

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Low plants (up to 3' tall)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width (feet)	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Acalypha californica</i>	California copperleaf	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	3 x 3	red, pink; win-spr	Very little care needed. Be sure the soil drains well.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow	P	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	2-3 x 2-3	white; spr-sum	Prune out old flower stalks. Cut back to healthy leaves near the ground in late fall. Mow for a lawn alternative.
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	deerweed	D	18-24	VL	VL	S	C,L,S	3 x 3	yellow; spr-sum	Summer semi-deciduous, winter deciduous. Cut back late summer/fall to rejuvenate.
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i> 'Nicholas'	Nicholas chamise	E	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	C,L,S	1-3 x 3-5	white; spr-sum	Mounding and spreading. Prune when active to direct growth. Deep water occasionally to increase fire resistance.
<i>Agave shawii</i>	Shaw's agave	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	2-3 x 2-4	red, yellow; fall-spr	Forms colonies of tight rosettes. Remove 7-8' flower stalks after blooming and seeds have dispersed.
<i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> 'Bert Johnson'	Bert Johnson manzanita	E	18-24	L	M	S-P	WD C,L,S	1-2 x 4-6	pink-white; win-spr	Groundcover manzanita. Afternoon shade needed inland. Prune in dry season. No overhead water.
<i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> 'Carmel Sur'	Carmel Sur manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	1.5 x 7-10	very few flowers	Best groundcover manzanita in heat; afternoon shade needed inland. Prune in dry season. No overhead water.
<i>Artemisia californica</i> 'Canyon Gray'	Canyon Gray sagebrush	E	18-24	L	VL	S	WD C,L,S	1-1.5 x 8-10	white; sum-fall	Groundcover sagebrush. Good erosion control. Prune out arching and upright branches.
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	mugwort	P	18-24	M	L	S-P	C,L	2-3 x 3 spreads	white; sum	Spreads readily! Good for wet areas. Cut to the ground in early winter.
<i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i> 'David's Choice'	David's Choice sagebrush	E	18-24	L	L	S	WD S,L	.67-1 x 1.5-2	white; spr-sum	Deadhead flower stalks.
<i>Astragalus trichopodus</i>	rattlepod, Santa Barbara milk vetch	D P	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD S,L	2-3 x 3	white; late win-spr	Full sun at coast, part shade inland. Dies back to the ground in summer; tidy up while dormant.
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Pigeon Point'	Pigeon Point coyote bush	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	1.5-2 x 6-9	white; fall	Good in fire-prone areas if irrigated. Can cut back every few years.
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks 2'	Twin Peaks 2 coyote bush	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	1 x 3-5	white; fall	Good in fire-prone areas if irrigated. Can cut back every few years.
<i>Baileya multiradiata</i>	desert marigold	P S	18-23	VL	L	S	WD L,S	12-18" x 12"	yellow; spr-sum	Does best away from the coast. Summer and winter semi-deciduous. Deadhead and lightly prune. Do not overwater.
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i> var. <i>repens</i>	creeping barberry	E	18-24	L shade	L shade	P-Sh	WD	18-30" x 2-3'	yellow; spr	Reduced summer water, but needs at least partial shade. Good for under oaks and pines.
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	blue grama grass	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	.5-1 x .5-1	brown; sum	Fast, clumping/spreading grass. Used as accent or for turf - leave tall or mow. Winter dormant. Cut back before spring.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Low plants (up to 3' tall)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width (feet)	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	pink fairy duster	S-D	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	3 x 3-4	pink-rose; sum-fall	Powder puff flowers. Tiny dark green leaflets. A desert native.
<i>Camissoniopsis (Camissonia) cheiranthifolia</i>	beach suncups, beach evening primrose	E	22-24	VL	-	S	WD L,S	6-12" x 3'	yellow; late win-sum	Mounding, spreading groundcover. Little care needed. Prune as needed to keep in bounds.
<i>Carex pansa</i>	California meadow sedge	E	18-24	M all yr	M all yr	S-Sh	WD C,L,S	6-9" x 1-3'	brown; spr	Clumping/spreading grass-like plant. Mow for lawn alternative. Needs regular water. Needs more shade inland.
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	clustered field sedge, dune sedge	E	18-24	M all yr	M all yr	S-Sh	WD C,L,S	12-18" x 1-3'	green; spr	Clumping/spreading grass-like plant. Mow for lawn alternative. Needs regular water. Needs more shade inland.
<i>Carex tumulicola</i>	Berkeley sedge, foothill sedge	E-S	18-24	L shade	L shade	P-Sh	C,L,S	10" x 3'	cream; spr-sum	Summer semi-deciduous. Needs water 2-3 times per month in summer. Mow for lawn alternative. Needs more shade inland.
<i>Ceanothus maritimus</i> 'Point Sierra'	Point Sierra ceanothus	E	19-24	L	L	S-Sh	WD L,S	2-3 x 4-6	blue; late win-early spr	Tolerates heat better than <i>C. maritimus</i> , but still does best near the coast. Stiff leaves and stems. Little care needed.
<i>Dudleya edulis</i>	lady fingers, San Diego dudleya	E	19-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	4-12" x 12"	white with pink; spr	No overhead water. Part shade needed inland. Prefers sandy soil.
<i>Dudleya lanceolata</i>	lance-leaved dudleya	S	19-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	1 x 1	yellow, pink, red; spr	No overhead water. Semi-deciduous in summer.
<i>Dudleya pulverulenta</i>	chalk dudleya	E	19-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	1 x 1	pink; spr	No overhead water. Needs partial shade inland.
<i>Dudleya virens</i>	bright green dudleya	E	19-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	3-8" x 3	white; spr	No overhead water. Needs shade inland.
<i>Dudleya virens ssp hassei</i>	Catalina live-forever	E	19-24	VL	L	P	WD L,S	1 x 4	white; spr	Prefers rocky soil & periodic deep watering. No overhead water. Needs shade inland.
