

Low Water Plants for Southern California

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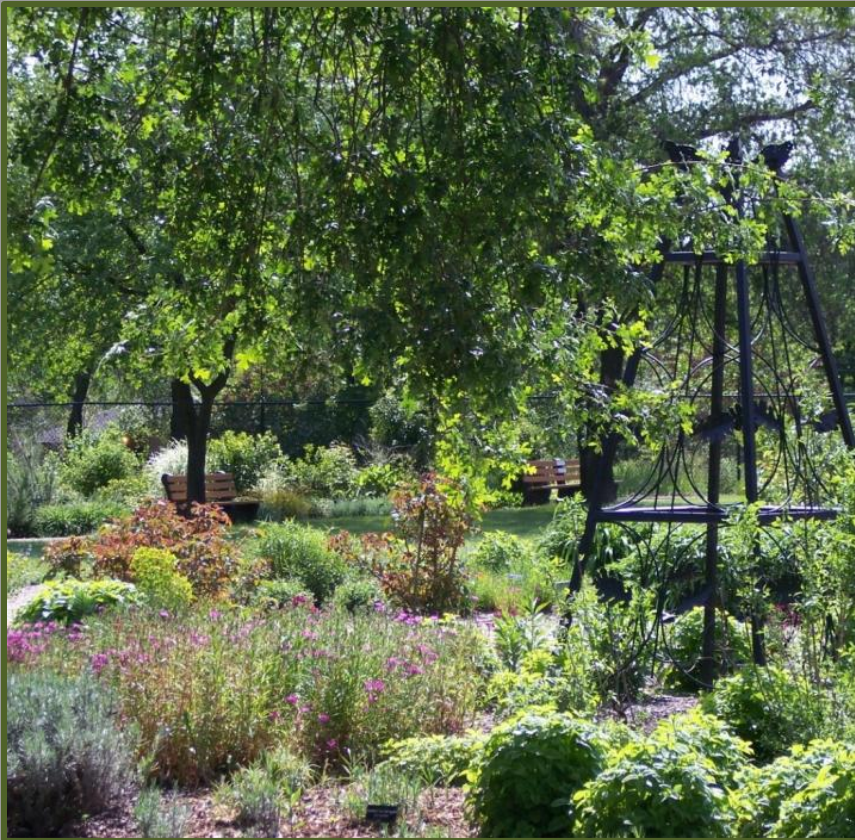


Mediterranean/Subtropical Climate



- Hot, dry summers
 - NO summer rain
- Mild, wet (?) winter
 - LIGHT FROST
- Long growing season
- Varied soils

5 Similar Climate Regions



- **35-40° latitude**
- **Mediterranean**
- **South western Africa**
- **Central Chile**
- **Southwestern Australia**
- **California- parts**

What does it mean?

We can share plants!

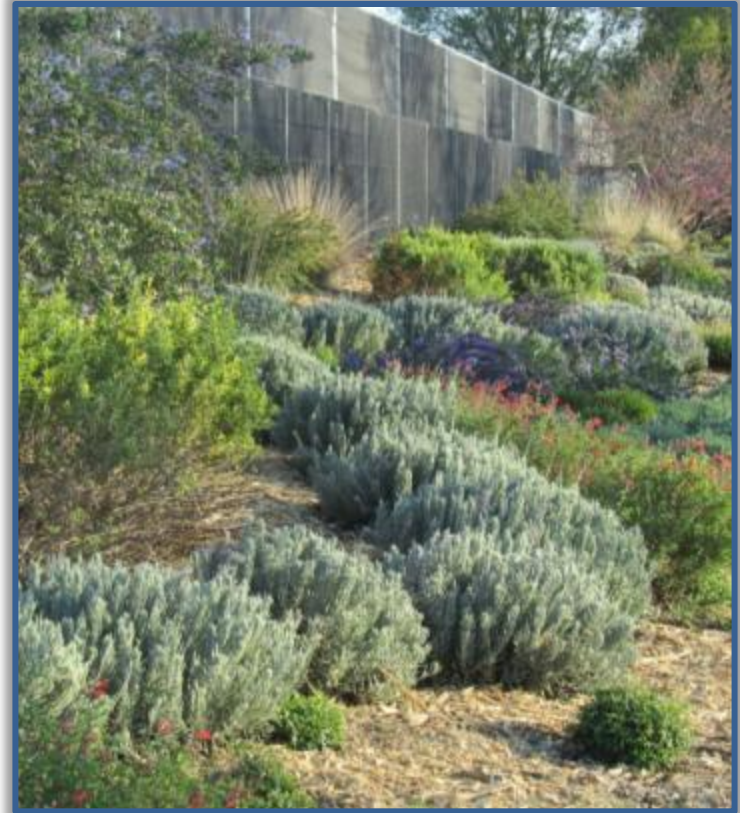
Keys to Low-water Gardening Success

1. Right plant, right place
2. Site preparation
3. Proper planting
4. Careful establishment



What does 'right plant' mean?

