



Plants for Birds

Compiled by The Theodore Payne Foundation for *Wildflowers and Native Plants, Inc.*
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KEYS TO FLOWER COLOR:	B	blue	R	red
	G	green	V	violet/purple
	O	orange	W	white
	P	pink	Y	yellow



BERRIES and FRUITS:

SHRUBS

- *Arctostaphylos* spp., Manzanita P/W – red berries and tasty flowers; insects; dense cover
- *Fragaria chiloensis*, *F. crinita*, *F. vesca* and *F. virginiana*, Native Strawberries. Berries are nibbled on by a variety of birds
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, Toyon W – bright red berries provide winter food for many birds
- *Mahonia* spp., Mahonia/Barberry Y – tasty, summer-ripe berries; plants make good cover and shelter
- *Prunus* spp., Cherry W – Woodpeckers and Jays eat the fruits whole; smaller birds pick off the pulp from large seeds
- *Rhamnus* spp., Redberry/Coffeeberry Y – summer berries tasty to Jays, Thrashers, Robins, Thrushes, Phainopeplas
- *Rhus* spp., Sumac P/W – large drought-tolerant shrubs provide berries, shelter, and cover
- *Ribes* spp., Currants and Gooseberries P/R/W/Y – Quail, Thrashers, Thrushes, Robins, Finches, Towhees, etc.
- *Sambucus mexicana*, Elderberry Y/W – berries relished by many birds, including Black Phoebes and Phainopeplas
- *Symphoricarpos mollis*, Snowberry P – white berries for Mockingbirds, Finches, Towhees, etc.

VINES and vine-like plants

- *Lonicera* spp., Honeysuckle P/R/Y – berries for finches and other small songbirds
- *Rosa* spp., Wild Rose P – nutritious hips enjoyed by Quail, Pine Siskins, Goldfinches, etc.; excellent thorny cover
- *Rubus ursinus*, California Blackberry W – tasty berries for birds and other wildlife; thick bramble good for cover
- *Vitis* spp., Wild Grape – Small tasty fruit appealing to numerous birds; tangle of vines is fine nesting site

SEEDS (many choices):

PERENNIALS

- *Achillea millefolium*, Yarrow P/R/W – seeds eaten by ground-feeders such as Mourning Doves
- Grasses – nutritious, high-fat seeds; thatch provides good nest-weaving material
- *Oenothera hookeri*, Hooker's Evening Primrose Y – showy annual/biennial bears large crop of seeds for goldfinches
- *Penstemon* spp., Penstemon B/P/R/V – seeds eaten by sparrows and other small songbirds

SHRUBS

- *Atriplex lentiformis*, Quail Bush – excellent cover and perching site; many birds eat seeds and salty leaves
- *Lavatera assurgentiflora*, Tree Mallow P/V – Goldfinches eat the seeds, which are produced in quantity
- *Salvia clevelandii*, *S. leucophylla*, *S. mellifera*, Sage V/W – seeds eaten by many small songbirds

SHELTER and NESTING MATERIALS:

SHRUBS

- *Baccharis* spp., Coyote Brush/Mule Fat W – cover, nesting sites, abundant seeds
- *Ceanothus* spp., California Lilac B/V/W – visited by many birds for seeds, shelter, nesting, etc.

TREES

- *Alnus rhombifolia*, White Alder – Warblers, Goldfinches, Pine Siskins; buds eaten by Cedar Waxwings
- *Juglans californica*, Southern California Walnut – Jays and Band-Tailed Pigeons eat the nuts
- *Platanus racemosa*, Western Sycamore – Black-Chinned Hummingbirds; Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Pine Siskins
- *Populus fremontii*, Fremont Cottonwood – winter buds and capsules used as food
- *Quercus* spp, Oak Y – excellent habitat tree for all kinds of birds: provides insects, acorns, nesting sites, cover, etc.
- *Salix* spp., Willow W – unripe capsules eaten by Warblers, Thrushes, Fox Sparrows and Finches

* attracts hummingbirds