

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS AND GROUNDCOVERS

University of California Cooperative Extension
Farm and Home Advisors
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A decorative graphic consisting of a wavy, horizontal band with a yellow-to-orange gradient and a blue outline, positioned above the University of California logo.

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This list is intended to be a guide. Plant availability may change and improved varieties may come to market. Quantitative data do not exist for plant water use for most species. Sensitivity to possible plant allergens varies among people.

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Revised and expanded, August 2020

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Perry, Bob. 1981. Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes. Land Design Publishing, San Dimas, CA

Sunset New Western Garden Book

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Botanical Name	Common Name	Area ¹	Height	Width	Growth Rate ²	Flowers	Accepted Varieties	Remarks
<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia	V, M, D	4-6'	6'	F	white		Leaves turn bronze in fall, mounding shape
<i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i>	Leatherleaf Acacia	V, D	5-10'	3-8'	M	inconspicuous		Upright shrub, very drought tolerant, for use in planters 10' and larger, slope stabilizer
<i>Acacia redolens</i>	Prostrate Acacia	V, D	1-2'	12-15'	M	inconspicuous	'Desert Carpet' 'Low Boy'	Tolerant of poor soil, drought and heat, for use in planters 10' and larger for room to spread, may be allergenic
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Acanthus, Bear's Breech	V	4-5'	4-5'	M	white, purple spikes		Dormant in summer, large dark green leaves, use in semi-protected areas, classical plant of Greek culture
<i>Achillea</i> spp.	Woolly Yarrow	V, M	6-24"	2-4'	F	yellow, white		Ferny, white hairy leaves, good for dry exposed soil locations, grows in poor soil but prefers light sandy soil
<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	Lily-of-the-Nile	V	1-3'	1-2'	M	blue, white	'Queen Anne', 'Peter Pan' 'Snowball/Snow Storm'	Best in filtered light or part shade, direct sun leads to increased maintenance to remove dead leaves
<i>Agapanthus praecox orientalis</i>	Lily-of-the-Nile	V	3-4'	3-4'	M	blue, white	'Albus', 'Blue'	Best in filtered light or part shade, direct sun leads to increased maintenance to remove dead leaves
<i>Agave parryi</i>	Artichoke Agave	V, D	2-3'	2-3'	M	inconspicuous		Sharp spines, not for use around active areas, better adapted to dry climates than the spp.
<i>Agave</i> spp.	Agave	V, D	2-4'	2-4'	M	inconspicuous		Many species and varieties, some better than others, sharp spines
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Ajuga, Bugleweed	V, M	6-9"	2-3"	M	showy blue to purple		Bronze and purplish foliage, spreads by runners, makes a thick carpet of lustrous leaves, must have deep shade, better in the mountains than in the valley
<i>Anigozanthos</i> hybrids	Kangaroo Paw	V	1-4'	1-4'	F	orange, red, yellow, pink	'Big Red', 'Bush Gem' 'Tequila Sunrise'	Needs good drainage, liked by snails and slugs, attracts hummingbirds
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	Manzanita	M	1-20' varies	5-10' varies	S	inconspicuous pink or white		Native shrub and drought tolerant, base should not be wet, many species with varying sizes and forms
<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Purple Three-Awn	V, D	2'	2'	F	none		Grass, can reseed, not as aggressive as <i>Stipa tenuissima</i>
<i>Artemisia</i> spp.	Artemisia, Wormwood	V, M, D	3'	6'	M	inconspicuous	'Powis Castle', many spp. and varieties	Limited use, allergenic