1. Suited to soil type
2. Suited to irrigation & Hydro-zoned
3. Suited to climate & site
4. Mature size fits space
5. Non-invasive
6. Resistant variety/ best for the area



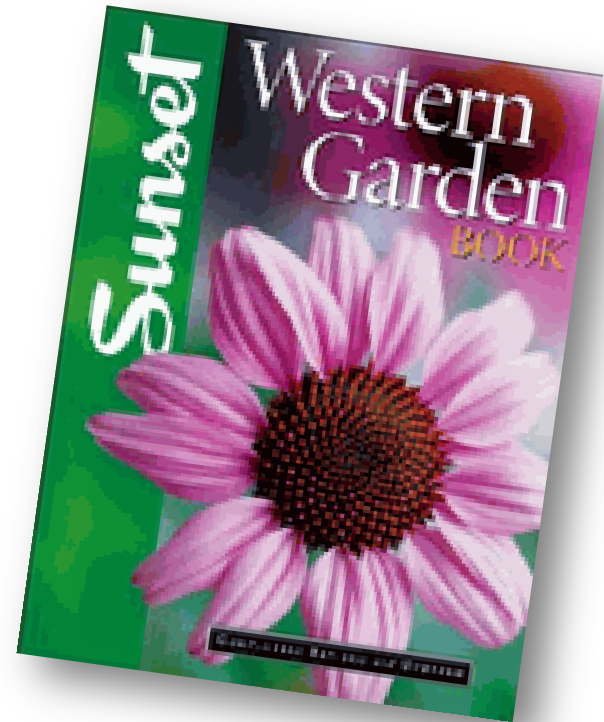
Results of Right plant-Right place?

- **Healthy plants**
- **Fewer disease problems**
- **Fewer pest problems**
- **Less greenwaste**
- **Less maintenance**
- **Fewer replacements**



Suited to climate

- **USDA hardiness zones**
 - Will the plant freeze?
- **Sunset climate zone**
 - Heat tolerance
 - Sun exposure
 - Humidity needs
 - Frost tolerance



Check BEFORE buying or planting!

Suited to site/ microclimate

- Sun or shade? Morning or afternoon?
- FULL SUN = 6 hours of sun (at least)
 - Blooming
 - Leaf color
 - Stem length, leaf thickness
- Windward or leeward?
- Frost-protected by water, eave or canopy?



Low-water use vs. Drought-tolerant

Thriving



Surviving



Low water plant characteristics

- Grayish leaves
- Fuzzy or hairy leaves
- Thick, waxy leaf coat
- Small or needle-like leaves
- Vertically held leaves
- Succulents
- Summer dormancy

