

Plant List
3798 Towns Court, Pinole
Jessica Kolman

Yard region legend:

Front = area from driveway down to corner area

Corner = rounded corner region at corner of Towns and Wright

North = corner of driveway and retaining wall near shed

South = area along sidewalk under junipers

Back = back yard ground plantings

Patio = container collection on back patio

Shrubs and Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name	Region of Yard	Notes	Typical bloom time (in this yard)
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Back	Spreads by rhizomes; tolerates light foot traffic	June, though mine sadly don't flower much
Anthoxanthum occidentale (was Hierochloa occidentalis)	Vanilla grass	Front	Needs some water, pretty inflorescence	Spring
Arctostaphylos uva ursi	Kinnikinnick	Patio	Great draping over tall pot	Jan-Feb
Aquilegia formosa	Western columbine	Front	Needs some shade	April-May
Arctostaphylos bakeri 'Louis Edmunds'	Baker's Manzanita	North	Zero summer water after only one year	Jan-Feb
Arctostaphylos manzanita 'St. Helena'	Common Manzanita	Corner	Grew very slowly first few years, shot up after fifth year	Jan-Feb
Artemisia californica	Sage bush	Corner, patio	Fabulous scent	Nondescript, spring
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	Front	Nice foliage smell	Nondescript, spring
Artemisia pycnocephala	Sandhill sage	Corner, back	Protect from high heat/sun	Nondescript, spring
Aster chilensis	Aster	Patio	Runs by rhizome; I found the cultivar to run too aggressively so confine to pots	July-Aug
Atriplex lentiformis	Quail bush	North	Silver shimmery leaf	Nondescript, spring
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote bush	North, corner, back	All are wild volunteers	Nondescript, spring
Calycanthus occidentalis	Spice bush	Front	Mine has struggled; could use more water	Spring
Calystegia macrostegia	Island morning glory	Back	Fast fence cover; don't use unless you don't mind cutting back several times per year	Spring, summer, longer if watered
Calystegia occidentalis	Western morning glory	patio	This is local to the watershed but I only recently found it for sale; will now use in lieu of island species. Note: these are not bindweed, as some assume.	Same as island, I assume, but mine is new
Carex amplifolia	Big leaf sedge	Patio	Needs water—I keep in pot near birdbath; looks nice in pots	Tall inflorescence later spring-summer
Carex pansa	Sand dune sedge	Back	Lovely, but needs some summer water; I have only one bunch	Spring
Ceanothus 'Concha'	Wild lilac	South	I'm pushing the limits planting this in shade; it has done okay but is leggy and open, has some powdery mildew	March-April

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Ceanothus 'Emily Brown'	Wild lilac	North	Again, I was weird to plant this in shade but it's doing okay; interesting barbed leaves	March-April
Ceanothus 'Frosty Blue'	Wild lilac	Front	This cultivar is made to be more shade tolerant; has done well but is quite open in form	March-April
Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter'	Wild lilac	Back	Went in as 4" pot in 2008, now very large	March-April
Ceanothus 'Skylark'	Wild lilac	South	Again, shade; this CV is mean to bloom later than others; mine is struggling	May-June
Ceanothus cuneatus	Buck brush	Corner	White, fragrant flowers	March-April
Clematis lasiantha	Chaparral clematis	South	Mine only starting to take hold after ~6 years	Spring, but mine hasn't bloomed
Clematis ligusticifolia	Virgin's bower	Back	Hasn't quite taken off	Spring
Clinopodium douglasii (was Satureja douglasii)	Yerba Buena	Front	Great leaf smell	Nondescript, spring
Clinopodium mimuloides (was Satureja mimuloides)	Monkey flower savory	Front	Unusual leaf smell, hummingbird magnet, okay in dry shade	May-June
Corethrogyne filaginifolia (was Lessingia filaginifolia) 'Silver Carpet'	Sand aster	Patio, corner	Protect from hot sun; likes foggy climates	June-Aug
Cornus sericea	Creek dogwood	Front (doorstep pot)	Riparian—needs too much water to grow in ground here. Very shade tolerant.	Spring
Datura wrightii	Sacred datura	Front, south	Huge flowers, passersby comment; flowers smell like Trix cereal	June-Aug
Drymocallis glandulosa (was Potentilla glandulosa)	Sticky cinquefoil	Front	Looks like bushier strawberry	Spring
Dudleya caespitosa	Sea lettuce	Corner, patio	Protect from hot sun; hummingbirds love	Spring
Dudleya cymosa	Canyon liveforever	Patio	Protect from hot sun; hummingbirds love; smaller than others	Spring
Dudleya farinosa	Bluff lettuce	Corner, patio	Protect from hot sun; hummingbirds love	Spring
Dudleya pulverulenta	Chalk liveforever	Patio	Protect from hot sun; hummingbirds love	spring
Epilobium canum	California fuchsia	Front, back	Late season hummingbird magnet	July-Nov
Erigeron glaucus 'Wayne Roderick'	Seaside daisy	Corner, patio	Protect from hot sun, cut back in fall	Late spring, early summer
Eriogonum cinereum	Gray coast buckwheat	North, corner	Shrub-like	Summer
Eriogonum crocatum	Conejo buckwheat	Corner, patio	Light gray foliage; trying in pot for first time, seems to like it	Spring
Eriogonum elongatum	Long stemmed buckwheat	Back	I have only one or two	Spring
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat	Corner	Profuse, longlasting blooms	Summer
Eriogonum grande var. rubescens	Red buckwheat	Corner, north, back, patio	Tough but faithful flowerer	Summer
Eriogonum nudum	Nude buckwheat	Corner, back	Tall flowers, touch; rebounds from severe stress	Spring, summer

