

Hummingbirds

These California native plants are sources of nectar for hummingbirds.

PERENNIALS

Bee Plant (*Scrophularia californica*) Large, coarse perennial with tall stalks of tiny maroon flowers. Takes sun or light shade, dry or wet conditions.

California Fuchsia (*Epiobium canum* or *Zauschneria*) Profusion of bright, orange-red flowers in later summer and fall. Needs sun, tolerates some drought.

Cobweb Thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* and related species) Biennial or short-lived perennial, not invasive. Lovely gray foliage, heads of bright-red flowers. Needs warm, dry conditions.

Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*) Robust perennial sage with large, sweetly aromatic leaves, whorls of magenta flowers. Grow in full or filtered sun. Looks best with some water.

Indian Pink (*Silene californica*) Low, spreading perennial with vermilion, fringed flowers. Grows in filtered shade, often under pine trees. If snails are a problem, plant in a hanging basket. Must have perfect drainage.

Penstemon (*Penstemon* species) From the compact 'Blue Bedder' to larger types, the tubular flowers are red, pink, purple, or true blue. Needs warm, dry conditions. Cut spent flowers to induce more blooming.

Red Savory (*Satureja mimuloides*) Perennial with soft-orange flowers all summer. Tolerates a variety of conditions.

Scarlet Larkspur (*Delphinium cardinale*, *D. nudicaule*) The first is a robust perennial; the second is a smaller perennial for rock gardens. They need full or filtered sun, no water in late summer.

Scarlet Lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*) Vivid red flowers. Native to mountains of Southern California, it needs sun and damp conditions.

Scarlet Monardella (*Monardeila macrantha*) Low and spreading with large whorls of red-orange flowers. Irresistible, but hard to grow—try a container with gravel in the soil mix.

Scarlet Monkeyflower (*Mimulus cardinale*) Perennial with bright orange-red flowers; needs sun and damp conditions.

Sticky Monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) Shrubby perennial, flowers usually orange, but can be red, maroon, pink, or yellow. Blooms all summer; occasional water and needs some pruning.

Western Columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*) Prefers filtered shade and some watering. Blooms in spring with nodding, bright-red, yellow-tipped flowers.

SHRUBS

Black Sage (*Salviamestellifera*) Big, handsome shrub with modest lavender flowers and lime-green, aromatic leaves. Needs sun and good drainage.

Cleveland Sage (*Salvia x clevelandii*) The true species has deep-purple flowers in whorls; the hybrids have lavender-blue flowers. Wide shrubs with aromatic leaves need full sun.

Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*) Long, tubular, bright-red flowers hang along the stems. Excellent winter nectar source, it has fierce thorns.

Island Snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*) Flowers are miniature, rose-red snapdragons. This shrub is wide and sprawling but easily controlled by pruning in February. Will not tolerate heavy freeze.

Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* species) Available in many sizes. The small white or pinkish lantern flowers are a vital source of nectar during winter.

Pink Flowering Currant (*Ribes malvaceum*) Hanging clusters of bright-pink flowers bloom in winter or early spring when nectar is scarce. Needs sunny, dry chaparral conditions.

Pink Flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*) Hanging clusters of bright-pink flowers in early to mid-spring. Full to filtered sun, some water. Later berries good for songbirds.

Pitcher Sage (*Lepechinia calycina*) A big, woody sage relative with fat, tubular flowers of white or lavender. Needs sun, occasional water.

Shrubby Penstemon (*Keckiella cordifolia*, *K corymbosa*) Shrubs with vivid orange-red tubular flowers in summer. They need sun and good drainage.

Tree Mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*) Channel Island native that grows very fast to 10 feet. Hummingbirds like the magenta flowers once they learn to get at the nectar.

Twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*) A very large, shrubby honeysuckle with pairs of yellow-orange flowers. Needs full to filtered sun and lots of water.

Western Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*) Actually a woody vine, usually grown for its autumnal red berries. The pink summer flowers are not flashy.

Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) Lovely, fuzzy, purple-blue flowers and long, narrow, aromatic leaves. Needs hot, dry conditions and good drainage.



This list was compiled by Lori Hubbard of the Dorothy King Young chapter of the California Native Plant Society.