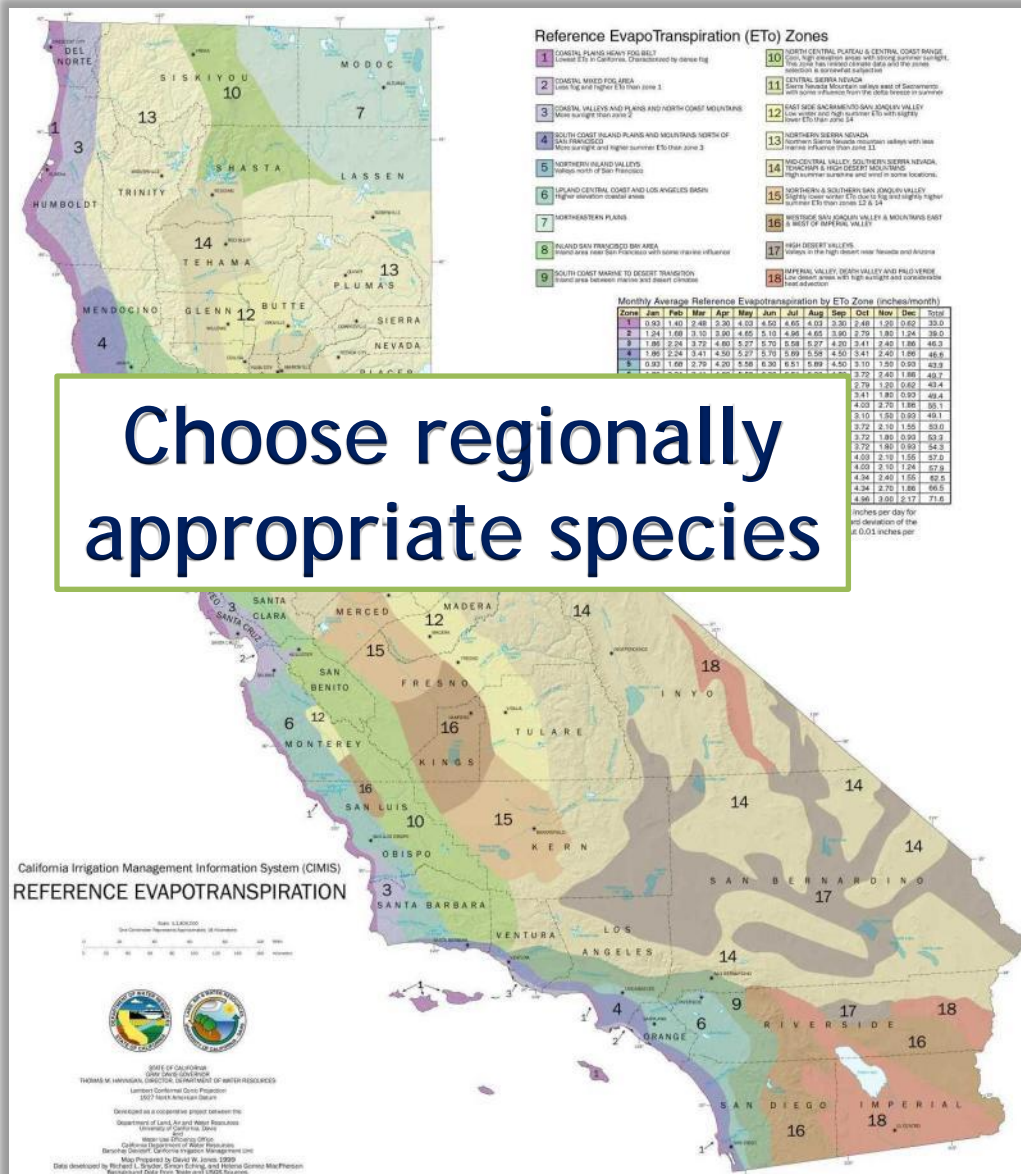


Using CA Native Plants

- Adapted to dry, hot summers
- Adapted to local soils
- Provide for native wildlife
 - Nectar, pollen, seeds, berries, shelter, larval food



BEWARE: CA is diverse!



- Soils
 - Clay- sand
- Rainfall/ Humidity
 - Desert -rainforest
- Day length
 - 8° latitude
- Heat/cold
 - No frost - snowpack

Try making a WUCOLS list

- **Make lists for**
 - Trees
 - Shrubs
 - Perennials/grasses
 - CA Natives
- **Look up pictures**
- **Check availability**
- **Some nurseries will order for you**



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All Stars

- **Low-water use and heat tolerant**
- **Disease resistant/
Pest tolerant**
- **Low maintenance**

- **Attract and support beneficial wildlife (4 Bs)**
 - **Bees, butterflies, beneficials, birds**

http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx

FULL SUN

PERENNIALS & GRASSES

***Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita BOP'**





Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer'



Nepeta x faassennii 'Walker's Low'



Iris 'Canyon Snow'



Bulbine frutescens & 'Tiny Tangerine'



Santa Barbara daisy

Erigeron karvinskianus



Dwarf germander

Teucrium chamaedrys

'Prostratum' or 'Nanum'



- Low mounds
- Spread slowly

Teucrium chamaedrys



Sun rose
*Helianthemum
nummularium*

Heart germander
*Teucrium
chamaedrys*

California fuchsia *Epilobium canum*



- **Low mound to upright form**
- **Attracts hummingbirds!!!**

Epilobium 'Sidewinder'



Lavenders- many kinds



Bouteloua gracilis





***Calamagrostis* × *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'**



'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass
Calamagrostis acutiflora



