

CALIFORNIA NATIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMON EXOTIC ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

These California native alternatives have been selected primarily on the basis of plant form. In most cases the natives have reduced water requirements, are drought-tolerant and better adapted to the Southern California climate. Some riparian plants, which have greater water needs, have been included for use with other existing landscape selections with medium to high water needs.

EXOTIC ORNAMENTAL SPECIES		CALIFORNIA NATIVES		
Botanical Names	Common Name	Botanical Names	Common Names	Comments
Perennials, subshrubs				
Strap-like leaves				
<i>Agapanthus africanus</i> <i>Agave americana</i> <i>Agave attenuata</i> <i>Clivia miniata</i> <i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids <i>Tulbaghia violacea</i>	agapanthus agave agave Clivia daylily society garlic	<i>Agave deserti</i> <i>Festuca californica</i> <i>Iris</i> ssp. cultivars <i>Iris douglasiana</i> <i>Juncus patens</i> <i>Leymus condensatus</i> , <i>Cyn Prince</i> <i>Leymus condensatus</i> <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> <i>Nolina parryi</i> <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> <i>Yucca whipplei</i>	desert century plant California fescue Pacific coast iris Douglas iris Rush wild rye giant wild rye deer grass beargrass blue-eyed grass Our Lord's candle	Great variety of colors: white, red, pink, Blue, pale blue, purple flowers Light silvery blue, to 4' tall, spreads
Light-gray				
<i>Artemisia 'Powis Castle'</i> <i>Centaurea cineraria</i> ,	dusty miller	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> ; hybrids <i>Artemisia californica</i> 'Cyn Gray' <i>Artemisia pycnocephala</i> 'David's	common yarrow canyon gray sagebrush dwarf beach sagewort	small, mounding cultivar
Flowering				
<i>Strelitzia reginae</i> <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	bird of paradise common calla	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> ; hybrids	common yarrow	
Vines				
<i>Bougainvillea</i> <i>Ficus pumila</i> <i>Hedera canariensis</i> <i>Hedera helix</i> <i>Parthenocissus</i> <i>Passiflora</i> spp. <i>Vinca major</i> <i>Wisteria</i>	creeping fig Algerian ivy English ivy Virginia creeper passion vine periwinkle	<i>Callistegia macrostegia</i> ... <i>Galvezia speciosa</i> <i>Lonicera subspicata</i> var. <i>denudata</i> <i>Vitis californica</i> , 'Roger's Red' <i>Vitis girdiana</i>	bush snapdragon Roger's red wild grape	On trellises, fences. Red flowers Autumn color

Groundcovers

Green	<i>Acacia redolens</i> <i>Hedera spp.</i>	Ivy (English, Algeria)	<i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> <i>Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist'; 'Point</i> <i>Baccharis pilularis ssp. pilularis,</i> <i>Ceanothus griseus, 'Yankee</i> <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> <i>Fragaria californica</i> <i>Iva hayesiana</i> <i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	little sur manzanita manzanita twin peaks, pigeon point, etc. beach strawberry wild strawberry San Diego marsh-elder evergreen currant	blue, fragrant flowers
Flowering	<i>Gazania</i> <i>Lantana montevidensis</i> <i>Trachelospermum</i> <i>Vinca major</i>	creeping gazania ice plants creeping lantana star jasmine periwinkle	<i>Ceanothus griseus horizontalis</i> <i>Ceanothus spp.</i> <i>Erigeron glaucus</i> <i>Eriogonum cocatum</i> <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> <i>Heuchera spp.</i> <i>Iris douglasiana</i> <i>Lonicera subspicata var. denudata</i> <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> <i>Viguiera laciniata</i> <i>Zauschneria spp., hybrids</i>	California lilac seaside daisy sulfur yellow flower beach strawberry coral bells Douglas iris blue-eyed grass San Diego sunflower California fuchsia	Blooms in spring, sweet smell; dark, glossy many low growing grdcvrs, dense, shiny glossy grn leaves, white flowers several varieties with white to pink flowers,
Grass-like	<i>Cortaderia seloana</i> <i>Liriope muscari</i> <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> <i>Ophiopogon</i> <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> <i>Stipa tenuissima</i>	pampas grass big blue lily turf Japanese silver grass mondo grass Fountain grass Mexican feather grass	<i>Carex (Berkeley sedge)</i> <i>Festuca californica</i> <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> <i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> <i>Sporobolus airoides</i> <i>Triteleia laxa</i> <i>Yucca whipplei</i> <i>Nolina parryi</i>	Berkeley sedge California fescue deer grass blue-eyed grass alkalai dropseed Ithuriel's spear our Lord's candle bear grass	Ht: Ht: 2' Ht: 2-3' Ht: 1'. Lovely bl flwrs in spring. Ht: 2'. Light, airy flwr, seed

Shrubs

greens and hedges	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> <i>Nandina domestica</i> <i>Photinia fraseri</i> <i>Prunus caroliniana</i> <i>Xylosma congestum</i>	wax-leaf privet photinia Carolina cherry	<i>Ceanothus arboreus</i> <i>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</i> <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> <i>Holodiscus discolor</i> <i>Mahonia 'Golden Abundance'</i> <i>Mahonia nevinii</i> <i>Myrica californica</i> <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> <i>Quercus berbidifolia</i> <i>Rhamnus californica</i>	island ceanothus ceanothus hybrid mountain mahogany toyon creambush Nevin mahonia Pacific wax myrtle hollyleaf cherry scrub oak coffeeberry	Likes rich soil, partial shade, nice smell. Large shrub, small tree. Good habitat value habitat plant
-------------------	--	--	---	--	---