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Asparagus densiflorus 'Meyers'	Meyers Asparagus Fern	V, M	2'	2'	F	white		Excellent in containers, shade tolerant, deep green needle-like leaves, invasive
Asparagus sprengeri	Asparagus Fern	V, M	2'	3-6'	F	white		Plumes of fern-like foliage, will grow in poor soil, full sun to shade, invasive
Aucuba japonica	Gold Dust Plant	VP	4'	4'	S	none		High water requirements, must have shade because sun burns leaves, variegated variety available, do not overwater
Baccharis pilularis	Dwarf Coyote Bush	V, D	8-24"	9'	F	inconspicuous	'Twin Peaks', 'Pigeon Point'	Spreads quickly and can overtake other shrubs, needs to be pruned once a year before new growth starts, good for bank cover. 'Twin Peaks' has more moderate growth and small dark green leaves
Bambus spp.	Bamboo	V, D	varies	varies		none		Can be very invasive, many species and varieties with varying characteristics
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese Barberry	V, M	3-5'	3-5'	M	inconspicuous	'Limeglow', 'Sunsation'	Spiny stems, set back from hardscape, pathways where thorns won't catch
Berberis t. atropurpurea	Red Leaf Japanese Barberry	V, M	1-5'	1-5'	M	inconspicuous	'Crimson Pygmy', 'Royal Cloak', 'Rose Glow'	Spiny stems, set back from hardscape, pathways where thorns won't catch
Bergenia spp.	Bergenia	V	20"	1-2'	M	Shades of pink		Good for shaded areas, old-time perennial, slugs and snails like
Bougainvillea spp.	Bougainvillea	VP	3'	8'	M	Violet, Orange Red, others	'Barbara Karst', many varieties	Full sun, west-facing, good for banks, caution needed in transplanting to disturb roots as little as possible, frost-sensitive
Buddleia davidii	Butterflybush	V, M, D	4-6'	3'	F	white, pink, red, lilac-like		Very attractive to butterflies and humming birds, cut back hard after flowering
Buxus microphylla japonica	Japanese Boxwood	V, D	6-24"	6-24"	S	none	'Green Beauty'	Can be pruned to any shape, makes excellent hedge, temperamental with age, moderate to higher water to look good
Calliandra eriophylla	Fairy Duster	V, D	1-4'	1-4'	M	red, pink		Delicate but durable flowers
Calliandra californica	Baja Fairy Duster	V, D	1-4'	1-4'	M	brilliant red	'Sierra Star'	Delicate but durable flowers
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush	V	15'	6'	M	red	'Little John' small 'Captain Cook' medium	Red bottlebrush flowers, set back from hardscape and pathways, branches break easily, attracts bees, avoid overwatering
Camellia japonica	Camellia	V	6'	6'	M	red, pink, white winter blooming		Can be long-lived, many forms and colors available, plant on east or north exposure, filtered sun, mulch, prefers acid soil

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Camellia sasanqua	Camellia	V	6-15'	3-10'	M	red, pink, white winter blooming		Can be long-lived, many forms and colors available, Sasanqua types better for sun than C. japonica, mulching helpful, prefers acid soil
Carissa grandiflora	Natal Plum	VP	2'	4'	M	white fragrant flowers		Can make sauce with fruit, has large thorns, only tolerant to ~ 30°F
Carpenteria californica	Bush Anemone	V, MP	4-8'	4-8'	S	white, showy		Native plant
Ceanothus spp.	California Lilac	V, M	1-6'	1-6'	S	white through shades of blue		Native to California, needs some water in summer, root rot if overwatered, difficult to grow in Bakersfield, prefers acid soil
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer	V	6-8"	2-3'	M	white		Must have shade, needs annual mowing or shearing, no foot traffic
Chaenomeles spp.	Flowering Quince	V, M, D	4'	4'	M	pink, red		Acid soil, fragrant edible fruit, excellent bonsai plant, flowers in early spring, very susceptible to fireblight, old-time plant, thorns
Chondropetalum tectorum	Cape Rush	V	2-3'	3-4'	F	inconspicuous		Good structural plant
Colonema pulchellum	Diosma, Breath of Heaven	V	4-5'	5'	M	pink, white	'Sunset'	Requires good drainage, flowers and foliage very fragrant
Coreopsis spp.	Coreopsis	V	varies	varies	F	many	'Tequila Sunrise' 'Nana'	Limited use, good in small spaces, in front of taller plants
Cornus spp.	Dogwood	M	varies	varies	F	white	many species, shrubs to trees	Tolerates wet soils, needs shade, some varieties with red or yellow bark
Coronilla varia	Crown Vetch	M	18"	6'	M	pink, rose, white		A spreading legume resistant to disease, drought and freezing, unattractive dormancy, invasive root system which spreads 10' or more, seeds profusely, use only in open areas, used in eastern US as highway slope cover
Cortaderia selloana	Pampas Grass	V, D	20'	10'	F	cream plumes		Tall clumpy grass, excellent in wind, takes drought and heat, sharp spines on leaves, invasive, and difficult to manage, <u>not recommended</u>
Cotoneaster spp.	Cotoneaster	V, M, D	2-8'	2-6'	F	pink to white berries to follow	many species and varieties	Good on banks or trailing over rocks, can be propagated by cuttings, many cotoneaster species are available, shade tolerant, unsure of plant longevity in the valley
Cotoneaster glaucophylla	Gray Cotoneaster	V, M, D	2'	2-4'	F	small white, berries to follow		Good groundcover, better in sun than most cotoneasters
Cotoneaster multiflora	Multiflowered Cotoneaster	V, M, D	6-10'	6'	F	small white, berries to follow		Pendulous habit, large shrub or small tree