<i>Elymus (Leymus) condensatus</i> 'Canyon Prince'	Canyon Prince wild rye	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	3 x 4 spreads	white; sum	Heavy clay ok. Cut back in late winter.
<i>Encelia californica</i>	bush sunflower	E-S P	18-24	VL	L	S	C,L,S	3 x 5	yellow; spr	Deadhead to extend bloom. Give occasional summer water to keep green. Cut back to 4" stubs in fall.
<i>Epilobium canum</i> + species and cultivars	California fuchsia	P	18-24	VL	L	S	C,L,S	2 x 4 spreads	red-orange; sum-fall	Cut back late in winter after bloom.
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i> + cultivars	seaside daisy	P	18-24	L	M	S-P	C,L,S	1 x 2	white-purple; spr-sum	Best near the coast (full sun). More shade/water inland. Cut back bare branches to 1-2" in late fall. Deadhead.
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Bruce Dickinson'	Bruce Dickinson buckwheat	E	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	C,L,S	1 x 6	white; sum	Good erosion control. Leaves similar to rosemary, but no scent. Lightly prune back to green leaves or buds if needed, in late fall.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Low plants (up to 3' tall)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width (feet)	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> 'Warriner Lytle'	Warriner Lytle buckwheat	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	L,S	2 x 5	white-brown; sum	Good erosion control. Leaves similar to rosemary, but no scent. Lightly prune back to green leaves or buds if needed, in late fall.
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i> var. <i>compactum</i>	Santa Barbara island buckwheat	S	19-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	1-3 x 3	white; spr-fall	Smaller version of the large Saint Catherine's lace. Best near the coast. Cut back after blooming.
<i>Eriogonum grande rubescens</i>	red buckwheat; island buckwheat	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	1-2 x 2-3	pink-red; spr-fall	Full sun near the coast. Leaves white/woolly under. Attracts butterflies. Prune back as needed to green leaves or buds.
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	DP	18-24	VL	VL	S	L,S	1-2 x 1-2	orange; spr-fall	Summer deciduous. Cut back in late summer to healthy green leaves.
<i>Iva hayesiana</i>	Hays iva, San Diego marsh elder	P	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	C,L,S	2-3 spreads	white; spr-fall	Erosion control on slopes (needs supplemental water). Very drought tolerant in flat areas, but can take regular water.
<i>Heuchera maxima</i>	island alum root	E	18-24	L	M	P-Sh	C,L,S	2 x 2-3	white; spr	Best in dry shade. Cut back old flower stalks and dead leaves as needed. Other species/ cultivars need more water.
<i>Mirabilis laevis</i> var. <i>crassifolia</i> (<i>M. californica</i>)	California four o'clock; Wishbone bush	DP	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L,S	1 x 4 spreads	pink-purple; win-spr	Summer semi-deciduous, winter fully deciduous. Prune back late summer to early fall to control growth if needed.
<i>Monardella odoratissima</i>	western coyote mint, mountain pennyroyal	P	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	1-2 x 1-2	purple; sum-fall	Cut back flower stalks after bloom.
<i>Monardella villosa</i>	coyote mint	P	21-24	VL	L	P-Sh	WD L,S	2 x 2 spreads	lavender sum-fall	Very fragrant, fuzzy grey-green leaves. Great for under tall shrubs or trees.
<i>Penstemon heterophyllus</i> 'Margarita BOP'	Margarita BOP penstemon	P	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	1-2 x 2-3	blue-purple; spr-sum	Fast and easy to grow penstemon. Long and profuse blooming. Tolerates more water and clay than other penstemons.
<i>Peritoma (Isomeris) arborea</i>	bladderpod	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	3-4 x 4	yellow; spr-sum	Seedpods look like inflated balloons. Leaves have scent when crushed. Can bloom all year.
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	kurapia, lippia, frogfruit	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	2-6" spreads	white-pink, early sum	A dense groundcover. Can be planted as a turf alternative and mowed to 3-4" tall.
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen currant, Catalina perfume	E	19-24	VL	M	P-Sh	C,L,S	2 x 6	red; late win - early spr	Good in shade of drought tolerant trees and large shrubs. Pinch tips for dense shrub. Prune as needed in winter.
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i> 'Bee's Bliss'	Bee's Bliss sage	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	1-2 x 2-5	lavender; spr-sum	Spreading groundcover with long flower stalks. A favorite with pollinators. Prune back to green buds/leaves as needed.
<i>Salvia</i> 'Mrs. Beard'	Mrs. Beard sage	E	18-24	L	L	S	L,S	2 x 4-8	purple-blue; spr	Very pungent leaves. A vigorous groundcover; good for erosion control. Prune as needed to direct growth.
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	hummingbird sage	P	18-24	L shade	M shade	S-P	C,L,S	1-2 and spreads	magenta; spr-sum	Good groundcover under drought tolerant trees. Fruity scented leaves. Attracts hummingbirds. Deadhead.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Low plants (up to 3' tall)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	blue-eyed grass	DP	18-24	L	M	S-P	C,L,S	1-1.5 x .5-1	purple-blue; spr-sum	Leaves like grass blades. Reseeds. Dies back to the ground in summer. Needs regular water in winter.
<i>Sphaeralcea ambigua</i>	desert mallow, apricot mallow	E	18-24	L	L	S	WD C,L,S	2-3 x 2-3	orange; spr-fall	Deep water once a month in spring – drought deciduous. Cut back to 3-6" in fall or tip prune to set of healthy leaves/buds.
<i>Trichostema parishii</i>	mountain blue curls	E	18-24	VL	L	S	WD L,S	2-3 x 3	blue; spr	Fragrant leaves. Shorter than <i>Trichostema lanatum</i> and a bit easier to care for. Tip prune to encourage denser growth.
<i>Verbena lilacina</i>	lilac verbena	S	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	3 x 4	lavender; spr-fall	Drought deciduous - deep water once a month to keep green. Deadhead.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Medium plants (3-6')