Miscanthus sinensis 'Little Zebra'



Lomandra 'Lime Tuff'



SHADE/AFTERNOON SHADE

PERENNIALS & GRASSES

Heuchera rosada



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All Stars

Heuchera 'Canyon Delight'



Heuchera maxima



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides



Dianella tasmanica 'Variegata'



Dianella caerulea 'King Alfred'



Helleborus 'Lady' series



Helleborus
‘Red Lady’ &
‘White lady’



Festuca californica



Japanese holly fern
Cyrtomium falcatum



FULL SUN

SHRUBS

Acacia boormanii



***Ceanothus maritimus* 'Valley Violet'**



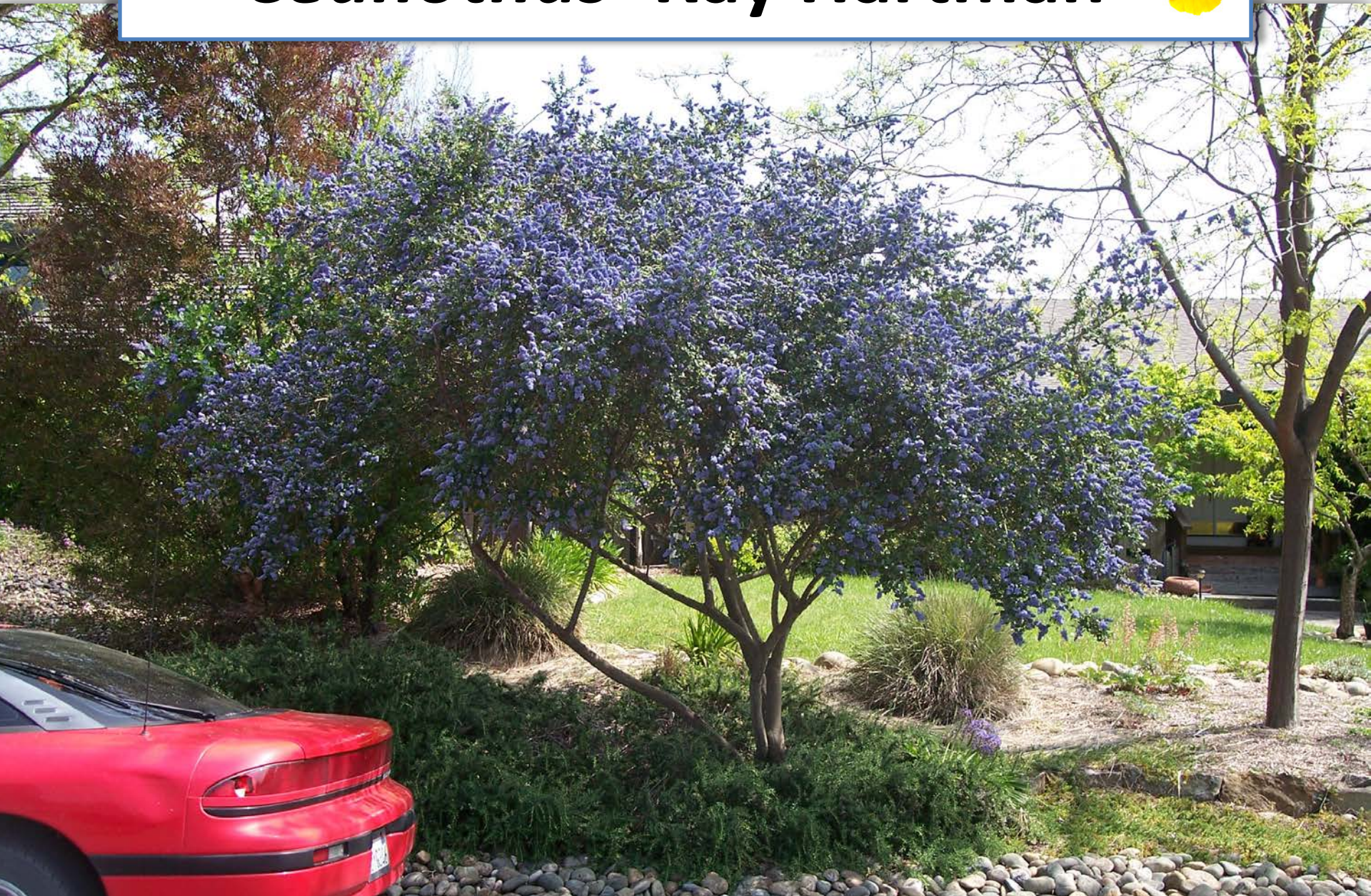
Ceanothus × *pallidus* 'Marie Simon'



