

Best Plants for Bay Area Gardens

These plants are beautiful in home gardens, easy to grow, water-conserving, readily available in native plant nurseries, don't require the use of pesticides, high numbers of our native butterflies and moths can lay eggs on them, and they will do well in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the hot, dry, inland areas east of the hills.

Compiled by Kelly Marshall January, 2020

Trees & Shrubs that take on a tree-like form

Oak (*Quercus* sp.)
Catalina Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia* ssp. *lyonii*)
Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)
Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)—not listed as approved by ccwd
California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)
Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)

Shrubs

Currant (*Ribes* sp.)
California Lilac (*Ceanothus* sp.)
Rose (*Rosa californica*)
Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.)
Toyon (*Heteromoles arbutifolia*)
Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*)
Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.)
Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.)
Sage (*Salvia* sp.)
Lupine (*Lupinus* sp.)
Coyote Bush (*Baccharis* sp.)
Sagebrush (*Artemisa* sp.)
Bush Anemone (*Carpenteria californica*)
Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
Sugar Bush (*Rhus ovata*)
Elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.)
Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*)
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos*)—not listed as approved by ccwd
Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*)

Perennials & Grasses

California Fuchsia (*Epilobium* sp.)
Sage (*Salvia* sp.)
Penstemon (*Penstemon* sp.)
Buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.)
Yarrow (*Achillea* sp.)
Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)
Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*)
Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malviflora*)
Gumweed (*Grindelia stricta*)
Beach Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*)
Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)
Monkeyflower (*Mimulus*)
Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum* sp.)
California Bee Plant (*Scorophularia* sp.)
Globe Mallow (*Sphaeralcea* sp.)
Narrowleaf Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*)
Coyote Mint (*Monardella villosa*)
California Aster (*Symphyotrichum chilense*)
California Fescue (*Festuca californica*)
Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*)

Vines

Wild Grape (*Vitis californica*)
California Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.)
Chapparel Clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*)
Virgin's Bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*)