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Cotoneaster parneyi	Red Cotoneaster	V, M, D	8'	8'	F	white; spring, summer		Excellent in containers, arching growth
Dianella ssp.	Flax Lily	V, D	2-4'	2-4'	M	blue to blue-purple		Frost hardy, grows best in full morning sun, filtered afternoon shade, shiny blue to blue-purple berries, toxicity varies and should not be consumed, leaves used to weave baskets by indigenous Australians
Dietes iridioides	Fortnight Lily	V, D	3'	3'	M			Workhorse plant, durable
Dodonea viscosa	Hopseed Bush	V	10-15'	10-15'	M	small		Purple-leaved varieties available, native to Arizona to South America, drought tolerant, may be susceptible to root disease
Elaeocarpus decipiens	Japanese Blueberry	V	6-10'	6-10'	S	inconspicuous	'Little Emperor'	Use in very large planting areas with at least 15' of space, girds like the fruit
Eleagnus pungens	Silverberry	V, M, D	6-15'	6-8'	F	inconspicuous		Leaves olive-gray, good for reflective heat
Eremophila decepiens	Emu Bush	V	3'	3'	M	tubular		Compact grower, do not over water, tolerant to many soil types
Eremophila maculata	Spotted Emu Bush	V	4-6'	4-6'	M	tubular	'Valentine'	Height and width dependent on variety, this species handles additional water better than <i>decepiens</i>
Escallonia rubra	Red Escallonia	V, D	5-6'	5-6'	F	red 2-3"		High water requirement, good screen or hedge
Euonymus japonica	Evergreen Euonymus	V, D	8-10'	8'	F	none		Very drought tolerant, leathery dark green leaves, cottony cushion scale loves this plant.
Euonymus japonica microphylla	Euonymus	V, M, D	1-2'	1-2'	M			Formal when sheared
Euphorbia characias	Euphorbia	V	2-3'	2-3'	F	yellow	'Wulfenii'	Short-lived, all Euphorbias have irritating sap, evergreen in warmer areas, cut spent flowers and stems at the base to make room for new stems, showy plant with chartreuse flowers/blue green showy leaves
Euryops chrysanthemoides	Daisy Bush	V, D	4-6'	4-6'	F	yellow daisy		Drought tolerant but best when watered, will reseed itself, resembles Euryops
Euryops pectinatus	Euryops Daisy	V, D	3-4'	3'	F	yellow, 2"		Blooms almost year round, heaviest in winter - early spring, reliable but may be short lived, cut back in the green to renew
Fallugia paradoxa	Apache Plume	V, D	3-6'	3-6'	F	white, delicate		Suited for dry gardens, do not overwater
Fatsia japonica	Japanese Aralia	VP	5-8'	5'	M	none		Good indoors, good in containers, high water requirement, full shade required