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Abutilon palmeri</i>	Indian mallow	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	3-6 x 4-6	orange; all year	Tip prune for denser growth.
<i>Agave desertii</i>	Desert agave	P	18-24	VL	VL	S	L,S	3-4 x 3-4	yellow; late spr-sum	Forms colonies. Remove 15' flower stalk after blooming and seeds have dispersed. Plant in hottest areas for zones 21-24.
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'John Dourley'	John Dourley manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	4 x 6	pink; win	Compact. Grey-green leaves, red stems. Afternoon shade inland. Prune in dry season. No overhead water. Easy to grow
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'La Panza'	La Panza manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	3-4 x 3-4	light pink; win	Grows in sand or clay. Clean grey leaves. Beautiful red peeling bark. Prune in dry season. No overhead water.
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Sunset'	Sunset manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	4-5 x 4-6	pink; win-spr	Heavy bloomer. Red peeling bark. Compact plant. Easy care. Full sun at the coast, partial shade inland.
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	E-S	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	C,L,S	4 x 4-5	white-yellow sum	Very fragrant thread-like leaves.
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	narrow-leaf milkweed	DP	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L,S	3-4 x spreads	green-white; spr-sum	Food for monarch caterpillars. Dies back in winter or cut back once dormant. Mark the spot. Plants emerge March-May.
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed	DP	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L	2-5 x 3-5	pink; late spr-sum	Food for monarch caterpillars. Fuzzy grey leaves. Dies back in winter, or cut back once dormant. Plants emerge March-May.
<i>Calliandra californica</i>	Baja fairy duster	D	18-24	VL	L	S	C,L,S	3-4 x 4-5	red-rose; spr & fall	Powder puff flowers. Tiny leaflets. Best with periodic summer water.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Dark Star'	Dark Star ceanothus	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	3-6 x 3-10	blue; spr	Mounding shrub. Dark green leaves. Brilliant blue flowers.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Joyce Coulter'	Joyce Coulter ceanothus	E	18-24	L	M	S-P	WD C,L	3-5 x 10-12	sky blue; late win-early spr	Sprawling ground cover. Showy, long flower clusters. Very water tolerant. Part shade needed inland.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Julia Phelps'	Julia Phelps ceanothus	E	18-24	L	L	S	WD L,S	5 x 7	dark blue; spr	Best near the coast (zones 22-24).
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Lemon Ice'	Lemon Ice ceanothus	E	18-24	L	M	S-P	WD	3-5 x 3-5	powder blue; spr	Chartreuse and green variegated leaves. Available at Grow Native Nursery. Cut out stems that revert to solid green leaves.
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> var. <i>griseus</i> 'Yankee Point'	Yankee Point ceanothus	E	18-24	L	M	S-P	C,L,S	3-4 x 6-10	powder blue; spr	Readily available. Easy to grow. Glossy leaves. Attracts butterflies. Very water tolerant. Can prune after bloom.
<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	Brittlebush, desert encelia, incienso	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	C,L,S	3-5 x 3-5	yellow; spr	Grey-white leaves. Bright yellow daisies. Cut back to 4" stubs late fall if needed to rejuvenate. Tip prune in growing season.
<i>Ericameria ericoides</i> (<i>Haplopappus</i> e.)	mock heather; California goldenbush	E	22-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	1-4 x 2-4	yellow; sum-fall	Yellow daisies among green thread-like leaves. Native to our coastal sandy areas. Part sun inland. Deadhead as needed.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Medium plants (3-6')

