

Common Name	Scientific Name	Zone(s)	Height/ Width	Light	Notes:	Climate Zones <sup>2</sup>
<b>Trees</b>						
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	B	20'/20'	sun	small tree or large shrub, tolerates clay, winter wet, drought, flowers stronger with frost	all but coastal
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	B	25'/30'	sun	tolerates alkaline soil, sand, clay, seasonal flooding and drought, not coastal condition	all, but 1A-3A
Western Sycamore	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	B	40'-80'/40'-70'	sun	tolerates sand and clay soils, seasonal flooding, needs space to grow, avoid underground water/sewer pipes	all, but 1A-3A
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	B	25'-60'/40'-70'	sun - shade	tolerates drought and winter wet conditions, mature trees produce significant litter limiting understory plantings, need space to grow	all, but 1A-3A
<b>Large Shrubs</b>						
Toyon, Christmas Berry	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	B	8'-20'/8'-20'	sun-pt shade	tolerates sand, clay and serpentine soils, seasonal water with good drainage	all, but 1A-3A
Pacific Wax Myrtle	<i>Myrica californica</i>	B	10'-30'/10'-30'	sun-pt shade	large shrub or small tree, tolerates coastal conditions, sand, clay and seasonal inundation	all, but 1A-3A
Western Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	B	10'-30'/8'-20'	sun-pt shade	large shrub to tree, tolerates clay, seasonal flooding and drought, good wildlife food source	all, but 1A-3A
<b>Shrubs and Subshrubs</b>						
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	B	wide variation	sun	adaptable evergreen shrub, provides quick cover and bank stabilization, tolerant of coastal conditions, alkaline soil, sand, clay and seasonal wet	all, but 1A-3A
California Wild Rose	<i>Rosa californica</i>	A,B	3'-6'/spreads	sun-pt shade	tolerates a wide variety of soils, seasonal flooding and some drought, spreads aggressively, avoid edges of walkways because of thorns	all
<b>Perennials</b>						
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	B	1'-3'/2'	sun-pt shade	tolerates alkaline soil, sand, clay, seasonal wet conditions, foot traffic and deer, will self sow	all
Beach Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	B	2'-4'/spreads	sun-pt shade	vigorous spreading groundcover, tolerates sand, clay, wet conditions, prefers good drainage	all, but 1A-3A
Douglas Iris	<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	B	1.5'-3'/spreads	sun - shade	tolerates sand, clay and serpentine soils, seasonal wet (but not soggy) soils and drought	all, but 1A-3A
Hummingbird Sage	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	B	1'-3'/4'-5'	pt sun-pt shade	low growing perennial, tolerates clay, winter wet, summer drought, prefers light shade, provides nectar for birds and insects, does well under oaks	all, but 1A-3A
Bog Sage	<i>Salvia uliginosa</i> *	B	3'-6'/spreads	sun	quick growing, spreading perennial, tolerates wet to dry, cut back winter, divide rhizomes	all, but 1A-3A
Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	B	6"-1'/6"-1'	sun	a semi-evergreen perennial, tolerates sand, clay, seasonal wet soils and deer, dormant in summer, but can be delayed with supplemental irrigation	all, but 1A-3A
California Goldenrod	<i>Solidago californica</i>	B	1'-4'/1'-4'	sun-pt shade	tolerates poor soils, seasonal wet and drought, can spread aggressively if over irrigated	all, but 24
<b>Grasses and Grass-like Plants</b>						
Berkeley Sedge, Grey Sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i> *	A,B	12"-18"/12"-18"	sun-pt shade	tolerates foot traffic, some drought and boggy soils	all, but 1A-3A
California Meadow Sedge	<i>Carex pansa</i>	A,B	6"-12"/spreads	sun - shade	good lawn substitute, tolerates wide range of growing conditions, seasonal inundation, drought, foot traffic and mowing	all, but 1A-3A
Clustered Field Sedge	<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	A	1'/spreads	sun-pt shade	useful lawn substitute and bank stabilizer, good planted in masses, tolerates wide range of growing conditions, foot traffic and mowing, may look weedy when mixed with other plants	all, but 1A-3A
San Diego Sedge	<i>Carex spissa</i>	A	3'-6'/2'-5'	pt sun-shade	a large grass, tolerates alkaline soil, clay, serpentine, seasonal inundation, and deer	all, but 1A-3A
Small Cape Rush	<i>Chondropetalum tectorum</i> *	A,B	2'-3'/3'-4'	sun-pt shade	A tough, attractive reed-like plant, tolerates boggy or clay soils and drought once established, <i>Chondropetalum elephantinum</i> is a much larger species	all, but 1A, 2A, 3A, 7
Molate Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra 'Molate'</i>	A,B	8"-12" /spreads	pt sun-shade	a tufted, spreading bunchgrass, good lawn substitute, provides erosion control, tolerates wet conditions, but looks best with regular water, tolerates drought once established	all
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	A	2'-3'/2'-3'	sun-pt shade	tolerates poor drainage, heavy soils, needs more supplemental water than <i>Juncus patens</i>	all
Wire Grass, Blue Rush	<i>Juncus patens</i>	A	1'-2'/1'-2'	sun - shade	strong performance in bioretention areas, tolerates poor drainage, seasonal inundation, drought, shade	all, but 1A-3A
Canyon Prince Wild Rye	<i>Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'</i>	B	2'-3'/spreads	sun-pt shade	tolerates drought, wet, but not soggy soils, looks best with supplemental irrigation, spreads by rhizomes	all, but 1A-3A
Deer Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	B	4'-5'/4'-6'	sun-pt shade	a large grass, tolerates sandy and clay soils, seasonal inundation, best when cut back annually to remove old thatch	all, but 1A-3A

\* Indicates a non native species. Non native species are only recommended for use in urbanized settings and should not be used on sites in proximity to natural areas.

<sup>1</sup> Refers to Sunset Western Garden Book Zones. The Central Coast includes the following Climate Zones: 1A, 2A, 3A, 7, 9, 14-24 [www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/](http://www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones/)