orange color, is another great water-wise and fire-resistant plant. Fuchsia is a favorite with birds, fast growing and virtually indestructible.

### **Choosing Plants Wisely**

Some plants are better suited to California's arid climate than others. By choosing plants that can survive on minimal water once established, you will reduce your long-term demand significantly. Listed below are dozens of plants, trees and grasses that require only minimal amounts of water.

#### **Ground Covers**

Shrubs

Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs

Trees

Grasses

#### **Ground Covers**

Yarrow

Manzanita

Snow in Summer

Chamomile

Indian Strawberry

Fleabane

Sulfur Flower

Coral Bells

Spreading Juniper

Evening Primrose

Lavendar Cotton

Santolina

Thyme

#### **Shrubs**

Manzanita

Strawberry Tree

Sandhill Sage

Dusty Miller

Ceanothus

Rock Rose

Sunrose

Juniper  
Mountain Mahogany  
Smoke Tree  
Oregon Grape  
Toyon-Christmas Berry  
Coffeeberry

**Perennials, Annuals & Bulbs**

Allium  
Alyssum  
Windflower  
Thrift (Sea Pink)  
Cosmos  
Foxglove  
Blanket Flower  
Daylily  
Iris  
Lily  
Daffodil  
California Poppy  
Rose Moss  
Lamb's Ear

**Trees**

Maidenhair Tree  
Golden Rain Tree  
Crape Myrtle  
Holly Oak  
Locust  
Hackberry  
Japanese Pagoda Tree  
Chinese Flame Tree  
Chinese Pistache  
Western Redbud  
Incense Cedar

**Grasses**

Tall Fescues  
Hybrid Bermudas  
Saint Augustine  
Zoysia

Nearly all of the plants that aren't from California are from other Mediterranean climates in South America, western Australia, the Mediterranean basin and elsewhere, O'Brien said. A written list of all the different varieties available fills up 40 pages, O'Brien said. The entire list can be viewed on the garden's Web site, at [www.rsabg.org](http://www.rsabg.org).

Then Palmer began designing her new yard based solely on what would use the least water. She logged on to the Internet site [www.BeWaterWise.com](http://www.BeWaterWise.com), which helps residents choose the best plants for their needs. The site, run by the Metropolitan Water District and the Family of Southern California Water Agencies, provides yard design templates, a where-to-buy guide and a database with more than 1,500 plants that require minimal water.

Palmer chose to cover her slopes with creeping red fescue and incorporated the drought-resistant California pepper tree, columns of rosemary plants and wood chips to preserve the roots and conserve water. "I designed, I bought, I schlepped- I did everything except the actual labor," Palmer said. "I am thrilled. It's exactly how I pictured it in my mind. And it requires minimal water."

Palmer says they don't water at all during the winter months, and during the summer, they water for five or six minutes, twice a day. That seems really high to me for a landscape of California natives. I wonder if that is a typo, because most drought-tolerant landscaping requires watering only once or twice a month, from what I have read.

*Allium cernuum*, our native nodding onion, is indigenous to many areas of North America, particularly drier prairies and B.C. interior sub-alpine meadows. On hikes into the backcountry it is always a joy to find a clump or two of these wild onions – adding a few leaves to your sandwich can really spice things up.

The following plants are hardy to the zone number indicated:

- Allium cernuum* (nodding onion) – zone 4 •
- Artemisia absinthium* 'Lambrook Giant' – zone 4 •
- Artemisia alba* 'Canascens' – zone 4 •
- Crocsmia* 'Lucifer' – zone 6 •
- Hieracium lanatum* – zone 5 •
- Lychnis chalconica* (Maltese cross) – zone 4 •
- Lychnis coronaria* (rose campion) – zone 4 •
- Penstemon heterophyllus* – zone 7 •
- Phygelius x rectus* 'African Queen' – zone 8 •
- Salvia officinalis* – zone 5 • *Salvia sclarea* (clary sage) – zone 5 •
- Thymus pseudolanuginosus* (woolly thyme) – zone 4 •
- Yucca glauca* – zone 3 •
- Yucca filamentosa* 'Golden Sword' – zone 5