Shrubs

Misc. shrubs

<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry tree	<i>Adenostema fasciculatum</i>	chamise	
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	camellia	<i>Archostaphylos 'Howard McMinn'</i>		
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	camellia	<i>Artemisia spp.</i>	sagebrush	
<i>Escallonia exoniensis</i>	escallonia 'Frades'	<i>Carpenteria californica</i>	bush anemone	
<i>Euryops pertinatus</i>	euryops	<i>Ceanothus griseus horizontalis</i>		Blooms in spring, sweet smell; dark, glossy
<i>Hibiscus</i>		<i>Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'</i>	California lilac	
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana	<i>Ceanothus spp.</i>	California lilac	many species and hybrids available
<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>	lavender	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'El Dorado'</i>		varigated
<i>Leptospermum</i>	New Zealand tea tree	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>	mountain mahogany	
<i>Leucophyllum</i>	Texas ranger	<i>Comarostaphylis diversifolia</i>	summer holly	
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>		<i>Dendromecon harfordii</i>	bush poppy	No water! Good drainage (too hard to grow)
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	oleander	<i>Encelia californica</i>	coast sunflower	
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>		<i>Eriogonum californica</i>	California buckwheat	
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>		<i>Galvezia speciosa</i>	bush snapdragon	Beautiful red flowers
<i>Pyracantha</i>		<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	Neat green shrub, becoming small tree,
<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>	Indian hawthorne	<i>Isomeris arborea</i>	bladderpod	light gray shrub, showy yellow flowers,
<i>Rhododendron hybrid</i>	azalea	<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>	tree mallow	
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	<i>Lavatera 'Purissima'</i>	hybrid tree mallow	Deep pink or magenta, showy flowers
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	autumn sage	<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laural sumac	Fast growing green shrub
<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Mexican Sage	<i>Mimulus, 'Verity White'</i>	white monkeyflower	
		<i>Myrica californica</i>	California wax-myrtle	
		<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	holly-leaf cherry	
		<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	coffeeberry	Neat green shrub. Takes part shade.
		<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry	
		<i>Rhus ovata</i>	sugar bush	
		<i>Rosa californica</i>	California wild rose	
		<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland sage	
		<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage	
		<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage	
		<i>Salvia sp. (hybrids)</i>	sage, many selections	
		<i>Simmondsia chinensis</i>	jojoba	
		<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	woolly blue curls	
		<i>Trichostema lanatum</i>	wooly bluecurls	
		<i>Viguiera laciniata</i>	San Diego sunflower	

Trees

Patio Trees	<p><i>Albizia julibrissin</i> <i>Bauhinia variegata</i> <i>Cercis canadensis</i> <i>Cupaniopsis</i> <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> <i>Laurus nobilis</i> <i>Leptospermum</i> <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> <i>Pyrus kawakamii</i></p>	<p>silk tree purple orchid tree eastern redbud carrot wood crape myrtle sweet bay Australian tea tree glossy privet evergreen pear</p>	<p><i>Adenostoma sparsifolium</i> <i>Aesculus californica</i> <i>Cercidium floridum</i> <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> <i>Malosma laurina</i> <i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> <i>Umbellularia californica</i> <i>xchitalpa taskentensis</i></p>	<p>red shank California buckeye palo verde western redbud desert willow toyon laurel sumac hollyleaf cherry blue elderberry California bay chitalpa</p>	<p>interesting bark Deciduous, buckeyes, great form during Deciduous, lovely flowers, smaller than Deciduous, Beautiful flowers. Needs Evergreen, Very showy red berries in winter Evergreen, Evergreen, shiny leaves, berries excellent for White flowers, bl berries, trim dead wood Evergreen. Deciduous, Summer flowers,</p>
Deciduous Trees	<p><i>Ailanthus altissima</i> <i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> <i>Pistacia chinensis</i> <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i></p>	<p>tree-of-heaven shamel ash jacaranda American sweet gum Chinese pistache London plane tree American sycamore Chinese elm</p>	<p><i>Acer macrophyllum</i> <i>Aesculus californica</i> <i>Cercis occidentalis</i> <i>Juglans californica</i> <i>Platanus racemosa</i> <i>Populus fremontii</i> <i>Populus trichocarpa</i> <i>Quercus lobata</i> <i>Salix gooddingii</i> <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> <i>xchitalpa taskentensis</i></p>	<p>big leaf maple California buckeye western redbud California walnut CA sycamore Fremont Cottonwood black cottonwood valley oak blue elderberry chitalpa</p>	<p>Smaller than Jacaranda, both has showy Rapid growing, deciduous tree. Decid. Large oak, spreading with age. White flowers, bl berries, trim dead wood Showy trumpet flowers in summer</p>
Evergreen Trees	<p><i>Cedrus deodara</i> <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> <i>Eucalyptus spp.</i> <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> <i>Quercus ilex</i> <i>Schinus mollis</i></p>	<p>deodar cedar camphor tree eucalyptus fern pine holly oak Peruvian pepper</p>	<p><i>Calocedrus decurrens</i> <i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i> <i>Quercus agrifolia</i> <i>Quercus chrysolepis</i> <i>Quercus engelmannii</i></p>	<p>incense cedar fernleaf Catalina ironwood California live oak Canyon live oak Engelmann oak</p>	<p>Tall, narrow, pyramid crown. Thick, red, brn Narrow tree, shreddy bark. Nice in groves Broad, majestic tree. Broad, spreading tree. Wonderful shape</p>