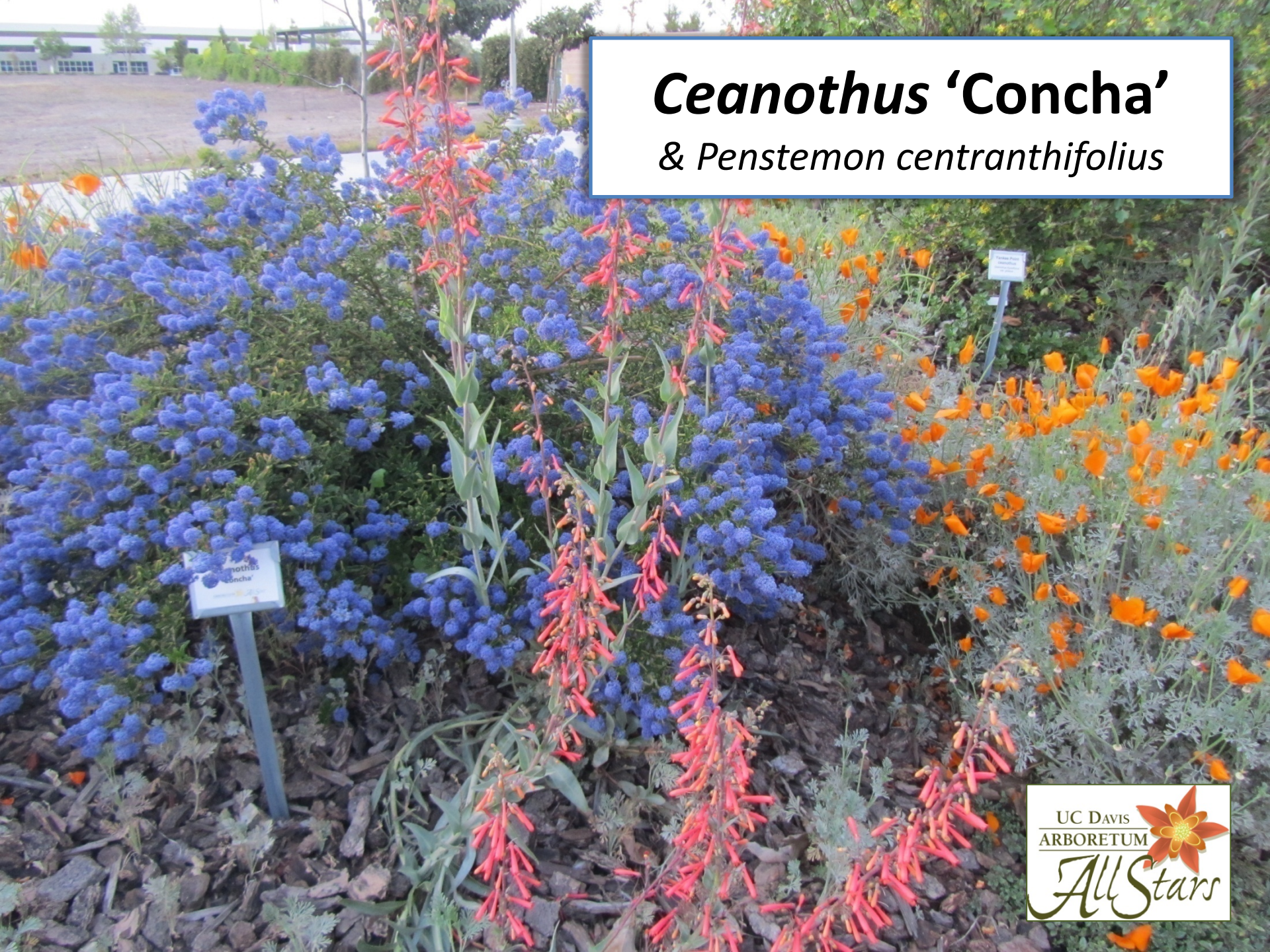
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Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'



Ceanothus 'Concha' & *Penstemon centranthifolius*



A



Iceberg rose



Buddleia 'Blue Heaven'



Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn'



©UC Davis Arboretum





***Teucrium fruticans* 'Azureum'**

***Buddleia* 'Purple Splendor'**



Salvia microphylla 'Hot Lips'