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Eriogonum umbellatum	Sulphur buckwheat	Corner	Had several for first few years—fabulous, but most croaked; may need some summer water.	Feb-April
Eriophyllum lanatum	Woolly sunflower	Patio	Just got one recently	Spring
Eriophyllum lanatum var. arachnoideum Eriophyllum nevinii	Spiderweb sunflower	Corner, back, patio	Nice low mat, spills over pots	Spring/summer
Erysimum franciscanum	San Francisco sunflower	Front	Protect from hot sun	March
Fallugia paradoxa	Apache sunflower	Patio	Desert plant; I have one in pot, hasn't bloomed yet	?
Festuca californica	California fescue	Front, corner, south, patio	Elegant, reliable, quick to establish; nice in pot, easy and versatile in ground,	Spring
Festuca rubra 'Pt. Molate'	Red fescue	Back	Good for lawn replacement; I was doing that but changed mind, kept only some; does not spread aggressively without summer water	Spring
Fragaria chiloensis	Woodland strawberry	Front	Groundcover, tolerates foot traffic, edible	Winter-spring
Fragaria vesca	Beach strawberry	Front, back, patio	Mine does well in sun, even though I'm not coastal	Spring
Frangula californica (was Rhamnus californica) 'Eve Case'	Coffee berry	South	Huge, lush shrub	Spring
Galvezia speciosa	Island snapdragon	Patio, South, North	Versatile, easy in pots; cut back hard for lush growth	Spring, summer, some year-round
Grindelia stricta Grindelia stricta var. platyphylla	Gum plant	Corner	I replaced straight G. stricta because it got so big; this one is matting	Spring
Heracleum maximum	Cow parsnip	Patio	I just potted, chose for huge leaves	Hasn't yet
Heuchera maxima	Alum root	Front, back	Nice large mound; deer eat leaves but they grow back fast	March-June
Heuchera cultivars.	Coral bells	Front, back, patio	Showy, long-flowering	March-June
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	North	Volunteered; slow at first but now growing fast	Haven't yet
Heterotheca sessiliflora	Golden Aster	Corner	Good for spilling over rocks/stairs, but hard to keep fresh in heat; profuse flowers when happy	Spring/summer
Iris douglasiana	Douglas iris	Front, back	Stunning, various colors	March-April
Juncus effusus	Common rush	Front	Nice bright green	Nondescript, spring
Juncus Patens	Blue rush	Front, patio	Though it grows in streams in wild, it is very drought tolerant too; classy in pots	Nondescript, spring
Lavatera assurgentiflora	Malva rose	Back	Mine is huge this year—much larger than ever before; it should be cut back hard in fall; showy flowers	Spring
Lepechinia calycina	Pitcher sage	Front	Great smelling leaves, foxglove-like flowers; cut back in fall	Feb-April
Leptosyne gigantea (was Coreopsis gigantea)	Giant coreopsis	Patio	Just got for first time	Hasn't yet

