

Northwest California natives tested in the Arcata-Eureka area
 Herbaceous perennials, Groundcovers, Trees and Shrubs
 Thanks to Pete Haggard and many others for contributions

HERBACIOUS PERENNIALS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HABIT	CULTURE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	.3-6.5 ' (10-200 cm), leaves finely divided.	Full sun, not fussy, many habitats.	Fern-like aromatic foliage, large cluster of white flowers.	Once est. needs no water, weedy, blooms over a long period.
<i>Aquilegia formosa</i>	Western Columbine	.65-2.6 ' (20-80 cm), leaves basal & 3 lobed.	Prefers some shade.	Clumping plant, red & yellow flowers on long stems.	Excellent plant for shady gardens, self-sows readily.
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goats Beard	3-6.5 ' (1-2 m), tall stems, divided leaves, flowers above leaves.	Normally a plt of shady seeps & streambanks so needs water through growing season	White to yellow flowers in mass above green foliage.	High maintenance but has a dramatic impact in the garden.
<i>Calamagrostis nutkaensis</i>	Pacific Reedgrass	2-3.6 ' (6-11 dm), large grass clumps.	Full sun, prefers summer water but near coast not needed.	Tall leafy clumps that expand as they age.	Large size and accumulation of dead foliage in older plants is not for everyone.
<i>Darmera peltata</i>	Umbrella Plant	1-5 ' (3-15 dm), leaves basal round, flowers pink to white.	Full sun and water loving.	Clumping basal leaves, tall spikes of flowers.	Great garden plant, flowers appear before leaves.
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair Grass	.6-3 ' (2-10 dm) Clumping, arching inflorescence.	Full sun, prefers summer water but near coast not needed.	Often dense clumps of narrow leaves.	Very beautiful in flower and whole plant turns yellow in Fall.
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia	1-2 ' (3--6 dm), Densely spreading subshrub.	Well drained soil, flowers longer with light watering in summer.	Grey green leaves with low arching stems, tubular red-orange flowers.	Drought tolerant, lots of flowers but often looks messy. Hummingbird magnets.
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	Seaside Daisy	.2-12 " (5--30 cm) subshrub usually with stem lying on ground.	Well drained (sand) site, full sun, no summer water.	Low mounding plant with thick fleshy leaves and purple flowers.	Flowers over a long period of time. In heavy soil often looks unkempt.
<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>	Coast Buckwheat	3-23 " (10-70 cm), small bush.	Full sun, well drained soil, no summer water.	Silver matted hair on leaves, pink long lasting flowers.	Excellent for summer color on coast, attractive to pollinators.

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<i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue	1.5-4 ' (4.5-12 dm), clumping, leaves often arching.	Full sun on coast, good drainage.	Tall narrow-leafed clumping grass.	Long-lived clumping grass.
<i>Grindelia stricta</i>	Coastal Gumweed	.3-6.5 ' (1-20 dm), evergreen subshrub.	Full sun, tolerant of many soil conditions.	Leaves oblong to lanceolate, yellow flowers at tips of stems.	Blooms for a long period. Late summer & fall bloom important to pollinators.
<i>Heuchera micrantha</i>	Alum Root	1-12 " (3-30 cm.), clumping, leaves basal.	Prefers some shade, needs good drainage.	Clump of hairy green leaves with sprays of tiny white flowers.	Beautiful plant in and out of bloom, takes shade well.
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas Iris	1.5-2 ' (45-60 cm.) clumping with strap like leaves.	Tolerates wet soil & shade.	Grows in clumps that get bigger every year, light to dark lavender flowers.	Excellent flowering plant for wet shady areas, gopher resistant.
<i>Lilium pardalinum</i>	California Leopard Lily	< 9 ' (< 2.8 m), clonal, bulb spreading-elongate, one to many stems, one to many 2 toned flowers / stem, flowers red to light orange lighter color near base.	One of easiest Lilium's to grow. Base of plant in shade full sun for rest of plant. Moist soil or spring early summer water.	Stems grow from bulbs, Above ground plant dies back after setting seed.	Stunning in flower, hummingbird magnet, dig in winter to divide bulbs.
<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	Orange Honeysuckle	1-10 ' (3-30 dm), twining vine.	Sun to light shade, moist soil.	Vine with large orange flowers.	Well behaved honeysuckle, beautiful flower, red fruit in fall.
<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	Bigleaf Lupine	.5-5 ' (2-15 dm), upright bush.	Full sun, wet to moist soil.	Soft hairy foliage, tall spires of violet-lavender flowers.	Showy flowers, wildlife friendly.
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Bush Monkey Flower	.3-5 ' (1-15 dm), erect subshrub.	Part shade-full sun, tolerates light summer water.	Stems brittle, leaves sticky, orange flowers produced in profusion.	Best upright monkey flower, long flowering season, important larval food plant for Chalcedon Checkerspot