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Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	V, D	12'	5'	M	white with pink		Edible fruit, short-lived in desert
Festuca glauca	Common Blue Fescue	V, M	12"	10"	F	none		Not really drought tolerant
Fragaria chiloensis	Wild Strawberry	V, M	6-12"	12-18"	S	white		Valley really too warm -- needs part shade needs annual mowing or cutting back in spring, propagate by stolons
Gardenia jasminoides	Gardenia	V	4-6'	4'	M	white, very fragrant		Narrow temperature range to bloom, must have acid soil, part shade best
Gazania spp.	Gazania Freeway Daisy	V	6-10"	18-24"	M	daisy-like flowers in many spectacular colors		Any soil, drought resistant, no traffic, clumping or trailing varieties available, Sclerotinia disease a major problem with trailing varieties hardest hit
Genista racemosa	Sweet Broom	V, M	6-8'	5-6'	F	yellow 3-4" loose spikes		Requires well drained soil, drought tolerant, attractive small leaves. Short lived.
Grevillea noellii	Grevillea	V	4'	4-5'	M	pink, red, white, spring		Needle-like leaves, does not like shearing.
Grevillea rosmarinifolia	Rosemary Grevillea		6'	6'	M	white		Leaves look like rosemary
Hedera spp.	English or Algerian Ivy	V, D	12-15"	12-18"	F	none		Needs periodic shearing or mowing to keep under control, very difficult to eliminate once established, habitat for rodents, invasive, climbs, can sunburn Shade areas in desert
Helictotrichon sempervirens	Blue Oat Grass	V	2-3'	2-3'	M	seed heads		Similar in appearance to blue fescue
Hemerocallis spp.	Daylily	V	2-4'	2-3'	M	Many colors	evergreen varieties	Summer bloom, long bloom period
Hesperaloe parviflora	Red Yucca	V, D	3-4'	3-4'	M	pink, yellow	many varieties	For use in planting areas 5' or larger; bloom stalks are large and hold seed pods for long periods of time, very tolerant of reflected and excessive heat, attracts bees and hummingbirds
Hibiscus syriacus	Rose of Sharon, Hibiscus	V	10-12'	5-6'	M	white, purple 2" summer		Compact when young, spreading and open with age, top may be killed by frost but comes back from roots
Hydrangea macrophylla	Hydrangea, Snowball Plant	V, M	4'	8'	M	white, pink, blue, 10" diameter		Requires shade and water, acid soil causes pink and red flowers to turn blue, deciduous, best on north side
Ice Plants: All succulents, low water use								
	Carpobrotus	V	12-18"	18-24"	M	cream		Heavy leaves 3" to 4" long, grows rapidly, easily propagated by cuttings
	Cylindrophyllum or Cephalophyllum	V	3-4"	6-12"	M	red		Clumping type, 2" flowers, starts blooming in January
	Drosanthemum	V	6"	6-12"	M	lavender-pink		Dense low mat, use for erosion control on banks and steep slopes

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Ice plant: Lampranthus		V	3-15"	24"	M	pink, red, rose purple, orange		Spectacular, fluorescent flowers bloom profusely, good drought tolerance once established
Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii'	Burford Holly	V, D	6'	4'	M	many red berries		Evergreen, leaves have sharp points
Juniperus spp.	Juniper	V, M, D	varies	varies	M			Many species and varieties and growth forms
Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana	Pfitzer Juniper	V, M, D	6-8'	6-8'	M	none		Blue-green color
Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa'	Hollywood Juniper	V, M, D	20'	25'	M	none		Do not plant, twig girdler attacks older plants
Juniperus sabiniana	Savin	V, M, D	1-3'	6-8'	S	none	'Buffalo', 'Arcadia'	Compact, flat groundcover junipers, these varieties are tolerant of pollution, poor sandy soil, drought and excessive heat
Juniperus scopulorum	Juniper	V, M, D	20'	10'	M	none	'Gray Gleam', many	Blue-gray color, many other upright juniper cultivars available
Lagerstromemia indica	Crape Myrtle	V, D	5-30'	3-15'		red, pink, white		Taller varieties trained as small trees, dwarf varieties shrubs, glassy-winged sharpshooter insect produces honeydew
Lantana camara	Lantana (shrub)	V	3-4'	3-4'	M	red, yellow	'Radiation'	Any soil, full sun, good on banks, water deeply but infrequently, dies to ground at 25° but will come back from roots
Lantana montevidensis	Lantana (groundcover)	V	1 1/2' to 2 1/2'	3-6'	M	lavender, purple		Same comments as L. camara
Laurentia fluviatilis (Pratia pedunculata)	Isotoma, Blue Star Creeper	V	1-4"	12"	M	pale blue		Burns out in afternoon sun, needs shade, roots as it spreads, delicate
Lavandula angustifolia	English Lavender	V	8-24"	8-24"	M		'Compacta', 'Hidcote'	Streetscape use only at entries, not for use in medians and along stretches of streetscape, hardiest species of lavender, strongest scents, needs sufficient water, but do not overwater, does not persist locally, culinary species
Lavandula dentata	French Lavender	V	3-4'	4-5'	M			Strongest scent, needs sufficient water, does not persist locally, perfume species
Lavandula stoechas	Spanish Lavender	V	3'	3'	M			Mostly spring early summer
Lavatera assurgentifolia	Blue Lavatera	V	6-8'	6'	M	pink-lavender		Shade tolerant, flowers on new growth especially in spring
Leonotis leonurus	Lion's Tail	V, D	4-6'	4-6'	F	orange		For use in areas 8' and larger, in parking lots, use only along perimeters where screening is an option, hummingbirds like flowers, low-water plant

