RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN AT CLAREMONT
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THE CALIFORNIA CLASSICS PLANT PALETTE

The following plant lists represent the most reliable, garden worthy and relatively available native plants for southern California gardens and public landscapes. The plant groups—Oak Woodlands, Riparian Woodlands, Scrubland/Chaparral,Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert—are organized according to horticultural and ecological conditions.

Plant lists were primarily compiled by:

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Planting Season

The optimal time for planting all plants of the California Floristic Province is in late fall. Soils are still warm but are not too hot for tender new roots. The capillary movement of water is upward, toward the soil surface. The nights are cool, promoting less shoot growth and more root growth. The days are typically cooler, leading to less stress on new plantings. The overall cooler and moister conditions are less favorable to many of the soil pathogens that are much more likely to infect the broken or damaged root system that is inevitable during planting. In our particular area (inland Southern California) this means that late October to November is the beginning of the planting season.

- Annuals: plant seeds from Δlate October to December
- Trees and Shrubs: plant from late October to the end of February
- Subshrubs and Perennials: plant from late October to late April
- Riparian plants of all sorts: plant at any time of the year, though best and easiest when planted from late October to the end of February

Ribes speciosum

From: *California Native Plant Gardens: Care and Maintenance*, Bart C. O'Brien, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California. 2000.

Oak Woodland Garden

The oak woodland garden includes an abundance of attractive evergreen trees and shrubs suitable for southern California gardens. Many species display colorful spring flowers; others produce showy berries that attract wildlife. Deep, well-drained soils are best for oak woodland plants. Once established, these plants will thrive with deep watering once or twice each month in the summer.

Riparian Woodland Garden

The riparian woodland garden is defined by the abundance of water. These lush, often fast-growing plants provide a cool, shady refuge during the hot summer months. Since many riparian woodland plants are deciduous, gardeners seeking winter sunlight will be amply rewarded. The many hues of "green" provide a pleasing seasonal focus for the riparian woodland garden. This plant palette is not particular about soil types as long as there is some retention of soil moisture. Riparian plants require a regular supply of water during the summer months.

Chaparral/Scrubland Garden

The chaparral garden is characterized by a diversity of shrubs and subshrubs, and the absence of large trees. These gardens are awash with color from late winter through early summer before settling into summer and fall dormancy. Chaparral gardens provide important food and cover for a wide range of insects and birds. Shallow, rocky, or well-drained soils and slopes are best for these plants. Once established, chaparral gardens will survive with minimal summer irrigation, but their appearance may be improved by strategic monthly watering.

Mojave Desert Garden

The Mojave Desert garden must tolerate extreme summer heat and freezing winter temperatures. These gardens are characterized by open, rocky spaces, punctuated by islands of vegetation with green, gray, or silver colored foliage. Seasonal annual flowers fill the open spaces in and around these islands. Plants are slow to establish due to the seasonal climate extremes. Established plantings are drought tolerant, but are enhanced by deep watering once or twice a month through the summer.

Colorado Desert Garden

The Colorado Desert garden endures extreme summer heat and relatively warm winters. Many of the plants from this environment will not tolerate cold, wet conditions or freezing temperatures. These gardens are characterized by rocky and open spaces interspersed with spring-flowering vegetation. Plants in this palette take full advantage of moisture at any time of the year. Established plantings perform best when watered deeply once or twice a month throughout the summer and fall.