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<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Western Sword Fern	1.5-4 ' (50-120 cm), clumping.	Moist site, light to deep shade.	Large evergreen fern.	Periodic removal of all leaves invigorates plant.
<i>Prosartes smithii</i>	Largeflower Fairybells	1-3 ' (30-100 cm), rhizomatous, stems upright, dies back after fruiting.	Moist shady site.	Flowers white (fairy bells), fruit orange.	Looks best in high shade where you can see flowers and fruit.
<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	California Bee Plant	2.5-4 ' (80-120 cm), large cordate leaves, on tall stems.	Full sun to shade at moist site.	Stems square and hairy, flowers maroon.	Nice plant for bees but needs competition from other plants to keep it under control.
<i>Sedum spathulifolium</i>	Broadleaf Stonecrop	2-8.5 " (5-22 cm), dense rosettes, extremely variable.	If given light shade & good drainage it's happy.	Basal rosette of succulent leaves, yellow flowers on stalk.	Prefers shady outcrops in nature. Use with rocks or in a planter to highlight.
<i>Sidalcea malviflora</i>	Checker Mallow	.5-2 ' (1.5-6 dm), sprawling to upright stems.	Full sun, not fussy, appreciates summer water.	Usually shiny green leaves with spikes of pink flowers.	Excellent in garden, both foliage & flowers used by many butterflies. & bees.
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Western Blue Eyed Grass	< 2 ' (<64 cm), tufted with strap leaves.	Full sun & moist soil.	Looks like a miniature iris.	Once established will self sow if allowed, not aggressive.
<i>Solidago velutina</i> ssp. <i>californica</i>	California Goldenrod	.6-5 ' (2-15 dm), herbage generally +- densely short-soft-hairy.	Full sun, not fussy.	Late summer/fall flowering, upright stems.	Provides fall color and food for pollinators.
<i>Symphotrichum</i> (Aster) <i>chilense</i>	California Aster	.65-3 ' (2-10 dm), spreading by rhizomes.	Full sun, not fussy if watered, looks best when competing.	Tall plants with blue flowers in late summer & fall.	Aggressive if pampered, excellent food plt for pollinators.
<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	Fringe Cups	1-3 ' (40-100 cm), clumping with hairy leaves and stems	Light to heavy shade, moist soil.	Produces flowers on long stems above basal leaves.	Unique shaped flowers, self seeds & non-invasive.
<i>Viola sempervirens</i>	Evergreen Violet	Prostrate (ground hugger) evergreen.	Shade & moist soil.	Herbaceous evergreen leaves with yellow flowers.	Forms a dense green mat where happy.