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<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Australian Tea Tree	V, DP	4-6'	4-6'	S	red, pink	'Helene Strybing' 'Ruby Glow'	Needs moisture when first planted, then drought tolerant, small leaves
<i>Leucophyllum candidum</i>	Leucophyllum	V, D	3-5'	3-5'	M	purple or white	'Silver Cloud' 'Thunder Cloud'	'Thunder Cloud' is a compact, smaller variety, small gray foliage
<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>	Texas Ranger	V, D	4-8'	6'	M	magenta	'White Cloud' 'Green Cloud'	Species itself often planted, very drought tolerant, excellent in containers, requires sun, variegated leaf variety available, flowers later in summer, this plant is very well adapted to Kern conditions
<i>Leucophyllum zygophyllum</i>	Texas Ranger	V, D	3'	3'	M		'Cimarron'	More dense than <i>L. candidum</i> , <i>L. frutescens</i> low water
<i>Ligustrum japonica</i>	Japanese Privet, Wax-Leaf Privet	V, M, D	8-12'	8'	F	white		Takes shearing well, glossy leaves, will be a 25' tree if left unpruned, variegated variety available
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Blue Lily Turf	V	8-12"	6-12"	M	white to lilac		Tufts or mounds, partial to full shade, ample moisture needed, mow or crop in spring, mushy with too much water
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape	V	6'	6'	M	yellow flowers February to May		Edible black berries, evergreen thorny attractive leaves, shade tolerant, birds like the fruit
<i>Muehlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink Muhly Grass	V, D	3'	6'	F	none	'Regal Mist'	Pink plumes in fall, cut back in winter
<i>Muehlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass	V, D	4'	4'	F	none		Divide every 3-5 years
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>	Myoporum	V	6"	2-3'	F	inconspicuous flowers, colorful fruits		Drought tolerant, will root wherever branches strike the ground, drought resistant, salt tolerant, used in streetscapes
<i>Myrica californica</i>	Pacific Wax Myrtle	V	10'	10'	M	inconspicuous		Set back 5' min. from hardscape due to fruits. Birds like.
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle	V, D	5'	5'	S	none	'Compacta' is dwarf variety	Needs good drainage, do not overwater, can be sheared, fragrant, prune to control size, substitute for boxwood
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Heavenly Bamboo	V, D	4-6'	4'	F	inconspicuous	'Harbor Dwarf'	Excellent for night lighting, red berries if plants grouped, good fall and spring color, persistent, dwarf variety available
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	V, D	20'	6'	M	white, red		Subject to oleander scorch, requires very little water, leaves and wood poisonous if eaten, and toxic to animals, good screen and windbreak
<i>Osmanthus fragrans</i>	Sweet Olive	V, D	10'	6-8'	M	white		Needs afternoon shade, tolerant of a range of soils, very fragrant

