

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

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- The image shows a well-maintained low-water garden. In the foreground, there are several large, dark purple-leaved shrubs. Behind them, there's a mix of green and yellow-green leafy plants, some with long, thin leaves. A black metal fence runs across the background, and beyond it are more trees and bushes under a clear blue sky.
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**



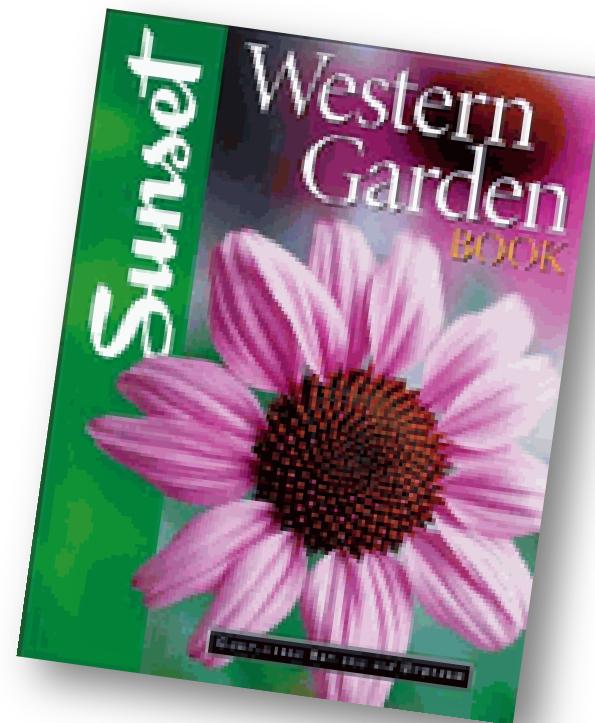
Results of Right plant-Right place?

- **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



Low water plant characteristics

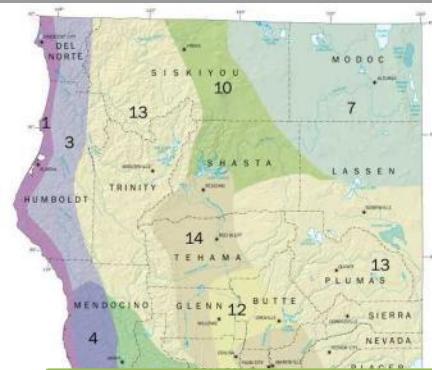
- Grayish leaves
- Fuzzy or hairy leaves
- Thick, waxy leaf coat
- Small or needle-like leaves
- Vertically held leaves
- Succulents
- Summer dormancy



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!



Reference EvapoTranspiration (ETo) Zones														
1 COASTAL PLAINS HEAVY FOUL BELT	10 CENTRAL PLATEAU & CENTRAL COAST RANGE													
2 COASTAL WETLAND FOREST	11 CENTRAL DESERT NEVADA													
3 COASTAL VALLEYS AND PLAINS AND NORTH COAST MOUNTAINS	12 EAST RIVER SACRAMENTO TO SAN JACOB VALLEY													
4 SOUTHERN COAST ISLANDS AND MOUNTAINS NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO	13 NORTHERN DESERT NEVADA													
5 MOUNTAIN PALLEYS	14 MID-CENTRAL VALLEY SOUTHERN SIERRA NEVADA, TORNACHE & HIGH DESERT MOUNTAINS													
6 UPLAND CENTRAL COAST AND LOS ANGELES BASIN	15 NORTHERN & SOUTHERN DAY (KINGS) VALLEY													
7 NORTHEASTERN PLAINS	16 MISTRODE SALT KINGS IN VALLEY & MOUNTAINS EAST & WEST OF IMPERIAL VALLEY													
8 ISLAND SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA	17 HIGH DESERT VALLEYS													
9 SOUTH COAST MARINE AND DESERT TRANSITION	18 IMPALA VALLEY DEATH VALLEY AND PALO VERDE													

Zone	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1	0.50	1.40	2.48	3.20	4.03	4.52	4.65	4.03	3.30	2.48	1.29	0.62	39.0
2	0.50	1.40	2.48	3.20	4.03	4.52	4.65	4.03	3.30	2.48	1.29	0.62	39.0
3	1.85	2.24	3.72	4.00	5.27	5.70	5.89	5.27	4.20	3.41	2.45	1.86	46.3
4	1.85	2.24	3.41	4.50	5.27	5.70	5.89	5.58	4.50	3.41	2.45	1.86	46.6
5	0.93	1.69	2.79	4.20	5.58	6.30	6.51	5.89	4.50	3.10	1.79	0.93	42.9
6	0.93	1.69	2.79	4.20	5.58	6.30	6.51	5.89	4.50	3.10	1.79	0.93	42.9
7	2.79	2.20	0.62	49.4									
8	3.41	1.85	0.93	49.4									
9	3.10	1.58	0.85	55.1									
10	3.72	2.10	1.55	83.0									
11	3.72	1.86	0.93	93.9									
12	3.72	1.86	0.93	54.7									
13	3.72	1.86	0.93	54.7									
14	4.02	2.10	1.55	72.0									
15	4.02	2.10	1.24	87.9									
16	4.34	2.40	1.65	82.5									
17	4.34	2.40	1.65	82.5									
18	4.36	3.05	2.17	71.6									