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GROUNDCOVERS

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HABIT	CULTURE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry	4-20 " (0.1-0.5 m), prostrate to mound-ed.	Full sun on coast, well drained soil, adaptable.	Prostrate stems with small shiny green leaves, bright red berries.	Excellent ornamental value. Over used!
Asarum caudatum	Creeping Wild Ginger	Spreading forming low mat.	Shade in moist site.	Large heart shaped leaves with spicy odor when crushed.	Excellent plant for shady sites. Flowers unusual.
Clinopodium douglasii	Yerba Buena	Decumbent stems forming mat.	Light shade, well drained soil, no summer water.	Ground hugging, runners spreading horizontally often rooting at nodes.	Not truly a "ground-cover" but like Viola sempervirens & Goodyera oblongifolia is best hugging the ground in high shade.
Dicentra formosa	Pacific Bleeding Heart	8-17.5 " (20-45 cm), leaves basal., spreading by rhizome.	Prefers shade & moist site.	Fern-like leaves, flowers light rose.	If given shade & summer water will grow anywhere.
Fragaria chiloensis	Beach Strawberry	8 " (< 20 cm), low growing spreading by runners.	Full sun or light shade.	Clumping plants with shiny green leaves and red fruit.	Large white flowers starting in winter.
Fragaria vesca	Wood Strawberry	6 " (< 15 cm,) low growing spreading by runners.	Light shade, well drained soil.	Clumping plants with dull green leaves and red fruit.	Does better inland but will grow on coast.
Oxalis oregano	Redwood Sorrel	12 " (< 30.4 cm), creeping rhizome, clover like leaves.	Shade in moist site.	Rapidly spreading plants	Happiest in high shade from conifers on a moist site
Polypodium calirhiza	Calirhiza Polypody	4-8 " (10-20 cm), summer-deciduous.	Grows on plants, rocks, and ground. Likes fog drip from conifers and full sun to part shade.	When established will form a solid mat of ferns in winter.	Gives fresh green color in late fall and winter.
Vancouveria hexandra	White Inside-Out Flower	3-10.5 " (8-27 cm), spreading fern-like foliage.	Moist site light shade.	Delicate mounds of light green foliage. White flowers	Nice groundcover in summer.

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TREES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	HABIT	CULTURE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS
Acer circinatum	Vine Maple	3-19.6 ' (1-6 m), shrub or small tree, often sprawling many trunks.	Shade in moist site.	Similar to Japanese Maple.	Good plant for shady sites. Flowers unusual. Excellent fall color. Not as refined as Japanese Maple.
Acer macrophyllum	Big Leaf Maple	< 98 ' (< 30 m), widely spreading, large leaves.	Full sun to shade, moist site, susceptible to wind burn.	Large spreading deciduous tree.	Too large for small gardens.
Alnus rubra	Red Alder	< 82 ' (< 25 m), straight trunk, rounded crown.	Prefers moist soil but once established is tolerant of different sites.	Medium sized deciduous tree with rapid growth.	Has both good and bad qualities but its wildlife value is outstanding.
Fraxinus latifolia	Oregon Ash	< 82 ' (< 25 m), straight trunk.	Prefers full sun tolerates wet and dry sites.	Medium sized deciduous tree with pinnate leaves.	Well behaved garden tree.
Pinus contorta	Beach Pine	6.5-111.5 ' (2-34 m), small evergreen with spreading crown.	Full sun adaptable to many coastal sites.	Spreading crown evergreen with dark green needles and many seed cones.	If you need a small conifer this is it. Can easily be shaped.
Salix spp.	Willows	< 36 ' (< 11 m), many trunked shrubs to single trunked trees..	Most do well on wet sites but once established do not require summer water.	Shrubby to tall deciduous trees.	There is a willow for every site. Provides food and shelter for many species of wildlife.
Umbellularia californica	California Bay	< 147.6 ' (< 45 m), wide crown evergreen.	Sun or light shade, wet or well drained soil, tolerates some summer water.	Very ornamental with dark green leaves and rounded crown.	Can have many uses in garden: tree, hedge with pruning, herb. Slow growing easy to keep small, throws dense shade.

