



Drought Tolerant Landscaping *Part Three of a Four Part Series*



California native plants are a good choice because of their natural tolerance to drought and heat. There are many plants to choose from in this area. These are just a few.

Trees: Ray Hartman California lilac. One of the best choices because it can tolerate some summer irrigation; makes a good screen or small garden tree. Takes full sun, very low water, blooms purple in spring. Valley Oak. Tolerates high heat, drought, and alkaline soil; provides good shade; attracts beneficial insects and birds. Takes full sun, and very low water.

Shrubs: Vine Hill manzanita. Known for its smooth, wine-red bark; one of the few manzanitas that tolerate clay-loam soils; attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects. Takes full sun or part shade, very low water, blooms pink in winter. Compact Oregon grape (pictured). Dark, grape-like fruits provide food for native birds and can be made into preserves; tough plant that tolerates a variety of garden conditions; attracts beneficial insects and birds. Takes part shade or shade, low water, blooms yellow in spring and winter. Concha ceanothus. One of the best California lilacs for the garden with dark-green leaves all year; showy, deep blue flowers with reddish bracts that bloom in spring; attracts beneficial insects. Takes full sun or part shade, and very low water. Western redbud. Early spring bloom before leaves appear; attracts beneficial insects. Takes full sun or part shade, very low water, blooms pink in spring and winter.

Ground-cover: Evergreen currant. Good shade tolerant ground-cover under native oaks and in other dry, shady areas; shiny and fragrant foliage looks attractive all year; attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects. Takes part shade or shade, very low water, blooms in spring.

Vine: California pipevine . Leaves provide food for pipevine swallowtail butterfly larvae; versatile plant that can be used as a climbing vine or a ground-cover. Takes part shade or shade, very low water, blooms green in winter.

Perennials: California fuchsia. Easy to grow and tolerates heat and drought; different varieties can have narrow or broad leaves that range from silver to bright green. Cut to ground after flowering in late fall. Takes full sun or part shade, very low water, blooms red in summer and fall, and attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects. California fescue. Tolerates summer drought and various soil types, and is long lived; has graceful, gray-green leaves and airy flowers that mature to a golden yellow color. Remove old stalks in fall for tidy appearance. Takes part shade and very low water. Hummingbird sage. Leaves have a pleasant, fruity fragrance; excellent drought-tolerant groundcover for sun or partial shade; attracts hummingbirds. Takes full sun or part shade, low-medium water, blooms pink in spring and winter.

For more information on California native plants visit http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_search.aspx where you can search for plants to fit your individual needs.

Submitted by: Tammy Cripe, UC Master Gardener of Glenn County