

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY NATIVE DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS



Scotts Valley Water District
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Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) - It is an evergreen shrub growing to 2-5 m tall. Coffeeberry plants that grow in windy or exposed areas usually do not exceed a meter or two in height or width, but individuals growing in inland areas or sheltered canyons can spread to 8 m wide.



Bush Anemone (*Carpenteria californica*)- Handsome, evergreen shrub with dark, glossy leaves. Large showy white flowers are filled with yellow stamens resembling single camellias. Grows 3 -10' tall and 4 -6' wide. Prefers dry shade, but will tolerate full sun if given summer water. Makes a handsome screen or is excellent as a background shrub.



Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea*) - Dense bright green shrub up to 6 feet high. Typically has a round shape, although with age can get leggy. Coyote bush provides cover and nesting habitat for many birds, and attracts beneficial insects. Considered the one most valuable, beneficial native plants of all. Drought and wind tolerant, and can tolerate poorly drained soils.



Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) -This deciduous shrub ranges from 6-20 ft. tall and 10-15 ft. wide. It is desirable for its magenta spring flowers, yellow to red fall color, and dangling winter seed pods. It is tolerant of many soil types, drought and oak root fungus. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Water regularly in first year or two to speed growth.



White Icicle (*Ribes sanguineum*)- The flowering currant is a deciduous shrub that grows 5 - 12' tall and 6 ft. wide. It produces beautiful racemes of white flowers in early spring. This shrub needs partial shade inland, is drought tolerant, and attracts hummingbirds.



Wild Lilac (*Centennial ceanothus*) - A naturally occurring hybrid, this low growing evergreen groundcover ceanothus reaches 4 inches in height, a 6 foot spread. Showy, dark blue flowers in spring. Full sun, drought and wind tolerant. Fairly deer resistant.



New Zealand Flax (*Phormium*) - Phormiums have become extremely popular in California in recent years. Rightfully so, they are tough, drought tolerant, hardy (to 20 degrees) plants that provide an interesting foliage contrast to many other commonly shaped perennials or shrubs.



Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*) - Evergreen shrub growing 3'-4' tall and as wide. Has deeply-veined bright green foliage. Bears spikes of white/very pale lavender flowers throughout the summer. Plant in full sun. Excellent shrub for steep banks, rock gardens, rock walls and coastal bluffs. Water once a week to get established. After two years, all supplemental water can be cut off.



Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) - There are about 60 species of manzanita, ranging from ground-hugging species to small trees up to 6 m tall. Most are evergreen with small oval leaves 1-7 cm long. The flowers are bell-shaped, white or pale pink in small clusters of 2-20 together; flowering is in the spring. The fruit are small berries, ripening in the summer or autumn.



California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) - The California sagebrush is an evergreen medium sized gray green aromatic shrub. The foliage has wispy soft texture. This shrub is native to California, is drought tolerant, and attracts butterflies. It can be found on dry slopes below 2500 ft. Plant with salvias, poppies, seaside daisies, and buckwheat.