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Osteospermum fruticosum	African Daisy Freeway Daisy	V, D	12-18"	12-18"	M	lilac to purple and white		Drought resistant, good for banks.
Pelargonium hortorum	Common Geranium	V	3'	4-5'	M	pink, red, white		Excellent in containers, strong smelling leaves, perennial in the valley, gets woody with time
Pennisetum alopecuroides	Black Pennisetum	V, D	varies	varies	F	none	'Cassians Choice' 'Little Bunny'	Needs occasional shearing, spacing, to give a managed look
Pennisetum setaceum	Red Fountain Grass	V, D	5'	5'	F	none	'Rubrum' 'Rubrum Compacta'	Well adapted, shear annually for managed look
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Russian Sage	V, D	3-4'	3-4'	M	inconspicuous		Needs good drainage, do not overwater, resistant to heat and drought, attracts pollinators
Phlox subulata	Moss Pink	V, M	6"	6"	M	white through pink, rose and lavender blue		Grows in loose, not too rich soil, after flowering, cut back half way, part shade helpful
Phormium tenax	New Zealand Flax	V	9'	6'	M	red-brown		Excellent in containers, avoid overwatering, remove dead stalks and flowers, variegated variety available
Photinia fraseri	Fraser Photinia, Red Tip	V	10'	15'	F	white clusters		Bright red stems, red-bronze new growth, prefers acid soil, can be trained to small tree, excellent hedge plant
Pinus mugo mughus	Mugo Pine	M	4'	6-8'	S	none		Requires some shade in Valley, very useful as multitrunked shrub pine, somewhat brittle
Pittosporum tobira	Pittosporum Mockorange	V, D	6-15'	6-15'	F	white	'Wheeler's Dwarf' 'Variegata'	Dwarf varieties available, often has cottony cushion scale insect, breaks easily
Plumbago auriculata	Plumbago	V, M, D	6'	8-10'	M	white to blue, phlox-like		Can exhibit vine-like character
Podocarpus macrophyllus	Podocarpus, Fern Pine	V	20'	6'	S	none		Evergreen, narrow leaves, shrub in desert
Podocarpus gracilior	Podocarpus, Fern Pine	V	20'	3'	S	none		Excellent in narrow upright area, good in containers
Polygala fruticosa 'Petite Butterflies'	Sweet Pea Shrub	V	2-3'	2-3'	M	pink to purple		Compact filler shrub, may have minor issues with white fly
Polygonum capitatum	Pink Clover Blossom	V, M	10-24"	1-24"	M	pink		Creeping roots, can be invasive, good for sunny dry banks, cut to ground in late fall or winter
Pratia angulata	Also called Laurentia and Isotoma		2-6"	12"		white lobelia- like flowers spring through summer		Sun or light shade, mow or trim back in early spring
Punica granatum	Pomegranate	V, D	10'	15'	F	white clusters		Large edible fruit, water regularly and deeply, good fall color

Botanical Name	Common Name	Area¹	Height	Width	Growth Rate²	Flowers	Accepted Varieties	Remarks
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Pyracantha Firethorn	V, M, D	8-10'	5'	F	white, spring	'Lolande'	Attractive red berries, sharp spines, does well in full sun, birds like the fruit, can be espaliered
<i>Raphiolepis indica</i>	Indian Hawthorn	V, D	4'	4-5'	M	inconsistent colors, spring bloom	'Ballerina', 'Clara', 'Dancer', 'Jack Evans', 'Pink Lady', 'Springtime'	Full sun, workhorse plant, can be sheared, blue-black berries
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar Bush	V, D	6'	4'	M	inconspicuous		Evergreen, adaptable to deserts, do not overwater
<i>Rosa</i> spp.	Rose	V, M, D	varies	varies	F	enormous range of color	many	Prefer landscape or shrub types, landscape varieties including 'Ralph's Creeper', 'Sea Foam', 'The Fairy', 'Red Meidiland', 'Blaze', 'Knockout', 'Flutterbye', etc., etc.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	V, D	4-6'	6'	F	blue-purple	'Huntington Carpet', 'Blue Irene'	Drought tolerant, cold hardy varieties. Aromatic herb. Any soil. Full sun, drought and wind resistant.
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'prostratus'	Dwarf Rosemary	V, D	2'	2-6'	M	blue, spring through summer		Picturesque, drapes over rocks. Adaptability as above.
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Salvia	V, D	2'	3'	M	red, pink		Useful small shrub, can be short lived with too much water
<i>Sophora secundiflora</i>	Texas Mountain Laurel	V, D	8'	4'	M	blue clusters		Distinct fragrance between lilac and grape
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Gray Santolina	V, D	1-2'	2-3'	M	yellow		Aromatic gray foliage, good desert plant, shear for best form, good near swimming pools, runs out after ~ 5-7 years
<i>Santolina virens</i>	Green Santolina	V, D	1-2'	2-3'	M	yellow		Green foliage, good desert plant, shear for best form, good near swimming pools, runs out after ~ 5-7 years
<i>Sedum</i> spp.	Sedum	V	6-10"	12"	M	yellow, other	many	Succulent good on slopes, ideal for borders, no traffic, many sedum species available
<i>Senna artemisioides</i>	Feathery Cassia	V, D	3-5'	3-5'	M	orange buttons		Heavy seed production, very drought tolerant, do not overwater, not as persistent as in Arizona, may be allergenic
<i>Soleirolia soleirolia</i>	Baby Tears	V, M	1-3"	6'	M	none		Moist, shady places only, tougher than it appears
<i>Spirea</i> spp.	Spireas	M	1-5'	1-4'	F	often purple	many species and varieties	Workhorse deciduous shrubs for cooler climates
<i>Spirea vanhouttei</i>	Bridalveil Spirea	V, M	6'	6'	M	white profusion of flowers in spring		Fountain shaped, arching growth habit

