



## LIST OF WATER WISE POLLINATOR HABITAT PLANTS FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST

The below plants are capable of providing multiple benefits to pollinators. Attractive blooms, nectar and pollen resources, and structural habitat elements of these plants can support the life cycles of bees, butterflies, birds, beetles, bats, and more. To be mindful of drought conditions on the North Coast, most of the plants chosen to be included on this list usually require little to no irrigation once established. Strategically plant these species to enhance beauty and habitat in a working landscape or garden.

This chart was synthesized by Sonoma and Gold Ridge RCD staff, May 2021. Information was compiled from CNPS Calscape.org, CA Rare Fruit Growers, UCANR online, Cal Poly SelecTree, Las Pilitas Nursery online, CalFlora Nursery online, USDA FEIS, and RCD staff experience. Please note that this list is not complete or definitive.

Water wise California native plants							
Species Name	Common Name	Mature/Max Size	Drought Tolerance	Soil	Sun	Bloom Time	Flower Color
<i>Arctostaphylos bakeri</i> 'Louis Edmunds'	<b>Baker's Manzanita</b>	6-10'	Drought tolerant once established, occasional deep watering	Well draining soil, Clay, Acidic soil. Will tolerate heavy soils if NOT over watered.	Full sun	Early Spring	White or pink
<i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i> 'Wayside'	<b>Monterey Manzanita</b>	3' tall x 8' wide	Drought tolerant once established, occasional deep watering. Smaller and more prostrate manzanitas need supplemental water. Best to plant in cooler and more coastal zones of the North Coast.	Well draining soil, Clay, Acidic soil. Will tolerate heavy soils if NOT over watered.	Full sun	Winter, early spring	White or pink
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i> 'Dr. Hurd'	<b>Common Manzanita</b>	15' tall x 15' wide	Drought tolerant once established, occasional deep watering	Well draining soil, Clay, Acidic soil. Will tolerate heavy soils if NOT over watered.	Full sun	Winter, early spring	White
<i>Asclepias cordifolia</i>	<b>Heart Leaf Milkweed</b>	1-2' tall	Drought tolerant once established	Dry to medium, well drained soils. Does well in rocky soil.	Full sun, partial sun	Spring, Summer	Purple
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	<b>Narrow Leaf milkweed</b>	1-3' tall	Drought tolerant once established	Tolerates a variety of soils including sandy, clay and saline. Does well in well draining soils.	Full sun	Summer, fall	White and pink
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	<b>Showy Milkweed</b>	2-4' tall	Drought tolerant once established	Tolerates clay soil but performs best with good drainage.	Full sun	Summer	Pink
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	<b>Coyote Bush-full size</b>	8x8'	Drought tolerant once established and mature - may take a few years to become established	Tolerant of poor soil	Full sun to part shade	Early Winter	White
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> 'Twin Peaks'	<b>Coyote Brush 'Twin Peaks'</b>	Prostrate form, sprawling ground cover up to 2' tall	Drought tolerant once established in coastal areas. Inland may need some watering through summer.	Tolerant of alkaline soil, sand and clay.	Full sun to part shade	Early Winter	White
<i>Carex spp.</i>	<b>Sedge</b>	1x1'	Prefers moist soils but can tolerate dryer landscapes	Like to have moisture in their soil	Full or partial sun	Spring	White, not showy (Wind Pollinated)
<i>Ceanothus spp.</i> ( <i>C. thyrsifolius</i> , 'Dark Star', 'Concha', several others available)	<b>Ceanothus</b>	"Thyrsifolius" 12x12'; "Dark star" 6' tall x 8' wide; "Concha" 8' tall x 10' wide	Drought tolerant once established. While establishing, waterings should be deep and infrequent, allowing soil to dry out between waterings. Important not to keep watering after the first 2-3 years, as this can affect their longevity.	Well draining soil is necessary	Full sun, maybe give afternoon shade in hotter areas	Late Spring	Blue
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	<b>Western Redbud</b>	20-30' tall x 15-35' wide	Drought tolerant once established	Prefers well drained sandy or loamy soil. Tolerant of clay, lime, and acidic soil.	Full sun and partial shade.	Spring	Pink, yellow, red
<i>Corylus cornuta californica</i>	<b>Hazelnut</b>	8' tall x 6' wide	Some moisture good. Drought tolerant once established	Can live in well draining sandy, sandy loam, and gravel soils. Cannot tolerate clay or serpentine soils.	Part sun. Likes some shade in more arid regions. In cooler coastal locations, can tolerate full sun.	Spring	White
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	<b>California Fuschia</b>	1.5' tall x 3' wide	Low water once established. Optional: occasional summer watering may increase blooms.	Well draining. Cannot tolerate soggy roots in winter.	At least 6 hours of full sun per day	Summer-Fall	Scarlet
<i>Frangula californica</i> ( <i>Rhamnus spp.</i> )	<b>Coffeeberry</b>	10-20' tall x 10-15' wide	Water once per week for the first approx. 1 year to establish, then it should be ready to tolerate low water conditions.	Well draining soil important if there will be moisture during dry season	Full to Partial sun. In cooler coastal locations, can tolerate full sun.	Spring	White
<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i>	<b>Flannelbush</b>	18' tall x 10' wide	Low water - Never irrigate once established.	Soil must be well draining. Can tolerate gravelly, rocky, sandy, and serpentine soils.	Full Sun	Late Spring	Yellow