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Ericameria laricifolia</i> (<i>Haplopappus l.</i>)	turpentine brush	E	18, 19	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	2-4 x 3-5	yellow; early spr-fall	A taller species for our hot inland areas. Native to our desert mountains - likes it hot and dry. Deadhead as needed.
<i>Eriogonum cinereum</i>	ashleaf buckwheat	E	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	C,L,S	4-5 x 6	light pink; late spr-sum	Leaves white below. Good inland and at the coast. Excellent butterfly plant and erosion control. Cut back lightly in fall.
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	C,L,S	3-4 x 4	white; sum	Light pruning when actively growing to direct growth, if needed.
<i>Frangula (Rhamnus) californica</i> + cultivars	coffeeberry	E	18-24	VL	L	S-Sh	WD L,S	3-6 x 3-5	yellow; spr	Cultivars: Eve Case 3-6' x 3-4', Little Sur 3-4' x 3-4', 'Mound San Bruno 5' x 5'. Cut back lightly early spring for denser plant.
<i>Fremontodendron</i> 'Ken Taylor'	Ken Taylor flannel bush	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	3-5 x 4-8	yellow,orange spr-sum	No summer water after establishment. Do not prune during rainy season. Itchy hairs on leaves; wear long sleeves to prune.
<i>Gambelia (Galvezia) speciosa</i>	island bush snapdragon	E	18-24	VL	L	S-Sh	C,L,S	3-4 x 8-10	red; spr-sum	Sun at coast, shade and more water inland. Tip prune during growing season for sturdier, denser shrub.
<i>Justicia californica</i>	chuparosa	S	18-24	VL	L	S	WD S	4-6 x 6-8	red; spr	Summer/drought deciduous. Native to our low deserts - plant in the hottest sites. A little summer water will keep it green.
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>	heartleaf keckiella, climbing keckiella	S- D	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD	3-6 x 3-6	orange-red; spr-sum	Rounded, sprawling, vine-like shrub. Semi to fully deciduous in summer. Fast growth.
<i>Lepechinia fragrans</i>	fragrant pitcher sage	E	18-22, 24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	3-5 x 3-5	lavender; spr-fall	Water weekly for best look with sandy soils and inland area. Tip prune for denser plant. Do not cut back to woody stems.
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i> + cultivars	sticky monkeyflower	E	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	L,S	3-4 x 3-4	orange; spr- fall	Bright orange trumpet-shaped flowers. Cultivars of varying colors. Pinch back branch tips for sturdier, dense growth.
<i>Mirabilis bigelovii</i>	desert four o'clock	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	3-4 x 3-4	white-pink; spr-fall	Fast grower. Grey green leaves. Prune back to 4" stubs every 2 to 3 years to renew.
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deer grass	G	18-24	L	M	S-P	C,L,S	3-6 x 4-6	tan; sum	Fountain-like clumps of graceful thin leaves. Flower spikes up to 6'. Cut back every 3-4 years.
<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>	scented penstemon; Palmer's penstemon	P	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	4-6	bright pink; spr-sum	Scented flowers. Great for dry, rocky areas. Needs more heat at coast. Attracts hummingbirds. Cut back old flower stalks.
<i>Penstemon spectabilis</i>	royal penstemon	P	18-24	L	L	S	WD L,S	3-5 x 2-3	purple-blue, pink spr-fall	Don't over water! After bloom and seeds disperse, cut flower stalks to the ground. Needs a warm spot near the coast.
<i>Ribes indecorum</i>	white flowering currant	D	18-24	VL	L	S-P	L,S	4-6 x 6-8	white; win-spr	Summer deciduous if dry. Purple edible berries. Prune after bloom as needed.
<i>Ribes malvaceum</i> 'Dancing Tassels'	Dancing Tassels currant	D	18-24	VL	L	P-Sh	WD L,S	6 x 5	light pink; win	Near the coast, almost evergreen. Prune after bloom as needed.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Medium plants (3-6')