Inches per day for 1st deviation of the at 0.03 inches per

Choose regionally appropriate species



- 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





- 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'



©UC Davis Arboretum





Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer'



Nepeta x faassennii 'Walker's Low'



Iris 'Canyon Snow'



Bulbine frutescens & 'Tiny Tangerine'



Santa Barbara daisy

Erigeron karvinskianus



©UC Davis Arboretum

Dwarf germander

Teucrium chamaedrys

'Prostratum' or 'Nanum'



- Low mounds
- Spread slowly

Teucrium chamaedrys



California fuchsia

Epilobium canum



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

Epilobium ‘Sidewinder’



Lavenders- many kinds



Bouteloua gracilis





Calamagrostis × acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'



RIGG

'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass

Calamagrostis acutiflora



Miscanthus sinensis ‘Little Zebra’



Lomandra ‘Lime Tuff’



SHADE/AFTERNOON SHADE

PERENNIALS & GRASSES

Heuchera rosada



Heuchera ‘Canyon Delight’



Heuchera maxima



Ceratostigma plumbaginoides



Dianella tasmanica 'Variegata'



Dianella caerulea ‘King Alfred’



Helleborus 'Lady' series



Helleborus ‘Red Lady’ & ‘White lady’



Extension

Festuca californica



Japanese holly fern

Cyrtomium falcatum



©UC Davis Arboretum

FULL SUN

SHRUBS

Acacia boormanii



Ceanothus maritimus ‘Valley Violet’



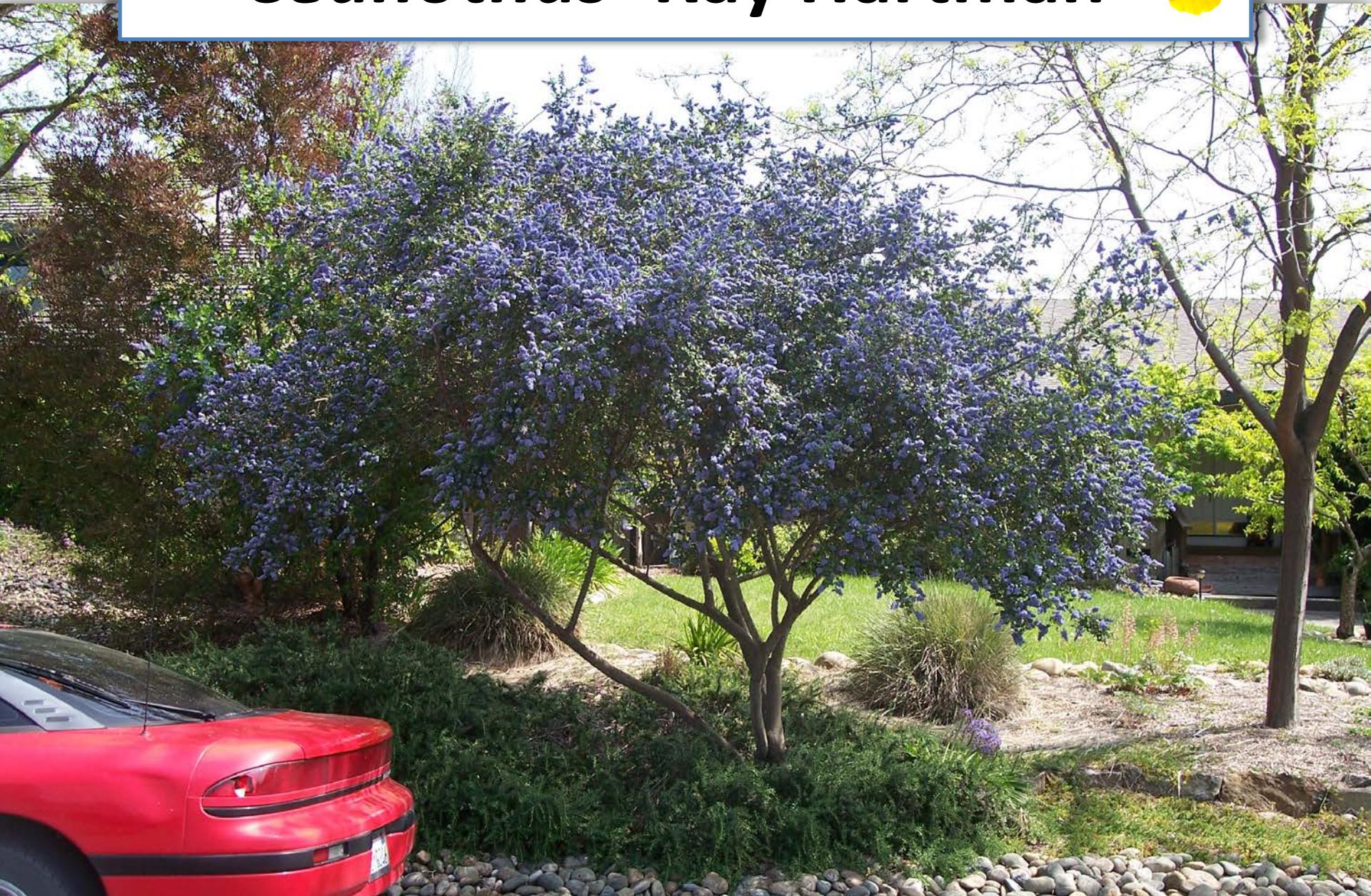
Ceanothus × pallidus 'Marie Simon'