Species Name	Common Name	Mature/Max Size	Drought Tolerance	Soil	Sun	Bloom Time	Flower Color
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	<b>Toyon</b>	12' tall x 6' wide	Low water once established. Limit summer water once mature.	Tolerant of many soil types, must have well drained soil.	Full sun to dappled shade	Late Spring - Summer	White
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	<b>Deergrass</b>	4x4'	Might need a little summer water, but versatile. May appear "dead" while withstanding drought conditions, only to push green growth again later.	Tolerant of alkaline, clay, or sandy, rocky soils. Water less in clay soils.	Full sun to part shade. Tolerates shade.	Spring	White, not showy (Wind Pollinated)
<i>Prunus illicifolia</i>	<b>Hollyleaf Cherry</b>	25'	Highly drought tolerant, short establishment period	Well draining soil	Full sun to light shade	Late spring- early summer	White
<i>Ribes spp. (R. sanguineum glutinosum 'Barrie Coate' or 'Heart's Desire', R. speciosum, californica, aureum, malvaceum, nevadense, odoratum)</i>	<b>Currant/Gooseberry</b>	6' tall x 3' wide	Drought tolerant once established	Prefer heavier soils richer in clay and a thick organic mulch on top of the soil. Intolerant of sandy, alkaline, or salty soil.	Full or partial sun. Do well planted under oaks.	Early spring - summer	Yellow, white, pink, red, fuchsia (depends on spp.)
<i>Rosa californica</i>	<b>California Wild Rose</b>	30' tall x 20' wide	Somewhat drought tolerant once established. Water no more than 3x per month once established.	Prefers moist loam. Tolerates clay.	Full sun to full shade	May-Nov	Pink
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	<b>Cleveland Sage</b>	4' tall x 8' wide	Drought tolerant once established. Limiting watering will improve its lifespan.	Well draining	Full sun to part shade	Mid spring-late summer	Bright violet
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	<b>Black Sage</b>	6' tall x 10' wide	Drought tolerant once established	Well draining, tolerant of serpentine soils and a variety of other soils	Full sun	April-July	Pale purple
<i>Salvia x 'Bee's Bliss' - Bee's bliss is a nursery cultivar</i>	<b>Sage 'Bees Bliss'</b>	2' tall x 8' wide	Drought tolerant once established	Sand or clay soils with some drainage	Full sun to part shade	Spring	Bright violet
<i>Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea. native species: Sambucus caerulea/mexicana</i>	<b>Blue elderberry</b>	20x20'	Prefers "moderate" watering until established. Can tolerate drier conditions once established, but may go dormant in later summer/fall.	Tolerates a wide variety of soils	Full sun to part shade	Spring	White or yellow
<i>Solidago velutina ssp. californica</i>	<b>California Goldenrod</b>	4' tall	Drought tolerant once established	Tolerates a wide variety of soils	Full sun to shade	Summer	Yellow
<i>Quercus spp.</i>	<b>Oak</b>	Variable	Drought tolerant once established	Dependent on variety	Full Sun to part shade	Spring	Yellow catkins, not showy (wind pollinated)

Some others: Aster 'Purple Haze', California buckwheat, Yarrow, and Snowberry

### Non-native plants with high success for developed ag land

Species Name	Common Name	Mature/Max Size	Drought Tolerance	Soil	Sun	Bloom Time	Flower Color
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	<b>Rosemary</b>	4x4'	Drought tolerant once established	Tolerates a wide variety of well draining soils	Full sun	Early Spring	Purple
<i>Cistus spp. (purpureus, pulverulentus 'sunset', ladanifer)</i>	<b>Rockrose</b>	5x5'	Drought tolerant once established	Well draining soil	Full sun	Spring, summer	Pink, <i>C. ladanifer</i> is white
<i>Teucrium fruticans 'Azureum'</i>	<b>Bush germander</b>	3x3'	Drought tolerant once established	Well draining soil. Tolerates poor and alkaline soils as well as urban pollution.	Full sun	Early spring	Blue
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	<b>Pineapple guava</b>	10' tall x 6' wide	Drought tolerant once established, but better fruit if watered.	Rich, organic, well drained	Full sun to part shade	Early Summer	Pink/red
<i>Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'</i>	<b>Goldenrod</b>	3x3'	May need supplemental water	Tolerant of wet or clay soil.	Full sun	Summer, fall	White
<i>Citrus x meyeri</i>	<b>Meyer lemon</b>	10' tall x 12' wide	Drought tolerant once established	Will grow well in sandy, neutral, well drained soils. Seems to tolerate clay soil in SR Plain area	Full sun, afternoon shade.	Year round	White
<i>Rosa spp.</i>	<b>Climbing rose</b>	Dependent on variety	Choose a variety that is drought tolerant once established	Tolerates a wide variety of soils	Full sun to light shade	Late spring or early summer	Many