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	white sage	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L,S	3-4 x 4-5	white, pink; spr-sum	Cut old flower stalks back to green growth after seeds disperse.
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage	E	18-24	VL	L	S	WD L,S	3-5 x 4-5	blue; spr-sum	A dense shrub, good scent. Pinch back when young. Cut back to green leaves/buds by 1/3 in winter. Good in sandy soils.
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage	E	18-24	VL	L	S	L,S	3-6 x 5-15	lavender-pink spr-sum	Many hybrids. Strong scent. Best near coast. Pinch back when young. Cut back to green leaves/buds by 1/3 in winter.
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage	E	18-24	VL	L	S	L,S	3-5 x 6	pale lavender spr-sum	Attracts pollinators. Green leaves. Pinch back regularly when young. Cut back stems to green leaves/buds by 1/3 in winter.
<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	woolly blue curls	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	4 x 4	purple-blue; fall-spr	Fragrant leaves. Deadhead. Do Not Overwater! Pinch back regularly when actively growing to prevent branch breakage.
<i>Venegasia carpesioides</i>	canyon sunflower	S P	19-24	L	L	S-Sh	L,S	3-6 x 3-6	yellow; win-spr	Needs shade inland. Deadhead for increased flowering. Cut back to 4-6" before new growth in winter.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Tall Plants (6'+)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Adenostoma sparsifolium</i>	red shanks	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	C,L,S	6-20 x 10	white, red; sum-fall	Shaggy, red, peeling bark. Does best away from the coast. Very deep rooted – good for slope stabilization.
<i>Arctostaphylos densiflora</i> 'Austin Griffiths'	Austin Griffiths manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	10 x 6	pink; late win/spr	Early bloomer. Red peeling bark. Hummingbirds love it. Prune in dry season. No overhead water.
<i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i>	bigberry manzanita	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	12-15 x 15-20	white; late win-spr	Best manzanita for heat and drought. Large grey-green leaves. Prune in dry season as needed. No overhead watering.
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Howard McMinn'	Howard McMinn manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	6-8 x 6-8	pink-white; late win-spr	Medium green upright leaves. Late bloomer. Afternoon shade needed inland. Prune in dry season. No overhead watering.
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> 'Lester Rowntree'	Lester Rowntree manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	8-10 x 10-15	pink; win	Red new growth. Grey-blue leaves. Afternoon shade needed inland. Red fruits. Prune in dry season. No overhead watering.
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i> 'Byrd Hill'	Byrd Hill manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S	WD L,S	8-10 x 10	white-pink; late win-spr	Grey-green leaves. No summer water once established. Prune in dry season. No overhead watering. Afternoon shade inland.
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i> 'Dr Hurd'	Dr Hurd manzanita	E	18-24	L	L	S	WD C,L,S	12-20 x 10-15	white; late win-spr	Pale green leaves. No summer water once established. Prune in dry season. No overhead water. Afternoon shade inland.
<i>Atriplex lentiformis ssp. lentiformis</i>	salt bush	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD C,L,S	10-15 x 12-15	white; spr	Salt and wind tolerant. <i>A. lentiformis ssp breweri</i> has larger leaves and best at coast. Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote bush	E	18-24	L	L	S	C,L,S	6-8 x 6	white; fall	Selectively prune branches as needed. Can cut back by 1/3 in late winter before new growth to encourage denser shrub.
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mule fat	E-S	18-24	H	M	S-P	L,S	4-12 x 8	white; spr-sum	Long, linear leaves and rapid growth. Attracts birds and beneficial insects. Can cut to ground to rejuvenate early spring.
<i>Berberis</i> 'Golden Abundance'	Golden Abundance barberry	E	18-24	L	M	P-Sh	C,L	8 x 6-12	yellow; spr	Bright yellow flowers. Prickly leaves - plant away from paths. Prune after flowering as needed.
<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	bush anemone	E	18-24	L	M	P-Sh	WD L,S	3-8 x 6-8	white; spr-sum	More shade needed inland. Prune after bloom as needed.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Concha'	Concha ceanothus	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	6-9 x 6-10	blue; late win-spr	Part shade needed inland. Prune as needed after bloom, branches no larger than pencil thickness.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Frosty Blue'	Frosty Blue ceanothus	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	6-10 x 8-12	blue; early spr	Ok in clay. Prune as needed after bloom, branches no larger than pencil thickness.
<i>Ceanothus</i> 'Ray Hartman'	Ray Hartman ceanothus	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	12-20 x 15	medium blue; spr	Good at coast or inland. Water and clay tolerant! Prune as needed after bloom, branches no larger than pencil thickness.
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	mountain mahogany	E	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	C,L,S	8-10 x 8-10	yellow; spr	Corkscrew silvery-white seed plumes cover the shrub. Easy to prune for narrow spaces.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Tall Plants (6'+)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Dendromecon harfordii</i>	Channel Island bush poppy	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	6-20 x 6-20	yellow; win-spr	Blue-grey leaves and bright yellow flowers. Heavy bloomer. Try not to prune.
<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	bush or tree poppy	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	6 x 6	yellow; spr-sum	Shredding white-grey bark and vibrant yellow flowers. No summer water once established. Try not to prune.
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	Saint Catherine's lace	S-D	18-24	VL	VL	S-P	WD L,S	5-10 x 5-10	white; spr-fall	Largest native buckwheat. Dried flowers used in arrangements. Cut back after blooming.
<i>Frangula (Rhamnus) californica</i> + cultivars	coffeeberry	E	18-24	VL	L	S-Sh	C,L,S	4-15 x 6-15	white; spr	Leathery evergreen leaves make this a good screen. Non-edible berries great for wildlife.
<i>Fremontodendron</i> 'California Glory'	California Glory flannel bush	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	15-20 x 15-20	yellow; spr-sum	No summer water after establishment. Do not prune during rainy season. Itchy hairs on leaves; wear long sleeves to prune.
<i>Fremontodendron</i> 'Pacific Sunset'	Pacific Sunset flannel bush	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	20 x 20	orange-red; spr-sum	No summer water after establishment. Do not prune during rainy season. Itchy hairs on leaves; wear long sleeves to prune.
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	coast silt tassel	E	18-24	L	M	S-P	WD L,S	8-12 x 8-12	white; win	Leathery grey-green leaves. 4-6" white catkins of flowers. Good for slopes.
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L,S	12-25 x 10-20	white; sum	Prune late winter; limb up for tree form. Can pinch other times for denser shrub. Red fruits in winter.
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laurel sumac	E	19-24	VL	L	S	WD L,S	18 x 18	white; spr	Large shrub can be pruned to tree form. Strong smelling leaves. Prune in winter as needed to avoid bleeding sap.
<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	spiny redberry	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L,S	3-7 x 3-7	yellow; win-spr	Red berries in spring attract birds. Spiny leaves. Deer resistant. Prune to shape after berries are gone.
<i>Rhamnus ilicifolia</i>	hollyleaf redberry	E	18-23	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	3-10 x 3-10	yellow; win-spr	Best away from the coast. Red berries in spring attract birds. Spiny leaves. Deer resistant. Prune once berries are gone.
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry	E	19-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	10-25 x 10-25	white-pink; spr	Some water ok if given good drainage. Prune in late winter/early spring as needed.
<i>Rhus lentii</i>	pink-flowering sumac	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	4-8 x 5-8	pink; win- spr	Some water ok if given good drainage. Prune in late winter as needed.
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	sugar bush	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	12-35 x 20-25	white-pink; spr	Better heat tolerance than <i>R. integrifolia</i> and <i>R. lentii</i> . Prune in late winter/early spring as needed.
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	golden currant	S-D	18-23	VL	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	6-10 x 5-7	yellow; spr	Edible yellow-orange fruits. Susceptible to rust. Prune after bloom for better air circulation/rust control.
<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i>	jojoba	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	WD L,S	6-10 x 8	yellow; spr	Extremely drought tolerant. Prefers sand. Tolerates pruning if needed.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Vines