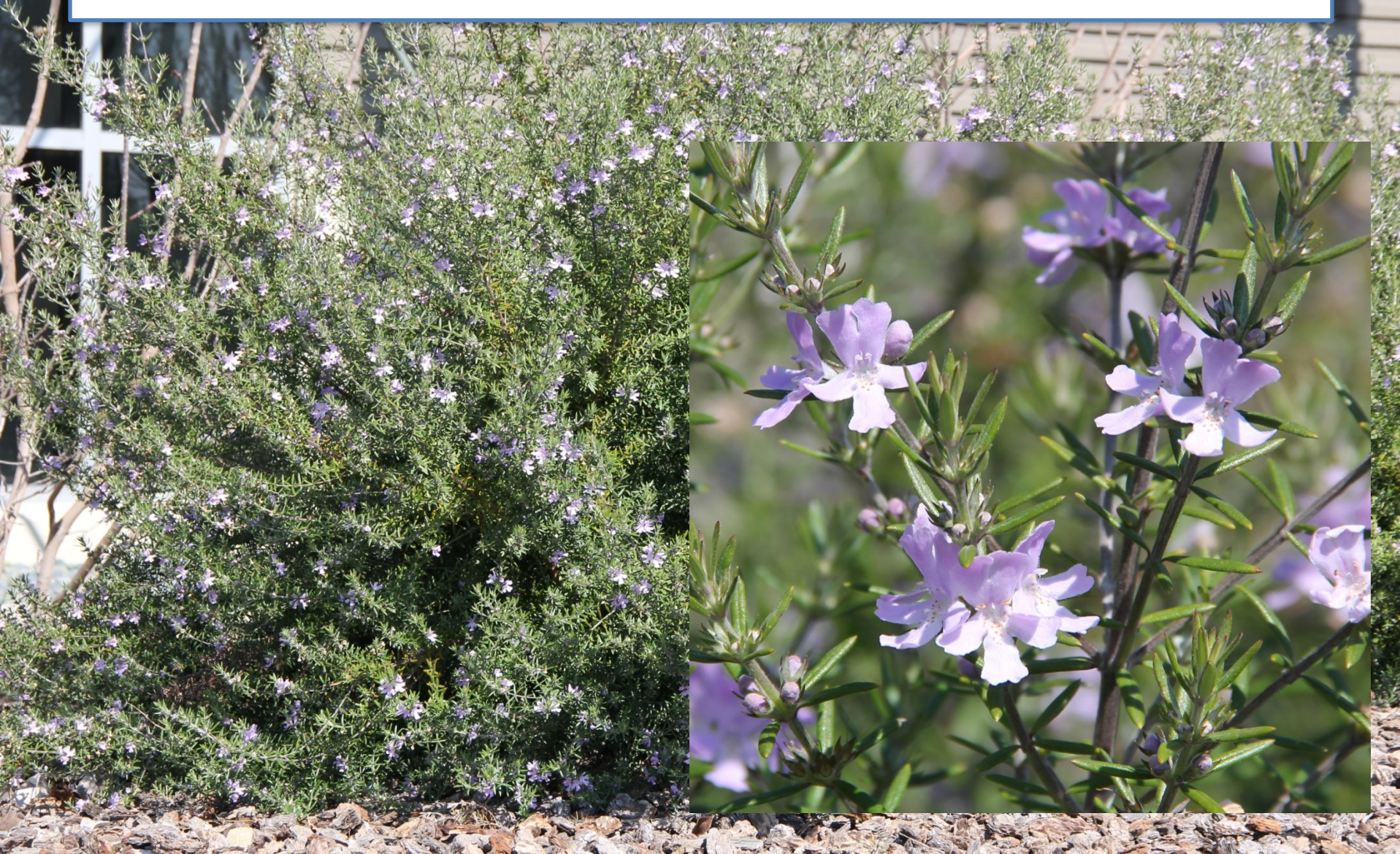
Salvia clevelandii 'Winnifred Gilman'



***Rhamnus californica* 'Mound San Bruno'**



Westringia cultivars



SHADE/AFTERNOON SHADE

SHRUBS



Ligustrum sinense
'Sunshine'



Berberis aquifolium 'Compacta'



Berberis aquifolium



Sollya heterophylla



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All Stars

Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata'



***Ribes viburnifolium* 'Spooner's Mesa'**





Questions?