©UC Davis Arboretum



Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'



Ceanothus 'Concha'

& *Penstemon centranthifolius*





Iceberg rose



Buddleia 'Blue Heaven'



Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn'



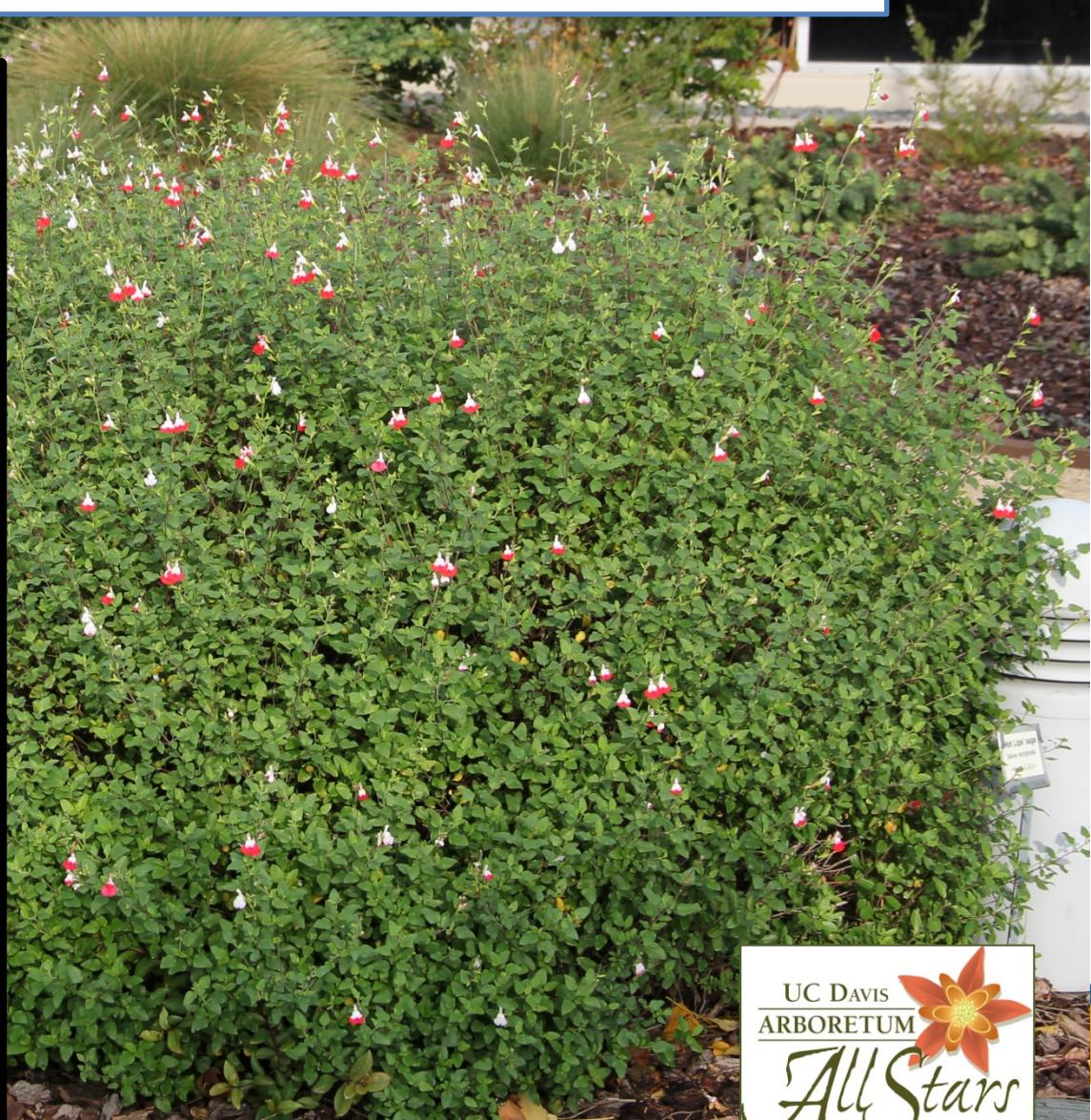


***Teucrium fruticans* 'Azureum'**

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



Daphne odora ‘Aureomarginata’



Ribes viburnifolium ‘Spooner’s Mesa’





Questions?