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Vine Length	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	island morning glory	D	18-24	L	M	S	L,S	40	pink; win-sum	Drought-deciduous. Water every two weeks to stay green. Extremely aggressive. Cut back in winter.
<i>Calystegia purpurata</i>	coast morning glory	D	18-24	L	M	S	L,S	25	white-pink; spr-fall	Drought stress deciduous. Water every one to two weeks to stay green. Aggressive. Cut back in winter. Best near the coast.
<i>Clematis lasiantha</i>	chaparral clematis; pipestems	D	18-24	VL	L	P-Sh	WD L,S	20	creamy white win-early sum	Prefers rocky well-drained soil. Some summer water. Cut back late winter to rejuvenate as needed.
<i>Clematis lingusticifolia</i>	western virgin's bower	D	18-24	L	L	P	L,S	30	creamy white spr-sum	Aggressive. Cut back late winter to rejuvenate as needed.
<i>Clematis pauciflora</i>	small flowered clematis, ropevine	D	18-24	VL	L	P	WD L,S	10-15	creamy white win-early sum	Easier to control than other native clematis. Cut back late winter to rejuvenate.
<i>Vitis californica</i>	California grape	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	30	yellow; spr	Prune as needed during the growing season. Prune back if needed when dormant. Looks best with regular watering.
<i>Vitis girdiana</i>	desert grape	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	30	yellow; spr	Prune as needed during the growing season. Prune back if needed when dormant. Looks best with regular watering.
<i>Vitis 'Roger's Red'</i>	Roger's Red grape	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	40	yellow; spr	Prune as needed during the growing season. Prune back if needed when dormant. Looks best with regular watering.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	western redbud	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	6-20 x 6-20	magenta; late win-spr	Needs well-drained soil. Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	desert willow	D	18-21	VL	L	S	WD L,S	12-20 x 12-20	white, pink, lavender; spr	Needs well-drained soil. Prune in winter as needed.
x <i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	chitalpa	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	L,S	25-35 x 30	pink; spr-fall	A hybrid with one native parent (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>). Blooms best in full sun with summer water.
<i>Fraxinus dipetala</i>	foothill ash, California ash	D	18-24	L	L	S-Sh	C,L,S	15-20 x 10-15	white; spr	Does better with some summer water. Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Hesperocyparis (Cupressus) arizonica</i>	Arizona cypress and cultivars	E	18-24	VL	VL	S	L,S	20-50 x 20	-	Does best away from the coast. Do not prune in rainy season to avoid juniper blight. Do not overhead water.
<i>Hesperocyparis (Cupressus) forbesii</i>	Tecate cypress	E	18-20	VL	VL	S	C,L,S	10-20 x 10-15	-	Does best away from the coast. Do not prune in rainy season to avoid juniper blight. Do not overhead water.
<i>Juniperus californica</i>	California juniper	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	10-25 x 10-20	-	Does best away from the coast. Prune in winter, but not on rainy days to avoid juniper blight. Do not overhead water.
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. asplenifolius</i>	Santa Cruz (Catalina) island ironwood	E	19-24	L	L	S-P	WD L,S	30-60 x 20-40	white; sum	Does best near the coast. Needs good drainage! Prune as needed.
x <i>Parkinsonia</i> 'Desert Museum'	Desert Museum palo verde	D	18-24	VL	L	S	WD C,L,S	20-30 x 20-25	yellow	Do not overwater! Prune when dormant if needed.
<i>Pinus monophylla</i>	single leaf pinyon pine	E	18-24	VL	L	S	WD L,S	10-30 x 10-20	-	Does best away from the coast. Edible pine nuts. Very slow. Do not overwater. Easy care. Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Pinus torreyana</i>	Torrey pine	E	18-24	L	M	S	WD C,L,S	35-80 x 20-50	-	Does best near the coast. Very sparse tree. Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii (Prunus lyonii)</i>	Catalina cherry	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	25-30 x	white; spr	Edible cherries (although not tasty). Fruit drop - do not plant near hardscape. Prune as needed.
<i>Pseudotsuga macrocarpa</i>	bigcone Douglas fir	E	18-19	L	M	S-P	WD L,S	40-65 x 20-30	-	Big conifer for the valley and inland; needs colder winters than the Los Angeles basin.
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	E	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD C,L,S	20-70 x 30-85	spring	Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>	canyon live oak	E	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L,S	70 x 30	spring	Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	blue oak	D	18-24	VL	L	S-P	WD L,S	20-60 x 20-30	spring	Does best away from the coast. Summer semi-deciduous, winter fully deciduous. Prune when dormant as needed.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Trees