Oak Woodlands:

Trees:
Aesculus californica – California Buckeye
Quercus agrifolia – Coast Live Oak
Quercus engelmannii – Mesa Oak

Shrubs:
Arctostaphylos bakeri 'Louis Edmunds' – Louis Edmunds Manzanita
Arctostaphylos 'Howard McMinn' – Howard McMinn Manzanita
Arctostaphylos 'Sunset' – Sunset Manzanita
Carpenteria californica – Bush Anemone
Ceanothus 'Concha' – Concha Ceanothus
Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' – Ray Hartman Ceanothus
Ceanothus 'Wheeler Canyon' – Wheeler Canyon Ceanothus
Galvezia speciosa – Island Snapdragon
Heteromeles arbutifolia – Toyon
Mahonia (*Berberis*) 'Golden Abundance' – Golden Abundance Barberry
Prunus ilicifolia – Holly-leaf Cherry
Ribes malvaceum – Chaparral Currant
Rhamnus californica & cultivars – Coffeeberry
Rhamnus crocea – Redberry
Ribes speciosum – Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry
Symphoricarpos albus var. *laevigatus* 'Tilden Park' – Tilden Park Snowberry

Groundcovers:
Arctostaphylos edmundsii – Edmunds Manzanita
Baccharis pilularis var. *pilularis* – Prostrate Coyote Brush
Ceanothus griseus var. *horizontalis* – Carmel Creeper
Ceanothus 'Joyce Coulter' – Joyce Coulter Ceanothus
Mahonia (*Berberis*) *repens* – Creeping Barberry
Ribes viburnifolium – Catalina Perfume Currant
Symphoricarpos mollis – Creeping Snowberry

Perennials:
Achillea millefolium – Yarrow
Asclepias fascicularis – Narrow-leaf Milkweed
Heuchera maxima – Island Alumroot
Fragaria chiloensis – Beach Strawberry
Monardella villosa – Coyote Mint
Ranunculus californica – California Buttercup
Salvia spathacea – Hummingbird Sage
Sisyrinchium bellum – Blue-eyed Grass
Thalictrum fendleri ssp. *polycarpum* – Meadow Rue

Aesculus californica

Riparian Woodlands

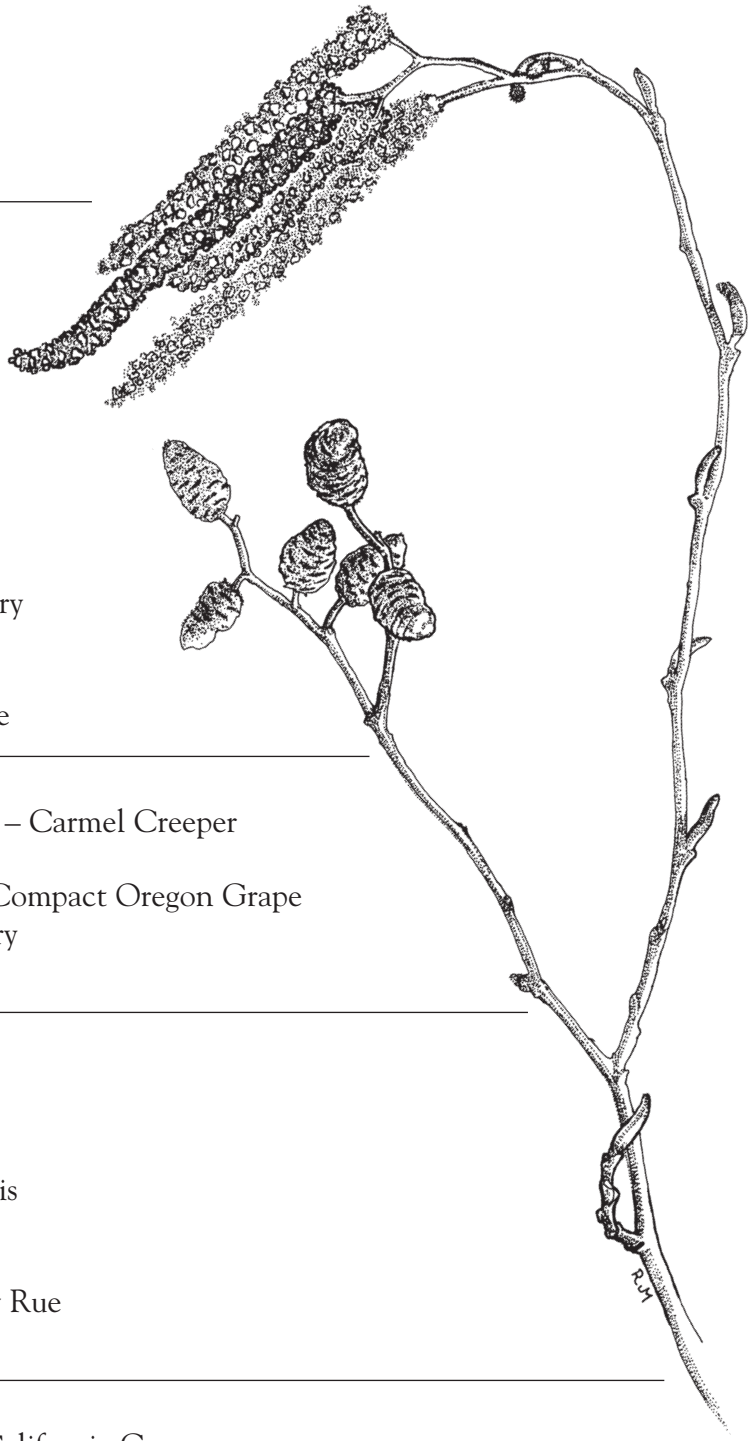
Trees:
Alnus rhombifolia – White Alder
Platanus racemosa – Western Sycamore
Populus fremontii – Fremont Cottonwood
Quercus lobata – Valley Oak
Umbellularia californica – California Bay