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Lewisia cotyledon	Cliff maids	Patio	Incredibly showy and charming, great in pots, okay in tiny pots, especially short-term	Spring, but I have one that blooms all year
Lewisia longepetala	Long leaved Lewisia	Patio	Similar to L. cotyledon, less heat tolerant	Spring
Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince'	Giant wild rye	Corner, north, patio	I had a mound that grew to about 5' round; deer slept in it and it got to look rough so I took most of it out; in a pot it is spiky and striking	Mine usually doesn't
Linum lewisii	Blue flax	Patio	Elegant blue meadow flower, I wish I had more; will add next year	Late spring, summer
Lonicera hispidula	Honeysuckle	Front, patio	Rambling growth habit	Spring
Malacothamnus fasciculatus	Chaparral mallow	Back, patio	Can be trained tree-like; extremely tough with charming flowers	Late spring/summer
Melica torreyana	Torrey's melic grass	Front	Diminutive, charming	spring
Mimulus aurantiacus	Sticky monkey flower	Front, corner	Hummingbirds love	March-April
Monardella macrantha 'Marian Sampson'	Red monardella	Corner	Tough in ground, slightly fussy in pots but fabulous. Leaves smell like geranium.	Spring, summer
Monardella villosa	Coyote mint	All	Minty leaves, nice purple flowers, deer and gopher resistant	Early summer
Muhlenbergia rigens	Deer grass	Back	Just planted one in old birdbath base	Hasn't yet
Oenothera elata	Evening primrose	Front, back, patio	New addition	Hasn't yet
Oenothera caespitosa	Evening primrose	Back	New addition	Hasn't yet
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Blue Springs'	Foothill penstemon	Corner, back	Stunning blue, low growing, drought tolerant but keep an eye on it in drier years	April-May
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita BOP'	Foothill pentemon	Corner, back	Stunning mats of purple flower, drought tolerant but keep an eye on it in drier years	April-May
Pachelia californica	California phacelia	Corner	New addition	Spring
Philadelphus lewisii	Mock orange	Back	Fragrant white flower	Spring
Polystichum californicum	Sword fern	Front	By birdbath and hose: needs water	NA
Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf cherry	Patio	New addition	Hasn't yet
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live Oak	North	Wild volunteer ~10 years	NA
Rhododendron occidentale	Western azalia	Patio	I have in pot only; needs some water; astounding flowers, fragrant	April
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonade bush	South	Lovely glossy dark leaves, huge shrub	March
Rhus ovata	Sugar sumac	Front	Tough, elegant, but slow	March
Ribes indecorum	White flowered currant	Front	Has thrived where Ribes sangunium and R. malvaceum died; fall color, winter flower	Jan-March
Ribes viburnifolium	Catalina currant	Front	Great for dry shade	Feb-Mar
Romneya coulteri	Matilija poppy	Patio	New addition	Hasn't yet
Rosa californica	California rose	Front	Spreads; doesn't bloom well in shade, may need some water in sun	Seldom

