



Plants for Erosion Control

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

GROUNDCOVERS (for surface soil retention)

- *Achillea millefolium*, Yarrow P/R/W – full sun or part shade; spreads
- *Baccharis pilularis* 'Twin Peaks' or 'Pigeon Point', Dwarf Coyote Brush W
- *Ceanothus griseus horizontalis* 'Yankee Point' B
- Grasses with tough fibrous root systems (many choices)
- *Mimulus* spp., Monkey Flower O/P/R/Y
- *Salvia* spp., Groundcover Sage Varieties such as 'Gracias,' 'Pt. Sal,' 'Bees Bliss'
- *Epilobium canum* and *E. canum latifolia*, California Fuchsia P/R/W (white form requires some shade)

SMALL SHRUBS (for soil retention and limited hillside stabilization):

- *Artemisia californica*, Coastal Sagebrush G/Y – aromatic, super-tough plant for dry spots
- *Brickellia grandiflora*, Brickell Bush W – easy to grow and tough; good for partially shaded dry spot
- *Encelia californica*, California Bush Sunflower Y – fast-growing and easy; reseeds; seeds appeal to birds
- *Eriogonum* spp., Buckwheat P/W – especially *E. fasciculatum*, California Buckwheat
- *Fallugia paradoxa*, Apache Plume W/Y – tough plant with lovely tufted seedheads
- *Isocoma menziesii*, Coast Goldenbush Y – cheerful fall bloomer
- *Isomeris arborea*, Bladderpod Y – bright yellow flowers attract hummers and bumblebees; interesting seed pods
- *Iva hayesiana*, San Diego Marsh Elder – crisp green color, soft texture; spreads, takes sun or shade
- *Romneya coulteri*, Matilija Poppy W/Y – tough root system spreads by rhizomes
- *Salvia* spp., Sages B/P/R/V/W – shrubs such as Black and White Sages, Cleveland Sage, San Miguel Mtn. Sage
- *Trichostema lanatum*, Woolly Blue Curls B/V – likes a dry sunny spot with excellent drainage
- *Yucca whipplei*, Our Lord's Candle W

LARGE SHRUBS AND TREES (for hillside stabilization):

- *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, Chamise W – tough-as-nails, with striking white flower clusters in spring
- *Aesculus californica*, California Buckeye W – one of the most ornamental native shrubs/trees
- *Arctostaphylos* spp., Manzanita P/W – very deep root system; many stump-sprout after fire
- *Ceanothus* spp., California Lilac B/V/W – especially local species; hybrids best with a little afternoon shade
- *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, Button Willow W – ornamental ball-shaped flowers; deciduous; likes water
- *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, Toyon W – excellent for screen or bird habitat; adaptable to wet or dry, sun or shade
- *Juglans californica*, Southern California Walnut – excellent small- to medium-sized shade tree; edible nuts
- *Rhus* spp.: Laurel Sumac, Lemonadeberry, Sugar Bush P/W -- drought-resistant, aromatic, attaining large size
- *Pinus coulteri*, Coulter Pine; at higher elevations: *P. jeffreyi*, Jeffrey Pine or *P. ponderosa*, Ponderosa Pine
- *Quercus* spp. (Oak) such as *Q. agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak; *Q. dumosa*, Scrub Oak; *Q. wislizenii*, Interior Live Oak
- *Sambucus mexicana*, Elderberry W/Y – pretty flower clusters and berries; takes moisture or drought

SHRUBS AND TREES FOR EROSION CONTROL IN DRY OR MOIST SHADE:

- *Alnus* spp., Alder – moisture to get established
- *Brickellia grandiflora*, Brickell Bush W – dry
- *Calycanthus occidentalis*, Spice Bush R – dry or moist
- *Cercis occidentalis*, Western Redbud P – dry
- *Cornus* spp., Dogwood W – moist
- *Euonymus occidentalis*, Burning Bush P – moist
- *Iva hayesiana*, San Diego Marsh Elder – dry or moist
- *Quercus chrysolepis*, Canyon Live Oak – dry or moist
- *Ribes* spp., Currants and Gooseberries – dry or moist
- *Rosa californica*, Wild Rose P – moist; tolerates dry
- *Salix* spp., Willow – moist or wet
- *Spiraea douglasii*, Spiraea P – moist
- *Symphoricarpos mollis*, Snowberry P – dry or moist
- *Umbellularia californica*, CA Laurel W – dry or moist