In the wild this is a rather low-growing bulbous perennial with strap-like leaves. During summer stiff stems 30 to 60 cm (1 to 2 ft.) in height with sharply curving tips bear pendant umbels of 20 to 40 bell-shaped pink flowers. In a cultivated garden situation, the

taller stems are the norm. It must be stressed that these nodding onions need really well-drained soil. You can see a large patch at the entrance to the Native Garden at UBC Botanical Garden where, for more than 10 years now, every summer their massed flowers look like a pink mist for six weeks. After they have finished blooming, the attractive seed heads remain all summer long. In the right conditions they seed themselves about, not to the point where they become weedy, but just enough to maintain the quality of their planting area. They are very hardy, to zone 4.

Interplanting nodding onions with *Artemisia alba* 'Canascens,' a clump-forming semi-evergreen perennial with intricately formed silver leaves, with its pink haze, combines with the laciness of the artemisia to conjure up a very pleasing and relaxing effect. While artemisia's flowers are brownish and not terribly attractive, its lovely foliage forms a rather nice clump with an overall height of about 20 cm (4 in.). Hardy to zone 4 and up, this one prefers a dry, sunny and well-drained spot. It seems quite deer-resistant, too. For those wanting to make a stronger statement, *Artemisia absinthium* offers the same exquisite foliage in a 75-cm (30-in.) version.

Silver foliage is usually a dead giveaway that a plant is from a dry region of the globe and therefore ideal for drought-prone garden spots. This next one, *Hieracium lanatum*, may be more difficult to find and is a little less hardy – to zone 5 and up. It is native to southern Europe.

This is a clump-forming perennial with attractive, lance-shaped, grey-green and white-margined leaves up to 10 cm (4 in.) in length. They are densely clothed with long white hairs, which give them their distinctive colour. Each leaf is somewhat cupped, making it even more intriguing. In summer, wiry branching stems up to 45 cm (1 1/2 ft.) long bear loose panicles of deep-yellow flower heads. Some people want only the silver effect of the foliage and remove the flower stems as they appear, but in the right location and grown in large clumps, the flowers can really brighten up a border. Poor but well-drained soil is the key to success with this one.

Silver-foliaged *Thymus pseudolanuginosus*, fondly known as woolly thyme, is a mat-forming sub-shrub native to Europe and hardy to zone 4. Its tiny oval leaves are covered with minuscule silver hairs that give the plant its common name. In midsummer whorls of very small pink flowers are produced. In Europe, woolly thyme has long been used to fill in the cracks of flagstone paths or cover dry-stone walls. In fact, at Sissinghurst in Britain and at Ravenhill Herb Farm on Vancouver Island, there are attractive stone benches planted with woolly thyme to form cushions on the seat; as one sits the aroma of the thyme is released into the air.

This little plant is great for all seasons in the dry interior and in arid spots in the garden; however on the soggy coast it has been known to turn black in the winter. Don't be discouraged, though – it does bounce back in the early spring. In dry areas, it can even serve as an alternative to a small grass lawn if it doesn't get too much foot traffic, as thyme will stand up to some, but not constant foot traffic. It is great for boulevard

planting, and if interplanted with strong foliage plants such as *Yucca glauca* or *Yucca filamentosa* ‘Golden Sword,’ it can create a very pleasing textured planting.

Moving on to more showy plants, *Crocasmia* ‘Lucifer’ jumps to the forefront as a superb drought-tolerant candidate. Stunning for both its foliage and flowers, this bold perennial has mid-green lance-shaped, pleated leaves up to 1 m (3 ft.) in length. The bright-red, upward-facing flowers are borne in slightly arching, sparsely branched spikes. Hummingbirds adore crocasmia, and placed in a sunny spot near a patio it can give you much pleasure during the summer months. It should also be noted the strong growth often requires no staking, although it’s a good strategy to plant it behind other perennials on which it can lean if it gets a little top-heavy. Hardy to zone 6.