Scientific Name	Common Name	Plant Type	Sunset Climate Zone	Water - L.A. Basin Zones 22-24	Water - Inland Zones 18-21	Sun	Soil	Height x width	Flower Color & Season	Maintenance Notes
<i>Quercus engelmannii</i>	Engelmann oak, mesa oak	S	18-24	VL	L	S-P	C,L	30-60 x 50-90	spring	Does best away from the coast. Summer semi-deciduous. Deep water once a month to 6 weeks in summer during drought.
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	valley oak	D	18-24	M	M	S-P	L,S	30-90 x 30	spring	Prune in winter as needed. Takes heat better than coast live oak, but needs more water. Prefers deep, rich soil.
<i>Quercus tomentella</i>	island oak	E	19-24	L	NO	S-P	C,L,S	20-50 x 20-30	spring	Prefers moist soil, but tolerates dry. Best near the coast. Prune in winter as needed.
<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	interior live oak	E	18-21	NO	VL	S-P	C,L,S	30-75 x 30-60	spring	Prune in winter as needed. Prefers rocky soil.
<i>Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea</i> (<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>)	Mexican or western elderberry	D	18-24	L	L	S-P	C,L	25 x 25	cream; spr-sum	Berries used for jam and wine, but must be very ripe. Fruit attracts wildlife and can be messy over hardscape.
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay laurel	E	18-24	L	M	P-Sh	WD	30-75 x 60	yellow; spr	Native to north facing slopes, moist canyon bottoms. Leaves have strong scent. This is not the culinary bay leaf.

