

Unusual Plant Choices

Foster City

<p>Vitex trifolia 'Fascination'</p> 	<p>Arabian Lilac</p> <p>This unusual small tree has velvety leaves that are green on one side with distinctly purple tinted undersides. It will grow 6-8' tall and grows well in containers. Purple flower spikes cover the tree in the summer.</p> <p>Takes full sun to part shade, moderate water.</p>
<p>Lespedeza thunbergii</p> 	<p>Purple Bush Clover</p> <p>This 5' tall arching shrub is loaded with rosy-purple blooms in the fall. It has the distinctive bloom shape unique to members of the pea family. It flowers on new wood every year, so cut plants to the ground in the winter.</p> <p>Takes full sun to part shade, very low water.</p>
<p>Verbena lilacina 'De la Mina'</p> 	<p>De la Mina Verbena (CA native)</p> <p>This evergreen shrub forms a neat mound to 3' tall. In coastal conditions, it will bloom nearly year round with dark purple fragrant flowers.</p> <p>Takes full sun, drought tolerant.</p>
<p>Cistus x pulverulentus 'Sunset'</p> 	<p>Magenta Rockrose</p> <p>This low growing shrub will sprawl over ground or spill over edges with slightly wavy sage green leaves. The bright magenta flowers with yellow centers cover the plant through spring and summer. This is a tough plant that accepts seaside conditions and is avoided by deer.</p> <p>Takes full sun, very low water.</p>
<p>Callistemon 'Little John'</p> 	<p>Dwarf Bottlebrush</p> <p>This is a dwarf cultivar of the Bottlebrush tree. It forms compact 3' mounds with bright red flowers shaped like small bristles nearly year round. A good plant for low borders or massing.</p> <p>Takes full sun, very low water. Do not overwater.</p>
<p>Agapanthus hybrids</p> 	<p>Lily of the Nile</p> <p>Yes, the common agapanthus varieties are overused—but they're overused because they are tough, easy plants. These dwarf cultivars are just as easy, but a lot more interesting. 'Baby Pete' is under 1' tall with long lasting blooms. 'Tinkerbell' grows to about 2' tall with variegated leaves.</p> <p>Take full sun to part shade, very low water.</p>

California Natives for Dry Shade

Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen Huckleberry
	<p>This evergreen CA native grows up to 8' in the shade and only about 3' tall in sun (where it produces more berries). The attractive foliage is used by florists and the berries are wonderful in pies and jellies. Named cultivars with especially good fruit are now available. Prefers coastal conditions, acidic soil.</p> <p>Prefers full shade to part shade, moderate water.</p>
Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta'	Dwarf Oregon Grape
	<p>This evergreen shrub looks great year round with yellow spring blooms, dark glossy leaves, blue black fruit (that is good in jelly) and a red tint in the winter. Mahonia aquifolium will grow to 6' tall x 5' wide; 'Compacta' grows to about 3' tall and 5' wide.</p> <p>Takes sun or shade, low water.</p>
Symphoricarpos mollis	Creeping Snowberry
	<p>This deciduous native ground cover will grow to about 18" tall and spreads as low trailing branches take root. It has blue-green leaves with pink spring blooms followed by unusual white berries in late summer. Common snowberry (Symphoricarpos albus) is similar, but grows into an open 6' shrub and will take more sun.</p> <p>Prefers part shade, low water.</p>
Holodiscus discolor	Cream Bush or Ocean Spray
	<p>This deciduous shrub will grow to 5' or more. It bears fragrant white (edible!) flower clusters in late spring and early summer that fade to off white and brown. The scent is generally considered pleasant from a distance but less so up close. Avoided by deer, tolerates clay.</p> <p>Prefers part shade, low water.</p>
Solanum umbelliferum var. incanum 'Indians Grey'	Indians Grey Blue Witch
	<p>This native perennial can be difficult to establish and often does better in containers. It grows 1-2' tall and spreads by runners, but is not invasive. It blooms most of the year with 1" bright blue flowers with yellow centers. Try it in rock gardens.</p> <p>Takes sun to part shade, very low water.</p>
Heuchera maxima	Island Alum Root, Island Coral Bells
	<p>Heuchera are valued for their wonderful evergreen foliage and their delicate blooms of white to pale pink. The low plants will reach 2' wide; flower stalks rise up 2-3'. Many Heuchera hybrids are available with a range of leaf sizes and colors. Shop carefully—not all are suitable for low water gardens.</p> <p>Takes sun to part shade, low water.</p>