Shrubs:
Calycanthus occidentalis – Spice Bush
Carpenteria californica – Bush Anemone
Cercis occidentalis – Western Redbud
Cornus sericea – Creek Dogwood
Lavatera assurgentiflora – Malva Rosa
Lavatera 'Purisima' – Purisima Mallow
Mahonia (*Berberis*) 'Golden Abundance' – Golden Abundance Barberry
Philadelphus lewisii – Mock Orange
Ribes speciosum – Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry
Rosa californica – California Rose
Rosa nutkana var. *nutkana* – Nootka Rose
Rosa woodsii var. *ultramontana* – Interior Rose

Groundcovers:
Ceanothus griseus var. *horizontalis* & cultivars – Carmel Creeper
Iva hayesiana – Haye's Iva
Mahonia (*Berberis*) *aquifolium* 'Compacta' – Compact Oregon Grape
Mahonia (*Berberis*) *repens* – Creeping Barberry
Ribes viburnifolium – Evergreen Currant

Perennials:
Aquilegia formosa – Western Columbine
Asclepias speciosa – Showy Milkweed
Heuchera species & cultivars – Coral Bells
Iris douglasiana & cultivars – Pacific Coast Iris
Juncus patens – Wire Grass
Muhlenbergia rigens – Deer Grass
Thalictrum fendleri ssp. *polycarpum* – Meadow Rue
Woodwardia fimbriata – Giant Chain Fern