Botanical Name	Common Name	Area¹	Height	Width	Growth Rate²	Flowers	Accepted Varieties	Remarks
Tetrapomax papiferum	Ricepaper Plant	V	15'	15'	M	tan, cream 2-3' Nov-Dec		Large leaves and flowers, rangy, develops deep roots, can be sunburned in direct sun, excellent silhouette against walls
Teucrium fruiticans	Bush Germander	V, D	4-8'	4-8'	M	blue-purple	'Azureum', 'Compactum'	Tolerant of poor soils, do not overwater, needs good drainage
Thuja orientalis (Platyclusus orientalis)	Oriental Arborvitae	V, D, M	25'	25'	M	blue-green 1/2"		Evergreen, used in formal landscapes, stressed by reflected heat, can be sheared, flat leaves, best in mountains
Thymus vulgaris	Thyme	V, M	2-3"	6-12"	S	rose pink to lilac		Aromatic herb, full sun, withstands neglect, fast growing flat mat of dark green, can handle some traffic such as between stepping stones
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star Jasmine	V, D	2'	10'	F	white, fragrant in spring		Set plants 48" on center for groundcover spacing, semi-vining, likes water
Verbena peruviana	Verbena	V, D	6-12"	3'	F	red or pink		Sunny locations, drought tolerant once established
Viburnum spp.	Viburnum, other	M	4-12'	3-5'	F	white	many	Workhorse deciduous shrubs for shady areas
Viburnum opulus	Snowball Bush	V, M	8'	6'	F	white clusters		Shade tolerant
Viburnum tinus	Laurustinus	V, M	4-6'	4-6'	M	small	'Spring Bouquet'	Shade tolerant
Viburnum tinus 'compacta'	Compact Lauristinus	V, M	3'	4'	M	small		Fragrant blooms, this compact variety makes a good low hedge, shade tolerant
Vinca minor	Dwarf Periwinkle	V, M, D	4-6"	5'	F	none		North facing only with limited sun exposure
Westringia fruitcosa	Coast Rosemary	V	3-6'	5-10'	M	white	'Morning Light' 'Smokey', 'Wynyabbie Gem'	For space 10' and larger, needs good drainage
Xylosma congestum	Shiny Xylosma	V, D	10'	10'	F	none	'Compacta'	Drought tolerant when established, fast growth requires space, excellent screen planted 8 feet apart, similar in habit to privet
Yucca filamentosa	Yucca	V, D	2.5'	5'	F	white	'Bright Edge'	One of the hardiest, cold-tolerant yuccas, no spines, sharp leaf edges, accent plant
Yucca pallida	Pale Leaf Yucca	V, D	1-2'	1-3'	F	white		Good for small areas, lightly serrated leaves, accent plant
Yucca rupicola	Twisted Leaf Yucca	V, D	1-2'	1-3'	F	white		Good for small areas, lightly serrated leaves, accent plant

¹Geographic areas where tree is adapted:

V = Valley, M = Mountain, D = Desert, R = Riparian

VP = Valley, Protected/Warm Winter Locations (e.g. Bakersfield College Area)

DP = Desert, Protected Locations

MP = Mountain, Protected Locations

²Growth Rate: F = Fast, M = Medium, S = Slow

Growth rates are relative and assume plants are irrigated.