



7 California Lilac

Ceanothus

The California lilac blooms late winter to spring with clusters of flowers in white and every shade of blue from very light to deep violet. Generally an evergreen, the California Lilac comes in all shapes and sizes including low and spreading, tightly grouped and bushy, and standing-up and angular. Only a few varieties lose their leaves in cold weather. They require full sun and little to no water.



8 Toyon

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Toyon is also known as Christmasberry or California Holly for its brilliant red berry clusters from November through January. It's a large evergreen shrub, with thick, leathery, glossy green leaves 2 to 4 inches long. It has small white flowers in flattish clusters, which bloom June through July. Toyon requires full sun and can tolerate low moisture. It attracts birds.



9 Seaside Daisy, Beach Aster

Erigeron glaucus

Another native Californian, this free-blooming plant has purple daisy-like flowers with yellow centers. It flowers in the spring and summer and grows in clumps about 1 foot high and 2 feet wide. It likes full sun or light shade and requires moderate water in warmer areas.



10 Hummingbird Sage

Salvia spathacea

This hardy, small clumping sage is a magnet for hummingbirds because of its spikes of deep magenta flowers. This sage prefers shade to partial sun and requires moderate water although its root system helps it to survive drought.



Top Ten California Friendly[®] Plants



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

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A California Friendly® garden is filled with native and low-water use plants perfectly suited to our mild winters and warm, dry summers. They are low maintenance, use little to no water, don't need soil preparation or fertilizing and even attract wildlife like birds and butterflies. Here are some favorites to start with. There are thousands more to choose from. Visit bewaterwise.com® for a more complete catalogue of plant possibilities, garden ideas, rebate information and conservation tips.

1 | Deer Grass

Muhlenbergia rigens

This native California grass is narrow-leaved and forms a dense clump up to 2-3 feet high and wide. The bright green leaves are joined by spiky cream-colored flowers in spring that stand tall at first, and lean a little later, rising 2 feet above the leaves. The deer grass is drought tolerant and does best with little to moderate water in full sun or light shade. An added bonus: deer grass attracts helpful garden bugs like spiders and ladybugs.



4 | Malva Rosa

Lavatera assurgentiflora 'Purissima'

Easy-to-grow flowering shrub with abundant beautiful striped blooms. This variety grows to 8 feet tall and others can grow as high as 12 feet tall and wide. An evergreen, the Malva Rosa requires little to moderate water. It is often used for background, hillside and screen planting.



2 | Coral Bells or Alum Root

Heuchera

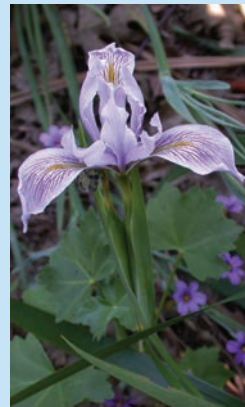
Slender, spiky stems of loose, small bell-shaped flowers grow from clumps of round scalloped leaves. The delicate blossoms come in shades of red, coral, rose pink, greenish and white. Most varieties bloom between early spring and late summer, with some lasting until fall. They work great in cut arrangements and are long-lasting. In warmer areas, they do best with afternoon shade and moderate to regular water. And, hummingbirds like them.



5 | Douglas Iris

Iris douglasiana

This easygoing and easy-growing iris is native to the California coast. A spring bloomer, the Douglas Iris has evergreen leaves and long stems up to 2 feet that are sometimes branched and crowned with purple and blue shaded flowers. They like sun to light shade and moderate to little water in summer with well-drained soil. Many cultivated varieties are available with yellow, rose, burgundy and purple flowers.



3 | Baby Blue-Eyes

Nemophila

With a charming name and abundant blossoms, the "Pennie Black" variety produces blackish purple flowers rimmed in white. Other varieties, more true to their name, are sky-blue blossoms. The plants grow in full sun or partial shade and require moderate water. They grow 6 to 12 inches high and trail to 1 foot wide. The bell-shaped flowers bloom in spring and the ferny leaves give the plants a delicate look.



6 | Bigberry Manzanita

Arctostaphylos glauca

This native Californian has blue-gray leaves, which offset clusters of pink to white urn-shaped flowers. The flowers bloom in late winter to early spring and are followed by berrylike red or brown fruits that attract birds. Known for its crooked branches of dark purple/brown bark, this variety is a tall shrub that can spread up to 15 feet tall and 20 feet wide. There are many different varieties of manzanita; all are evergreen, take full sun or light shade and require little to moderate water.