Vine:
Vitis californica 'Roger's Red' – Roger's Red California Grape

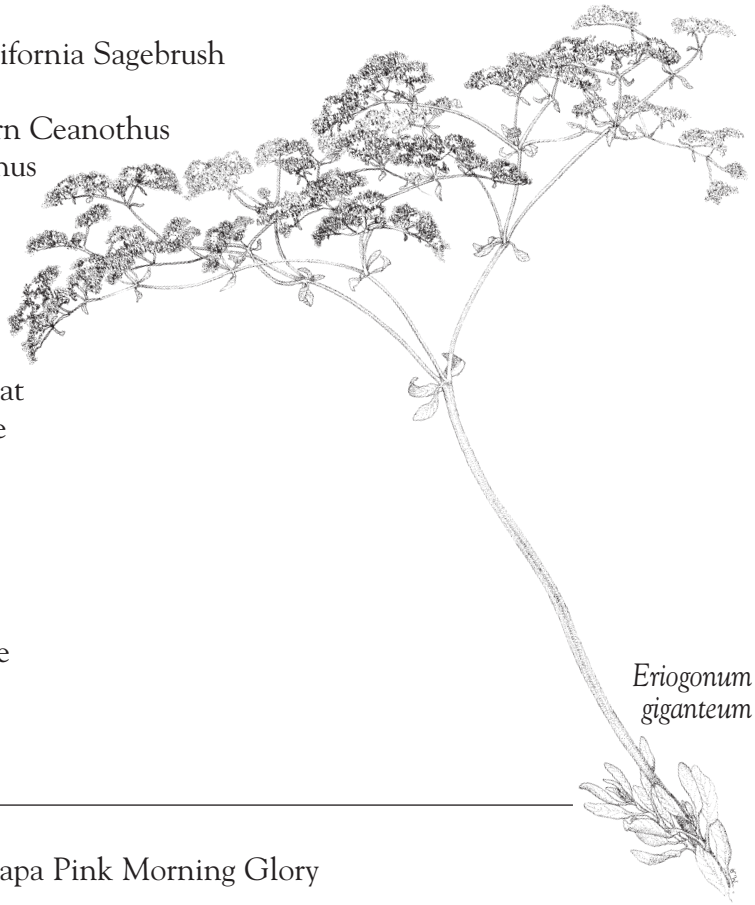


Alnus rhombifolia

Scrubland/Chaparral

Tree:
Sambucus mexicana – Elderberry

Shrubs:
Arctostaphylos bakeri 'Louis Edmunds' – Louis Edmunds Manzanita
Arctostaphylos glauca – Bigberry Manzanita
Artemisia californica 'Montara' – Montara California Sagebrush
Ceanothus 'Concha' – Concha Ceanothus
Ceanothus leucodermis – Chaparral Whitethorn Ceanothus
Ceanothus 'Sierra Blue' – Sierra Blue Ceanothus
Cercocarpus betuloides – Mountain Mahogany
Dendromecon harfordii – Island Bush Poppy
Encelia californica – California Sunflower
Encelia farinosa – Incienso
Eriogonum cinereum – Ashyleaf Buckwheat
Eriogonum fasciculatum – California Buckwheat
Eriogonum giganteum – Saint Catherine's Lace
Heteromeles arbutifolia – Toyon
Isomeris arborea – Bladderpod
Mahonia (*Berberis*) *nevinii* – Nevin's Barberry
Rhus ovata – Sugar Bush
Salvia apiana – White Sage
Salvia clevelandii & cultivars – Cleveland Sage
Salvia leucophylla – Purple Sage
Salvia mellifera – Black Sage
Yucca whipplei – Our Lord's Candle



Eriogonum giganteum

Vine:
Calystegia macrostegia 'Anacapa Pink' – Anacapa Pink Morning Glory

Groundcovers & Bank Plants:
Arctostaphylos hookeri – Hooker Manzanita
Arctostaphylos edmundsii – Edmunds Manzanita
Artemisia californica 'Canyon Gray' – Prostrate California Sagebrush
Eriogonum fasciculatum cultivars – Prostrate California Buckwheat
Iva hayesiana – Haye's Iva
Romneya coulteri – Matilija Poppy
Salvia 'Bee's Bliss' – Bee's Bliss Sage
Salvia 'Dara's Choice' – Dara's Choice Sage
Salvia mellifera 'Terra Seca' – Prostrate Black Sage

Perennials:
Artemisia pycnocephala 'Davids' Choice' – Davids' Choice Sandhill Sage
Asclepias fascicularis – Narrow-leaf Milkweed
Erigeron 'W. R.' – Wayne Roderick's Daisy
Eriogonum crocatum – Sulphur Buckwheat
Eriogonum grande var. *rubescens* – Red Buckwheat
Leymus condensatus 'Canyon Prince' – Canyon Prince Wild Ryegrass
Mimulus (*Diplacus*) species & cultivars – Shrubby Monkeyflower
Zauschneria (*Epilobium*) species & cultivars– California Fuchsia