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SHRUBS

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Arctostaphylos columbiana	Hairy Manzanita	6.5-16.4 ' (2-5 m), shrub to small tree	Best in full sun, adaptable to soils. No summer water!	Evergreen shrub, open structure, young stems hairy, older branches dark red,	Because of its early flowering extremely important to wildlife. For both beauty and wildlife every garden should have one.
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush	<14.7 ' (< 4.5 m), mat-forming to erect, stems sticky.	Full sun otherwise not fussy. Can be invasive.	Evergreen, fall flowering shrub.	If you have a harsh site this is the plant to try. Older plants can look unkempt.
Berberis aquifolium	Oregon Grape	.3-6.5 ' (0.1-2 m), spreading to erect, prickly evergreen leaves.	Full sun to shade, if not a moist site some summer water.	Leaves shiny, dense flower cluster followed by blue to purple berries.	Makes good evergreen hedge. Spreads underground.
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus	Blueblossom	< 19.6 ' (< 6 m), evergreen.	Full sun no summer water.	Shiny green leaves & in spring covered with blue flowers.	High wildlife and ornamental value.
Corylus cornuta	Beaked Hazelnut	< 13 ' (< 4 m), deciduous.	Well drained soil, full sun or part shade.	Delicate looking branches, hairy leaves, edible nuts.	Young leaves very colorful. Looks good in an understory.
Frangula californica	California Coffee Berry	< 16 ' (<5 m) well mannered shrub with 10--15 mm, black fruit in Fall.	Full sun otherwise not fussy.	Evergreen shrub, oval leathery leaves.	Small flowers are very attractive to pollinators. Excellent as a valuable ornamental.
Frangula purshiana	Cascara	< 39 ' (<12 m), deciduous shrub to small tree.	Moist to well drained site, light shade.	Open structured bush or small tree.	Nice understory plant.
Garrya elliptica	Coast Silk Tassel	< 26 ' (< 8m), evergreen, shrub or small tree.	Well drained soil, full sun.	Dense shrub, shiny evergreen leaves, flowers in winter.	Loves full sun and coastal bluff. High ornamental value when in flower.

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Lonicera involucrata	Coast Twinberry	2-10 ' (6-30 dm), deciduous, can look very rough in winter.	Moist soil, full sun or shade.	Twiggy growth, yellow twin flowers followed by black twin berries in front of purple or red, spreading or reflexed involucre	Flowers and fruit wild-life magnets. With summer water will continue to flower.
Morella californica	California Wax Myrtle	6.5-33 ' (2-10 m), evergreen shrub to small tree.	Sun or part shade, well drained to moist site.	Narrow shiny leaves on upright branches.	Good privacy hedge, provides food for migrating birds.
Philadelphus lewisii	Wild Mock Orange	< 10 ' (< 3 m), deciduous shrub with tall vertical branches.	Sun or part shade, well drained to moist site.	Upright shrub with clumps of white fragrant flowers in spring.	Plants expand at base forming thickets if not pruned.
Physocarpus capitatus	Nine Bark	3-8 ' (10-25 dm), shrubby with thin arching branches.	Moist site, full to partial sun.	Masses of cream colored flowers in spring followed by colorful seed heads.	Rivals many non-native ornamentals for spring color.
Rhododendron occidentale	Western Azalea	< 26 ' (< 8 m), deciduous.	Moist site, light shade to full sun.	Masses of spring flowers in many hues usually containing pink, yellow, and cream	One of our finest flowering shrubs. Strongly fragrant.
Ribes spp.	Gooseberry & Currant	< 1.5 " (< 4 cm), stems generally erect,	Moist site, light shade to full sun.	Upright stems either with thorns or not.	A great plant for wild-life.
Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen Huckleberry	1.6-10 ' (5-30 dm), small shrub with small shiny evergreen leaves.	Moist site with light to moderate shade.	Groups of small pink flowers stand out against the dark green leaves & in fall black fruit in abundance.	Exceptional ornamental and wildlife value.