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Rosa nutkana	Nootka rose	Patio	Fills wine barrel in a couple years, fall color, lovely dark flowers	Spring
Rosa woodsii	Woods rose	Front	Wild yet super elegant; does well in some shade	Spring
Rupertia physodes	California tea	Front	Lovely lush, low, woodsy-looking	Nondescript, spring
Salvia sp.	Saliva hybrid	Corner, patio	Fragrant leaves, gray, mobbed with bees	May-June
Salvia 'Poza Blue'	Pozo blue sage	South, patio	Fragrant leaves, gray, mobbed with bees, pleasing purple flowers	May-late summer
Salvia apiana	White sage	Corner, back	Fragrant, mobbed with bees, substantial foliage	April-May
Salvia clevelandii 'Winifred Gilman'	Winifred Gilman sage	Back	Darker purple flowers	April-May
Salvia mellifera	Black sage	South, patio	Dark green leaves instead of gray	April-May
Salvia sonomensis	Creeping sage	North	Chose because said to be good in shade—is just starting to take hold	April-May
Salvia spathacea	Hummingbird sage	South, Front	Some say invasive, but I think only if watered; smells great, hummingbirds love, long bloom time, good in shade but deep shade may cause mildew	Feb-May
Scrophularia californica	Bee plant	Front	Naturalist look, hummingbirds	March-May
Sedum spathulifolium	Sedum	Patio	Great for pots especially small ones	Doesn't really
Sidalcea malviflora	Checkerbloom	Front, patio	Charming flower	April-May
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed grass	Corner, back	Sweet meadow look	Variable by location; Feb-April
Sisyrinchium californicum	Yellow-eyed grass	Front, back	New addition; next to hose or birdbath because it needs water	April-May
Solidago velutina ssp. californica	Goldenrod	Corner	Spreads to groundcover	Summer
Stachys rigida var. quercetorum	Hedge nettle	Patio	Very vigorous, fills pot fast, great for hummingbirds, interesting leaf fragrance	Spring/summer
Stipa pulchra (was Nassella pulchra)	Purple needlegrass	South, north	Have only a few; spreads by seed but hard to tell from weeds when it sprouts	Spring
Trichostema lanatum	Woolly blue curls	Corner, back, patio	I was told this was fussy but my first two grew like crazy; they are still on corner but getting woody, all others are clones of these two	Spring, summer, sometimes fall
Verbena lilacina	Lilac verbena	Front, back	Charming but mine struggles	Spring
Viola adunca	Dog violet	Front, patio	New this year, seems easy and charming, bloomed all winter in pots; classic-looking in pots	Spring but other times too

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Vitis californica	California grape	Corner	Took a few years to get up to speed but now vigorous; keep growth in check by not water; have to cut off trees	Nondescript, spring
Whipplea modesta	Modesty	Front	Slowish, but lovely matting groundcover for shade/moisture (mine is by birdbath or hose)	Small white, most of spring
Annuals				
Botanical Name	Common Name	Region of Yard	Notes	Typical bloom time (in this yard)
Camissoniopsis bisorta	Sun cups	Back, front	Just bought a few	Spring
Clakia amoena	Farewell to spring	Corner	Was prolific but reducing; will add more seed in fall	Late spring
Clarkia unguiculata	Elegant clarkia	Corner, patio	Reliable spring color	Late spring
Collinsia heterophylla	Collinsia	Front, patio	Died out in yard—trying to reintroduce	Spring
Eschscholzia californica	Cal poppy	Corner, patio	Reliable, seed heads pop audibly (hence poppy)	spring
Gilia capitata	Globe gilia	Corner, patio, back	More than reliable reseeder	Spring
Layia platyglossa	Tidy tips	Corner, patio	Died out in yard—wanted to introduce but sowed too late because of drought	Spring
Limnanthes douglasii	Meadow foam	Back	Trying one; by birdbath as it likes moisture	Spring
Lupinus succulentus	Arroyo lupine	Corner, back, patio	Often functions as perennial in my yard for 2-3 years	Spring, summer
Madia elegans	Elegant Clarkia	Corner	Didn't reseed on first effort; did on second, went crazy the following year. I have thousands. Will deadhead this year.	Mid-summer-fall
Nemophila maculata	Five-spot	Patio	Died out in yard—wanted to introduce but sowed too late because of drought	Spring
Nemophila menziesii	Baby blue eyes	Corner, patio, back	Died out in yard—wanted to introduce but sowed too late because of drought	Early spring
Phacelia campanularia	Blue bells	Patio	Will add seed next year; stunning in bloom; doesn't reseed too vigorously	Spring
Phacelia tanacetifolia	Phacelia	Corner	Died out, will add seed; fragrant	Spring
Salvia columbariae	Chia	South, patio	New addition	Not yet
Bulbs				
Allium unifolium	Single leaf onion	Front	Planted 150 first year. Were stunning for first three years but then gophers devastated them. Only remaining group is in gravel. They spread quickly by bulb division and seed; if you don't have gophers, I highly recommend them.	Spring