*Lychnis chalcedonica* (Maltese cross) is another stunning red-flowered perennial. It comes to us from northern Europe and Russia, making it hardy to zone 4. Its stiff, hairy, 1-metre (3 ft.) long stems grow from a basal clump of mid-green leaves that clasp the stems with heart-shaped bases, while summer’s scarlet flowers are each shaped like a Maltese cross. If you are planning a red border, place this close to *Crocasmia* ‘Lucifer’ for a real showstopper.



*Thymus pseudolanuginosus* (Woolly Thyme)



*Artemisia absinthium* 'Lambrook Giant'

Another well-known old-fashioned member of the family. *Lychnis coronaria* (rose campion) is hardy to zone 4, a tremendous self-seeder and very drought tolerant. Friends who garden up the coast on Thormanby Island, which gets crispy-dry in the summer months, have this seeded about among the rocks where it thrives and appears to be deer proof! The silver-grey basal leaves are 18 cm (7 in.) in length. In late summer stems up to 80 cm (30 in.) long bear magenta flowers. Pure white forms are also available.

*Penstemon heterophyllus* comes to us from California and is hardy to zone 7. A drought-tolerant, evergreen sub-shrub, its bluish-green leaves are 2 to 5 cm (1 to 2 in.) in length. In summer it blooms heavily with racemes of funnel-shaped pinkish-blue flowers with blue or lilac lobes. It grows to a height of 30 cm (12 in.) and forms clumps 50 cm (20 in.) across. Due to the delicate colour of the flowers, the entire plant seems to glow in early-morning and evening light, making it a must for warmer areas.

A rather aggressive perennial that is absolutely drought tolerant is *Phygelius x rectus* 'African Queen,' an upright suckering shrub with dark-green leaves. During summer showy panicles up to 30 cm (12 in.) in length bear 6-cm (2 1/2-in.) pale-red flowers with orange/red lobes and yellow mouths – naturally very popular with the hummingbirds. As the cultivar name suggests, it is of South African origin, so is unfortunately limited to zone 8. A lot of people throw up their hands in horror when I praise this plant. It will spread in the right conditions; but it happily thrives where other plants would perish and is invaluable for sunny dry banks, even near salt breezes.

This recommendation is a real beauty: *Salvia sclarea* (clary sage), native from Europe to Central Asia, is hardy to zone 5. It is very fussy about having a hot, sunny, well-drained spot in the garden. An erect biennial or sometimes short-lived perennial, it has many-branched hairy stems and wrinkled, mid-green leaves that are notched and 23 cm (9 in.) long. From late spring through summer the plant produces many-flowered terminal panicles or racemes of cream and lilac to pink or blue flowers, with prominent lilac bracts. It is a very showy plant and well worth a prominent position in a drought-tolerant border. The overall height is 1 m (3 ft.).

Having included this wonderful salvia, it must be said that all the different forms of *Salvia officinalis*, the edible sage we use in cooking, make excellent candidates for a waterwise border. To top it all off, you'll enjoy its gorgeous blue-purple flowers, and the bees find these blossoms irresistible!

*David Tarrant of the UBC Botanical Garden is a well-known gardening expert, author, and host of Spring, currently on HGTV.*

California Sages:

<http://www.laspilitas.com/garden/sages.htm>

California Lilacs:

[http://www.laspilitas.com/groups/ceanothus/california\\_ceanothus.html](http://www.laspilitas.com/groups/ceanothus/california_ceanothus.html)

California Manzanitas:

[http://www.laspilitas.com/groups/manzanita\\_arctostaphylos/Manzanita.html](http://www.laspilitas.com/groups/manzanita_arctostaphylos/Manzanita.html)

More info about California natives:

[www.mynativeplants.com](http://www.mynativeplants.com)

<http://www.laspilitas.com/>

books:

<http://ag.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/html/library/ref-land.htm>