Asclepias fascicularis

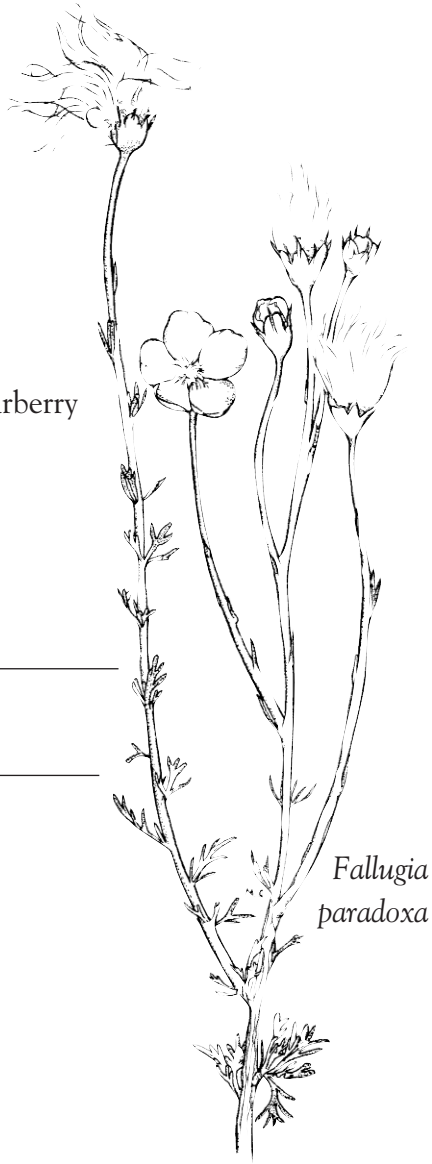
Mojave Desert

Trees:
Pinus monophylla – Single-needle Pinyon
Yucca brevifolia – Joshua Tree

Shrubs:
Agave utahensis – Utah Agave
Artemisia tridentata ssp. *parishii* – Parish's Great Basin Sagebrush
Chrysothamnus nauseosus – Rabbit Brush
Ephedra nevadensis – Mormon Tea
Fallugia paradoxa – Apache Plume
Juniperus californica – California Juniper
Larrea tridentata – Creosote Bush
Mahonia (*Berberis*) *fremontii* (*Mahonia* (*Berberis*) *higginsiae*) – Desert Barberry
Nolina bigelovii – Beargrass
Nolina parryi – Beargrass
Opuntia basilaris – Beavertail Cactus
Salvia dorrii – Purple Sage
Yucca baccata – Banana Yucca
Yucca schidigera – Mojave Yucca

Vine:
Vitis girdiana – Desert Grape

Perennials:
Achnatherum hymenoides – Indian Ricegrass
Achnatherum speciosum – Desert Needlegrass
Mirabilis multiflora – Four O'Clock
Oenothera californica – Evening Primrose
Sphaeralcea ambigua – Desert Mallow
Sporobolus airoides – Alkali Sacatoon



Fallugia paradoxa

Colorado Desert

Trees:
Cercidium floridum – Palo Verde
Chilopsis linearis & cultivars – Desert Willow
x*Parkinsidium* 'Desert Museum' – Desert Museum Palo Verde
Washingtonia filifera – California Fan Palm

Shrubs:
Abutilon palmeri – Indian Mallow
Agave deserti – Desert Agave
Calliandra eriophylla – Fairy Duster
Encelia farinosa – Incienso
Ferocactus cylindraceus – California Barrel Cactus
Fouquieria splendens – Ocotillo
Larrea tridentata – Creosote Bush
Hyptis emoryi – Desert Lavender
Justicia californica – Chuparosa
Opuntia basilaris – Beavertail Cactus
Simmondsia chinensis – Jojoba

Vine:
Vitis girdiana – Desert Grape

Chilopsis linearis