Maintenance of Climate-Appropriate Native Plants for Southern California – A Starter List

Key:

Plant Type

E-evergreen (leaves present all year)

D-deciduous (loses all leaves in a season. If *summer* deciduous, it is noted)

S-semi-deciduous (loses most, but not all leaves. Sometimes related to rainfall or temperature)

P-perennial (a non-woody plant that lives many years)

DP- deciduous perennial (a non-woody deciduous plant- typically dying all the way to the ground every year)

Water Use

Rating based on average rainfall. If we experience drought, water mostly during winter and spring. Some summer water ok, depending on species.

Ratings from Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS IV) - https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant_Search/

VL – Very low. No water to once a month if needed.

L – Low. Once to twice a month if needed.

M – Moderate. 3-4 times a month. Allow to dry out between waterings.

H – High (soil always kept very moist)

Sun S-full sun, P-partial sun, Sh-shade

Soil WD-well-drained, C-clay, L-loam, S-sand

Seasons win-winter, spr-spring, sum-summer, fall-fall

References and Resources:

Calscape. <https://www.calscape.org>. Plant information from the California Native Plant Society.

O'Brien, Bart C. 2007. *Plant Lists for the San Gabriel River Watershed*. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Azusa, CA.

Bornstein, Carol; Fross, David; O'Brien, Bart. 2005. *California Native Plants for the Garden*. Cachuma Press. Los Olivos, CA.

Bornstein, Carol; Fross, David; O'Brien, Bart. 2011. *Reimagining the California Lawn*. Cachuma Press. Los Olivos, CA.

Perry, Bob. 2010. *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*. Land Design Publishing. Claremont, CA.

Rubin, Greg; Warren, Lucy. 2016. *The Drought-Defying California Garden: 230 Native Plants for a Lush, Low-Water Landscape*. Timber Press. Portland, OR.

El Nativo Growers <http://www.elnativogrowers.com> . (626) 969-7299.

Las Pilitas Nursery. <https://www.laspilitas.com/>. Santa Margarita. Great online information.

Matilija Nursery. <http://www.matilijanursery.com/>. 8225 Waters Rd, Moorpark. (805) 523-8604.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Grow Native Nursery. <https://www.rsabg.org/grow-native-nursery/gnn>. 1500 College Ave, Claremont 91711 (909) 625-8767.

Theodore Payne Foundation; <http://theodorepayne.org/>. Great online information. Nursery on site. 10459 Tuxford St, Sun Valley 91352. (818) 768-1802.

Tree of Life Nursery; <http://californianativeplants.com/>. Largest CA native nursery. 33201 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano 92675. (949) 728-0685.